



March 31, 2021

The Honourable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour
PO Box 9064, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bains,

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am writing today to request favourable consideration for the below motion passed at the March 11, 2021 Council meeting:

WHEREAS the covid pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and its social, health, and economic impacts are particularly devastating for women and racialized communities; and

WHEREAS the tourism and hospitality industries have been drastically impacted; and

WHEREAS of the 50 000 hotel workers that were laid off in March 2020, the majority are women and people of colour; and

WHEREAS the duration of the pandemic means that recall rights require extension; and

WHEREAS there are reports of hotels in British Columbia refusing to commit to bringing workers back to their jobs when business returns; and

WHEREAS the City of City of Victoria is committed to a COVID recovery plan that takes better care of people, the environment, and the community than the systems we had before the pandemic; and

WHEREAS the City of City of Victoria recognizes hotel workers and people who work in the tourism industry as valued and valuable members of our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of City of Victoria affirms that people should not lose their livelihoods due to the pandemic; and

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THAT the City of Victoria write to the Ministers of Labour and Tourism expressing our support for the right for laid off workers to return to their jobs when the pandemic eases; and

THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support; and

THAT the City of Victoria writes to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.

Though not expressly in the resolution, the intention of this motion was to write to both the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of BC Municipalities, encouraging them to host future conferences and events in venues that respect worker rights and pay at least a living wage. A copy has been sent to both organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc: Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC)
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)