



Jonathan X. Côté
Mayor

March 5, 2021

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

Dear Minister Bains:

Re: Support for Laid-off Hotel and Tourism Industry Workers

I am writing to ask that the BC government protect the livelihoods of laid-off hotel and tourism industry workers and their rights to return to their jobs when the pandemic eases. These rights are at risk as there are reports of hotels refusing to commit to bringing workers back to their jobs when business returns. To this end, on March 1, 2021, the New Westminster City Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 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 New Westminster 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 New Westminster 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 New Westminster affirms that people should not lose their livelihoods due to the pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this letter be forwarded to all BC municipalities asking to write their support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster writes to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and 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.

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Yours truly,



Jonathan X. Cote
Mayor

Cc: Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
All BC municipalities