

From: [Trish Paterson](#)
To: [corporate](#)
Subject: Build Back BC Better - Recovery Idea
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:56:07 PM

To Mayor & Council

I wanted to share with you an idea I submitted to the Build Back BC Better Team last week (content below) I had meant to cc yourselves.

I would be very interested in hearing from you what plans Whistler may have with respect to developing ecotourism for the area.

Thank-you!

Trish Paterson



909 Thistle Place, Britannia Beach BC V0N1J0 (Box 202)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Trish Paterson [REDACTED]
Date: July 17, 2020 at 12:43:13 PM PDT
To: "recoveryideas@gov.bc.ca" <recoveryideas@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "council@squamish.ca" <council@squamish.ca>, "Jordan.Sturdy.MLA@leg.bc.ca" <Jordan.Sturdy.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Build Back BC Better - Recovery Idea

Good day Build Back BC Better Team!

I appreciated the reach-out from Premier Horgan to the people of BC, to solicit their thoughts on where BC should place its focus for BC's recovery plans. Completing the survey made me think more deeply about how those plans could take shape and have a positive impact across several areas identified in your survey – not just one.

I live in Britannia Beach, a tiny community on the Howe Sound. I moved here 12 years ago so every day I could soak in the breath-taking beauty of this area. The entire Sea-To-Sky corridor would be such an amazing area to develop as an eco-tourist destination.

Squamish holds itself out as the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada. Whistler is a renowned world-wide resort destination. Britannia Beach stands out in its rehabilitation of the mine and restoration of the waterways. Spawning salmon once more swim up its rivers, and herring,

whales, seals, sea lions, and dolphins have returned to the Howe Sound.

According to British Columbia Wild Watch (BC Ministry of Environment) the Squamish estuary provides nesting sites, feeding, and resting areas for migrant birds, and year-round homes for over 235 bird species. The estuary also accounts for 96% of the habitat in the Sound to provide rearing areas and food for migrating fish from the six river systems that flow into the estuary and out to the Sound.

We have the opportunity to introduce the entire world to our mountains and forests, estuaries, and wild-life habitat and engage our indigenous peoples to share their culture, knowledge, and history in the keeping of these lands.

The economic opportunities for local businesses, local employment opportunities, international recognition, the empowerment and employment for the Coast Salish First Nation peoples whose territories form a large part of the Sea-to-Sky landscape, would be incredible.

As a side note, when I think of the people that would travel here to engage in our eco-tourism venture(s) it reminds me that hundreds of single-occupancy vehicles traverse the Sea-to-Sky highway daily, and I see further opportunities to support an eco-tourism destination and reduce carbon emissions through utilization of the existing railway as a means of sustainable transit throughout the Sea-to-Sky.

This is Beautiful British Columbia and I'm sure there are likely similar opportunities – to address jobs, environmental sustainability, climate change and community development in a holistic manner – in communities across BC, and I hope that the government is pursuing them.

What are your thoughts/concerns of bring eco-tourism to the Sea-to-Sky corridor? Can you envision this as part of your recovery strategy? Are we going to build back BC better than what we have today? Will this work towards our climate action goals?

I would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Trish Paterson



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