

Minister Carole James  
PO Box 9048 STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

April 22, 2020

**RE: Commercial Rent Assistance**

Dear Minister James,

First, we wish to thank you and the provincial government for all you are doing to support British Columbians during this unprecedented time. It is fully recognized and appreciated.

With respect to the Prime Minister's recent announcement regarding support for commercial tenants, and their rents, we understand that the Province will ultimately be responsible for delivering this program here in British Columbia.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is looming. We are hearing increasing stories of small businesses in Victoria starting the process of moving out of their premises due to inability to pay their May rent and the ongoing uncertainty about whether adequate government assistance will be received in time.

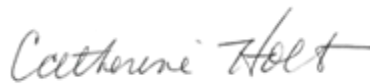
We urge the Ministry provide further detail as it becomes available on the timing and nature of the assistance that will be available to help cover commercial rent as soon as possible. The uncertainty is extremely stressful for our small and medium-sized businesses, as well as for our smaller commercial property owners.

Any information now will allow businesses to make the best decisions possible which in turn can help ensure they carry on until recovery commences. We stand ready to help deliver any updates directly to our respective members and the broader public to ensure the information reaches those who need it most.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bray  
Executive Director  
DVBA



Catherine Holt  
CEO  
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce



Mayor Lisa Helps  
Mayor of Victoria