[Date]

Honourable Premier John Horgan

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Honourable Carole James

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Honourable Michelle Mungall

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**Subject: Co-ops and Building BC’s Recovery, Together**

Dear Premier Horgan, Minister James, and Minister Mungall,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for (name of co-op), I am writing to you to share insights regarding the role of co-ops, not only in the Province’s economic recovery strategy, but as a mechanism for social purpose business, community economic development, social innovation, and more.

**Co-ops put people first** – we are not driven by profit, but a desire to meet common needs and bring fairness, equity, and justice to the marketplace, and balance the need for profitability with the needs of our members and the wider interests of the community.

**Co-ops focus on affordability and equality** by helping people obtain goods and services they may not otherwise be able to afford and improving access to goods and services (such as housing, employment, and credit) by pooling members’ purchasing power.

**Co-ops build strong communities** through local investment and revenue sharing within the local community.

**Co-ops have stability and longevity**, with nearly twice as many BC co-ops remaining in operation compared to other forms of enterprise after five years

As your government makes decisions about how to support British Columbians through the economic recovery, I urge you to look to our model of providing goods and services as an example can fulfill your goals. But to do this, we need to be on a level playing field with the traditional private business sector: through modifications of existing policy that make it easier for struggling businesses to transition to and thrive as co-ops, your government can help sustain businesses that provide important services, maintain affordability, and build community throughout the province.

Through government partnership with the BC Co-operative Association and its members, we can empower co-ops as strategic business model that can help the province move towards a more socially just, environmentally sustainable, and resilient economy.

Yours truly,

Name

Title

Copy:

Ben Hyman

Chair, BCCA Board of Directors

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MLA