

January 7th, 2020

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP for Delta
Constituency Office
7511 120th Street
Delta, BC V4C 0C1

RE: BC Chamber of Commerce “Collective Perspectives” Business Survey Results

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

This fall our member businesses completed the BC Chamber of Commerce Collective Perspective Survey, the largest annual economic snapshot of BC's business climate. We're pleased to share with you our local municipal report for your review. Key insights from a local standpoint, which stood out in the results, include:

- **COMMUTE: “The ease by which workers can commute to your business”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees for **Delta businesses**.
 - This is a major concern for 71% of our Delta businesses versus 35% of businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and 28% in the rest of the Province.

- **SKILLED WORKERS: “Finding enough workers with the specific skill set you need”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees **Delta businesses**.
 - This is a major concern for 49% of Delta businesses versus 39% businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and 40% in the rest of the Province.

- **HOUSING: “Housing affordability”** is a “big” or “very big” challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified employees for **Delta businesses**
 - This is a major concern for 60% Delta businesses and also a high-level concern for businesses in other areas of the Lower Mainland and the rest of the Province.

More than businesses in other areas across BC, businesses in Delta have taken steps to mitigate these factors and to attract and retain qualified employees, including:

- Offering higher wages
- Offering increased benefits
- Offering more flexible work arrangements - like telecommuting

We have heard these challenges expressed to us by many of our Delta Chamber member businesses and now see those reflected through regional and provincial statistics as well. The need for improved public transit throughout Delta (including Annacis and Tilbury;) a timely solution to the George Massey crossing; and the implementation of diverse and affordable housing strategies are critical to the success of Delta businesses – now more than ever. In addition, reducing barriers to recognizing foreign credentials and increasing access to post-secondary training programs for those in technical jobs and skilled trades continue to be ongoing needs in order to attract and retain skilled workers.

The Chamber thanks you for your commitment to securing federal funding for a George Massey Tunnel replacement project, once the Province identifies a course of action. This is a critical piece of infrastructure for our regional and national economies; any delays or uncertainties in next steps for this project place additional hardship on businesses in Delta.

Moving forward, we look forward to working with you on opportunities to bring:

- additional and expanded public transit access to all areas of Delta in order to reduce reliance on commuter vehicles;
- increasing access to secondary and post-secondary training programs, reducing interprovincial trade qualification barriers, enhancing recognition of foreign credentials for skilled trades and in technical fields; and
- funding for additional diverse and affordable residential projects through the National Housing Strategy.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is prepared to bring our resources together with you and your office to collaboratively advance these recommendations, in order to ensure that residents of the Delta constituency have access to appropriate and affordable transit, education, and housing options, which will give our businesses access to the employees they need in order to thrive and grow their operations here in Delta.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson
Chair – Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Marco Mendicino, PC, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Hon. Catherine McKenna, PC, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Garry Shearer, Executive Director – Delta Chamber of Commerce