



## BC MEETINGS & EVENTS INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

August 18, 2020

### Re: UPDATE on BC Meetings & Events Industry COVID-19 Safe Restart Guidelines

Dear BC Meetings & Events Industry Partners,

Since our last communication back in June, the BC Meetings & Events Industry Working Group has been diligently focused on developing a comprehensive, high-level guidelines document that sets out best practice recommendations for companies that are safely planning, implementing and servicing meetings & events during and post COVID-19. The guidelines reference requirements and restrictions dictated by the Province of British Columbia, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), local health authorities within BC and WorkSafeBC.

We are anxious to release these to industry as soon as we have received endorsement of the guidelines from WorkSafeBC. Following the advice of our advisors, we submitted our final draft document, prior to releasing to the industry, to the Communications Director of the Labour and Tourism Communications Office of the BC Government, who has submitted the document on our behalf to WorkSafeBC for their review and approval. This was the same process that the BC Hotel Industry Association followed, and it proved effective in achieving both government and industry support. This process also gives us direct exposure to the government which may help increase awareness and assist in advocacy initiatives moving forward.

The guidelines document is prefaced by a situational overview outlining the impact of the pandemic on our industry; it describes the importance of our industry in the recovery of our local, provincial, and national economy; and it demonstrates our industry's globally recognized capabilities and readiness for a safe restart. The inclusion of this overview along with the guidelines intends to lay the groundwork on which we can build future advocacy campaigns and initiatives. We believe it sets the tone of responsible cooperation, collaboration and operation, while at the same time providing a compelling argument that we must restart as soon as safely possible.

We hope to release the document within the next few weeks with WorkSafe BC's endorsement. We thank you all for your patience and support on this initiative.

Sincerely,

BC Meetings & Events Working Group



## WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Joanne Burns Millar, CEO - **Pacific Destination Services (PDS)**  
Jennifer Burton DMCP, President - **Pacific Destination Services (PDS)**  
Matthew Coyne, President - **Cantrav**  
Matthew Hussack, Vice President, Production - **Proshow Audiovisual**  
Alexis Kereluk, Partner - **ConnectSeven Group**  
Emma Parston CMP, Partner - **ConnectSeven Group**  
Paul Runnals, Vice President, Production & Technical - **Brand Live**  
James Thornley, President - **The Peake of Catering**

## WORKING GROUP ADVISORS

Dave Gazley, Vice President – **Tourism Vancouver**  
Karen Goodwin, VP Destination & Market Development – **Tourism Whistler**  
Greg Hazlewood, CMP, Director Conference Services & Catering – **The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**  
Marion Harper Treskin, Dual Property GM – **JW Marriott Parq Vancouver & the DOUGLAS**  
Ingrid Jarrett, President & CEO – **B.C. Hotel Association**  
Craig Lehto, General Manager - **Vancouver Convention Centre**  
Stephen Melville, Sales Manager – **Sun Peaks Grand Hotel & Conference Centre**

**For further information:**  
Joanne Burns Millar, CEO  
Pacific Destination Services Inc.  
[joanne@pacificdestinations.com](mailto:joanne@pacificdestinations.com)