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Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P2

August 29, 2023

Greg Kylo
MLA for the Shuswap
PO Box 607
Suite #202A-371 Alexander Street NE
Salmon Arm, BC V1E4N7

Subject: Urgent Need for Wildfire-Affected Business Revenue Relief Fund

Dear Greg Kylo,

On behalf of the Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to advocate for the immediate establishment of a dedicated fund aimed at providing relief to local businesses that have suffered revenue losses due to the devastating wildfires that have swept through the North Shuswap. The economic impact of these wildfires has been profound, and it is our firm belief that a targeted financial assistance program is essential to support our business community during this trying time.

The wildfires that have ravaged our area have not only posed a serious threat to our natural landscape but have also left a lasting impact on the local economy. Businesses across various sectors, from hospitality and retail to agriculture and tourism, have endured significant setbacks as a result of the evacuation orders, road closures, and air quality concerns brought about by the fires. Many have faced temporary closures, reduced foot traffic, supply chain disruptions, and a general atmosphere of uncertainty that has adversely affected their bottom line.

In light of these challenges, we strongly urge the government to consider the creation of a dedicated Wildfire-Affected Business Revenue Relief Fund. This fund would provide critical financial support to affected businesses, helping them bridge the gap between lost revenue and recovery. The fund could be designed to offer grants, low-interest loans, or a combination of both, ensuring that businesses of all sizes and sectors receive the assistance they need to navigate these trying times and eventually get back on their feet.

We recognize that governments at all levels are already stretched thin due to the ongoing firefighting efforts and the need to support affected communities. However, we firmly believe that a strategic investment in our local businesses now will yield long-term benefits for both our economy and the social fabric of our community. A swift and comprehensive response in the form of a Wildfire-Affected Business Revenue Relief Fund will demonstrate the government's commitment to standing by its citizens during times of crisis and helping them rebuild stronger than before.

In conclusion, we kindly request that you consider our proposal seriously and take the necessary steps to expedite the establishment of the Wildfire-Affected Business Revenue Relief Fund. We are more than willing to collaborate closely with your team to design a program that addresses the unique needs of our local businesses and ensures transparent and efficient distribution of financial assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to your response and hope to see swift action taken to support the businesses that form the backbone of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a large, stylized 'C' that loops back to the right, followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Candace Hosseini
President, Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce

cc:

Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance

Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation