

# BC MEETINGS & EVENTS INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

September 24, 2020

## Re: UPDATE #2: BC Meetings & Events Industry - COVID-19 Safe Restart Proposal to Government

Dear BC Meetings & Events Industry Partners,

On the heels of very positive industry and government responses to the [BC Meetings & Events COVID-19 Safe Restart Guidelines](#) released earlier this month, we've been encouraged to use the guidelines as a foundation to submit a proposal that recommends gathering restrictions applied to our sector be lifted.

Under [Section 43 of the Provincial Health Act](#), the Province will reconsider current health orders and restrictions under certain terms and conditions. The BC Meetings and Events Working Group believes we have a strong case to present to government for consideration.

Our working group has begun development of this proposal in cooperation with the Tourism Industry Association of BC. TIABC CEO [Walt Judas](#), has joined our working group to help us navigate the process as part of his advocacy efforts and ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture.

With so many factors at play and the rising cases of COVID-19 in recent weeks, there is no guarantee of success for our proposal. Nonetheless, we are receiving good counsel from senior industry leaders and government and are confident that our rationale is solid and defensible. Some of the proposal's key points include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Our industry can deliver safe and responsible, in-person meetings & events over 50 people with mitigation strategies that will achieve the objectives of the health order.
2. Our industry delivers meetings & events in tightly managed, controlled environments, governed by adherence to our industry guidelines, and in collaboration with provincial (and local) health authorities.
3. By restarting the meetings & events sector, we can positively affect economic and job recovery, and support the mental health of our workforce by providing job security to workers and permitting a safe level of human engagement for organizations through responsible, in-person meetings & events, addressing the negative health effects of on-line exhaustion and working in isolation.

The safe restart guidelines we developed have laid a solid framework to support our proposal. For those who have not yet endorsed these guidelines and wish to do so, please [click here](#) to add your name to the list of supporters.

Thank you to everyone who has provided support and offered to lend a hand. We are a strong industry filled with dedicated and passionate people who come together to make great things happen.

In service to you,

The BC Meetings & Events Working Group



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## WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

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