

January 7th, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta, BC V4K 3E2

RE: BC Chamber of Commerce “Collective Perspectives” Business Survey Results

Dear Mayor Harvie and Councillors,

This fall our member businesses completed the BC Chamber of Commerce Collective Perspective Survey, the largest annual economic snapshot of BC's business climate. We're pleased to share with you our local municipal report for your review. Key insights from a local standpoint, which stood out in the results, include:

- **COMMUTE: “The ease by which workers can commute to your business”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees for **Delta businesses**.
 - This is a major concern for 71% of our Delta businesses versus 35% of businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and 28% in the rest of the Province.

- **SKILLED WORKERS: “Finding enough workers with the specific skill set you need”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees **Delta businesses**.
 - This is a major concern for 49% of Delta businesses versus 39% businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and 40% in the rest of the Province.

- **HOUSING: “Housing affordability”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees for **Delta businesses**
 - This is a major concern for 60% Delta businesses and also a high-level concern for businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and the rest of the Province.

More than businesses in other areas across BC, businesses in Delta have taken steps to mitigate these factors and to attract and retain qualified employees, including:

- Offering higher wages
- Offering increased benefits
- Offering more flexible work arrangements - like telecommuting

We have heard these challenges expressed to us by many of our Delta Chamber member businesses and now see those reflected through regional and provincial statistics as well. The need for improved public transit throughout Delta (including Annacis and Tilbury;) a timely solution to the George Massey crossing; and the implementation of diverse and affordable housing strategies are critical to the success of Delta businesses – now more than ever. In addition, reducing barriers to recognizing foreign credentials and increasing access to post-secondary training programs for those in technical jobs and skilled trades continue to be ongoing needs in order to attract and retain skilled workers.

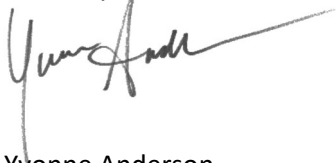
The Chamber thanks you for your ongoing work to see a solution formalized and delivered on the George Massey Tunnel project. This is a critical piece of infrastructure for Delta and all British Columbia, and any delays or uncertainties in next steps for this project place additional hardship on businesses in Delta. We also support the recent work of Council; through the Community Livability Advisory Committee, Housing Action Plan, Mayor's Housing Action Task Force, and stakeholder engagement processes, to identify and implement changes which will allow for and encourage additional diverse and affordable housing options here in Delta.

Moving forward, we look forward to working with you on opportunities to bring:

- additional and expanded public transit access to all areas of Delta in order to reduce reliance on commuter vehicles;
- installation of additional sidewalks throughout Annacis Island for increased safe pedestrian access for workers;
- increasing access to secondary and post-secondary training programs for skilled trades and in technical fields; and
- additional diverse and affordable infill/higher-density residential projects.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is prepared to bring our resources together with the City of Delta to collaboratively advance these recommendations, in order to ensure that Delta residents have access to appropriate and affordable housing and transit options, which will give our businesses access to the employees they need in order to thrive and grow their operations here in Delta.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson
Chair – Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Sean McGill, City Manager
Ms. Mel Cheesman, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. Garry Shearer, Executive Director – Delta Chamber of Commerce