

From: Al Raine <ARaine@sunpeaks municipality.ca>

Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 5:54 PM

To: Don McCormick; Ron Oszust; Ange Qualizza; Jack Crompton; Kathy Moore; Clara Reinhardt; Al Miller; Gary Sulz

Subject: FW: Letter From Mayor Al Raine Re: Phased Border Opening

Dear Mountain Resort Municipality Mayors,

Our council recently approved this letter to the federal ministers responsible for border entry requesting priority consideration for foreigners property owners as the government opens the border in phases.

You may or may not agree with this approach but we have been told that a phased border opening is planned. We are now receiving letters and emails from our Australian and American property owners and others who are starting to get very concerned that the Canadian border may not be open by the new year.

Not lobbying you, just trying to keep you informed as this may be an issue for many resort communities.

Stay safe!

Al Raine



September 25, 2020

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety
The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Dear Ministers:

The community of Sun Peaks supports a phased plan for entry of foreign visitors to Canada during this pandemic. The essential worker and family members reunification programs appear to have worked reasonably well. We would suggest that prior to fully opening our borders, consideration be given as soon as possible to those foreigners who own property in Canada. These property owners have a place to stay and they can easily quarantine for 14 days.

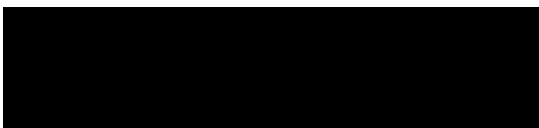
Approximately 17% of property owners in Sun Peaks are foreigners and they generally spend 3 to 4 months here. These visitors are significant contributors to the social fabric of our community. Although they only spend a portion of the year here and their primary residence is where they work, many of these property owners consider Sun Peaks as their favourite home.

We wish to encourage the government to prioritize these visitors when considering the next phase of border openings. These foreign property owners have made a major commitment to Canada, they have large investments here and they have proven themselves to be responsible and committed community members. We see little risk in permitting access to those who own property, they have a place to quarantine and have friends within the community who can ensure provisions are in place for their quarantine period. In addition, we have businesses that can provide home food delivery services.

We are prepared to welcome our foreign property owners as we deem them to be responsible and trustworthy community members. They all pay taxes here and would be able to prove ownership when applying for entry to Canada. We urge the government to approve the entry of foreign property owners as part of a phased border opening.

Yours sincerely


Al Raine
Mayor
Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality


Nancy Greene Raine
Former Senator for British Columbia

c.c. Minister Beare, Minister of Tourism & Culture, British Columbia
Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC Public Health Officer, British Columbia