

November 29th, 2020

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP for Delta
Constituency Office
5064 48 Ave
Delta, BC V4K 1V8

Re: Delta Chamber Policy Resolution “Funding for Climate Change Adaptation – Severe Weather Disaster Mitigation Through Flood Protection” Adopted by Canadian Chamber of Commerce Network

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

As you may know, the Delta Chamber of Commerce is part of a Canadian Chamber of Commerce network, which includes 450 Chambers and Boards of Trade, representing over 200,000 businesses across Canada. Every year our Chamber network gathers for an Annual General Meeting which includes a parliamentary session for Chamber members to submit and debate policy resolutions that will be adopted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and submitted to the federal government on behalf of our business communities.

We are pleased to report that your Delta Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsored by the Surrey Board of Trade and Richmond Chamber of Commerce, submitted a policy resolution on behalf of Delta businesses entitled: “Funding for Climate Change Adaptation – Severe Weather Disaster Mitigation Through Flood Protection” to our national assembly of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce at this year’s Annual General Meeting. Our assembly voted 97% in favour of adopting our policy resolution. This policy resolution will now become a national policy for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which will advocate for the federal government to act on its recommendations.

As you know from your work in advocating on behalf our community in Ottawa, Delta is bounded by 67km of dikes which need to be upgraded and raised by at least 1.2 metres in order to meet the projected sea level rise by 2100. At a cost of over \$2 billion for this project in Delta alone, and considering how many other coastal and waterfront communities across Canada are vulnerable to climate change related flooding events, the Delta Chamber of Commerce and our co-sponsoring chambers researched this issue on a national scale. Research shows us that floods from rivers and oceans could destroy or affect residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties – as well as affect transportation means (eg. roads, highways, bridges) and cause widespread disruption to day-to-day living, requiring significant expenditure to restore areas back to pre-flood conditions.

Our policy recommendation asks for collaboration between multiple stakeholders, including federal, provincial and municipal governments, private landowners, residents, First Nations, and businesses in order to develop a strategic plan for funding and approval of flood prevention infrastructure investments over time, which will both increase adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and with your provincial and municipal counterparts to secure the necessary infrastructure funding for this critical work. On behalf of the Delta Chamber of Commerce, I want to thank you for your tireless efforts to ensure that this issue is top-of-mind for decision makers in Ottawa and we hope that with the adoption of this new national policy, the full force of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's national network will be with you in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson
Chair of the Board of Directors, Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Ravi Kahlon, MLA, Delta-North
Ian Paton, MLA, Delta-South
Mayor George V. Harvie, City of Delta
Sean McGill, City Manager, City of Delta
Board of Directors, Delta Chamber of Commerce
Garry Shearer, Executive Director, Delta Chamber of Commerce