

Kim Maddin

From: Laurie Hurst
Sent: March-19-21 9:33 AM
To: Kim Maddin
Subject: FW: (External Email) RE: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening
Attachments: 2021_03_10 - Letter to Federal Ministers re. Clipper and Coho Operations - Mayor Lisa Helps City of Victoria.pdf

For mail log, thanks.

Laurie Hurst, CPA, CGA
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Tel: 1-250-414-7133

For the latest on the Township's response to COVID-19, please visit
esquimalt.ca/covid19

From: Barb Desjardins <Barbara.Desjardins@esquimalt.ca>
Sent: March-19-21 9:03 AM
To: Laurie Hurst <laurie.hurst@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: Fwd: (External Email) RE: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

For Information:

CAO Mayor/Council

RECEIVED: MAR 22 2021

Referred: *Rachel*

For Action For Response COTW
 For Report Council Agenda IC

Does this need to go on council agenda. I would like to add my support

Sent from my iPhone

Barbara Desjardins

Mayor, Township of Esquimalt
 Lekwungen Territory
 Tel: 1-250-883-1944

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Nursey <paul.nursey@tourismvictoria.com>
Date: March 19, 2021 at 8:20:17 AM PDT
To: Barb Desjardins <barbara.desjardins@esquimalt.ca>
Cc: Bruce Williams <ceo@victoriachamber.ca>
Subject: FW: (External Email) RE: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening

Good morning Mayor Desjardins,

Please find attached a letter from Mayor Helps into the federal government asking for clarification on the metrics to re-open international ferry operations for Coho and Clipper. This was drafted after conversations with each operator.

What is becoming clear is that Canada, and to a lesser degree British Columbia, have no plan for re-opening. They aren't even considering it. Businesses need some sort of framework and we are really falling behind. It will take operators time to gear up so a roadmap is essential.

As such as the tourism board and collective leaders, along with the Chambers, airports, we are asking Mayors in the region to amplify Mayor Helps' letter if they feel comfortable. As you will see below, we are getting traction from Saanich and elsewhere.

Thank-you for the consideration.

Paul

From: Susan Brice <Susan.Brice@saanich.ca>

Sent: March 18, 2021 5:33 PM

To: Bruce Williams <ceo@victoriachamber.ca>

Cc: Matthew Holme <matthew.holme@tourismvictoria.com>; Dave Cowen <DaveCowen@butchartgardens.com>; Paul Nursey <paul.nursey@tourismvictoria.com>; Kathi Springer <KSpringer@pacegroup.com>; Brian Cant <bcant@gvha.ca>; Geoff Dickson <geoff.dickson@victoriaairport.com>

Subject: Re: (External Email) RE: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening

I have contacted Mayor Hanes and he has agreed to send letters. I advised that the criteria issue was the important piece and that mirroring Mayor Helps wording would be most helpful.

Susan Brice

Councillor
District of Saanich
susan.brice@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

On Mar 18, 2021, at 3:24 PM, Bruce Williams <ceo@victoriachamber.ca> wrote:

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is known to you.

And have done so

**Bruce Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce**

Email: ceo@victoriachamber.ca Web: www.victoriachamber.ca

Direct: 250-360-3470 Main: 250-383-7191

Address: #100-852 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1H8

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<image005.jpg>

<image006.jpg>

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From: Bruce Williams

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:58 PM

To: Matthew Holme <matthew.holme@tourismvictoria.com>; Dave Cowen <DaveCowen@butchartgardens.com>; susan.brice <susan.brice@saanich.ca>; Paul Nursey <paul.nursey@tourismvictoria.com>

Cc: Kathi Springer <KSpringer@pacegroup.com>; Brian Cant <bcant@gvha.ca>; Geoff Dickson <geoff.dickson@victoriaairport.com>

Subject: RE: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening

Thanks

Confirming I will contact

View Royal

Colwood

Langford

Highlands

Metchosin

Sooke

I'm also happy to connect with Chiefs of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations if that would be appropriate.

**Bruce Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce**

Email: ceo@victoriachamber.ca Web: www.victoriachamber.ca

Direct: 250-360-3470 Main: 250-383-7191

Address: #100-852 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1H8

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From: Matthew Holme <matthew.holme@tourismvictoria.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Dave Cowen <DaveCowen@butchartgardens.com>; susan.brice <susan.brice@saanich.ca>; Bruce Williams <ceo@victoriachamber.ca>; Paul Nursey <paul.nursey@tourismvictoria.com>
Cc: Kathi Springer <KSpringer@pacegroup.com>; Brian Cant <bcant@gvha.ca>; Geoff Dickson <geoff.dickson@victoriaairport.com>
Subject: Mayor Helps Letter - Criteria for US Boarder Reopening

Hi everyone,

As discussed, here is the letter Mayor Helps sent to Ministers Blair, Alghabra, and Hajdu. <https://files.constantcontact.com/23050cbb001/40f85e3d-3d2d-4074-9650-01f8812ce926.pdf>

The list I had for who would follow up with other mayors for something similar is as follows:

- Dave – Central Saanich, North Saanich and Sidney
- Susan – Saanich
- Bruce – Westshore, Oak Bay
- Paul – Esquimalt

If you have any questions just let me know.

Thanks,

MATTHEW HOLME | Manager, Corporate Communications and Destination Management
DESTINATION GREATER VICTORIA
200 - 737 Yates Street | Victoria, BC | Canada V8W 1L6
d 250-414-6976 | c 778-871-2545
matthew.holme@tourismvictoria.com | www.tourismvictoria.com | [DMAP Accredited](#)
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We acknowledge that the District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the WJÓŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsayout), WSIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

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THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 10, 2021

The Honourable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Blair, Minister Hajdu and Minister Alghabra,

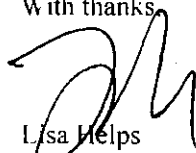
I'm writing to you because the Clipper and Blackball (Coho) operations are important businesses in Victoria's economy and are critical to our city and region's recovery. Both companies have been hit very hard by the pandemic as their routes between Victoria and Washington State have not been running for close to a year. They have had to lay off workers and are in very difficult cash flow positions. Both operations will survive, but it is going to be a long road to recovery.

Myself and both operators understand the need for the current travel restrictions and border closures to be in place in order to keep our population safe. I am not writing to make any requests for an earlier than safe re-opening of the border. However, I'm writing to inquire as to what criteria will be used to determine the re-opening of the border – will it be a certain percentage of the population on both sides of the border being vaccinated? A substantial drop in case counts? Other criteria?

It is important for the operators to know what criteria will be assessed for border re-opening so that they can plan accordingly. For example, Clipper will need four to six weeks in order to staff up and prepare for operations. The Coho is able to be ready to re-open a little bit more quickly than that. But both operators need as much predictability as possible in what is arguably a very unpredictable situation for many.

I look forward to hearing from you to learn more about the border re-opening criteria and would be pleased to have a quick meeting or phone call if that would be helpful or of interest.

With thanks,



Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

cc: Sangeeta Lalli, Regional Advisor (British Columbia), Office of the Prime Minister

The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qá"