

May 1, 2020

Hon. John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia  
West Annex Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
*Sent via Email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)*

Re: Upcoming B.C. Minimum Wage Increase

Dear Premier Horgan,

In 2018 the BC Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution which recommended that the Provincial Government index minimum wage increases to the Consumer Price Index for BC 2022 and subsequent years, with BC Chamber CEO Val Litwin explaining that Chambers “support wage increases so employees can keep up with the cost of living.” He explained that our Chamber network supported increases being announced in advance to ensure businesses are able to adjust and recommended that “tying wage increases to CPI going forward provides businesses with the ability to plan and budget, and ensures they will not face large increases in labour costs.”

That same ability for businesses to plan and budget for the future has been completely uprooted with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the global economy. Across British Columbia, and here in Delta, businesses are struggling to cover the basic costs of commercial rent and payroll. In its most recent MindReader.com Pulse Check Survey, the BC Chamber of Commerce found that 43% of respondent businesses said that they could only remain in operation for a further 60 days given the current circumstances.

Employers in Delta have been challenged with both a highly competitive recruitment market for the past number of years, as well as the upward pressures which minimum wage increases place on wage compression within their workforces. With high operating costs, slim margins, ordered closures, global supply chain shortages and delays, many small businesses are facing permanent closure by June 1<sup>st</sup> and an additional expense will delay their ability to bring workers back onto payroll or to hire any students for summer employment.

We ask you to delay the scheduled June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 minimum wage increases by six months each, in order to allow BC businesses the opportunity to re-calibrate to the new reality of operating in an economic landscape recovering from COVID-19 and to again have the opportunity to plan and budget effectively for these changes.

Yours truly,



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

cc: Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Harry Bains, Minister of Labour  
Ravi Kahlon, MLA for Delta-North  
Ian Paton, MLA for Delta-South

Mayor George V. Harvie, City of Delta  
Garry Shearer, Executive Director for Delta  
Chamber of Commerce