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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Elizabeth May

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The Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

June 11, 2020

Dear Minister Joly,

I am writing to follow up on my letter of May 20, 2020, expressing my deep concerns for the survival of the tourism sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been in regular contact with the CEO of The Butchart Gardens, Dave Cowen. The Butchart Gardens is a beloved and renowned tourist attraction, bringing in visitors from across the country and around the world. Naturally, the pandemic has greatly affected their business, especially with the closure of the American border. American tourists make up a large majority of Vancouver Island's visitors.

To be clear, we need much more assistance for liquidity and maintaining solvency in this sector. We need help not only with rents, but with moorages. I know you are keenly aware of the threat. Existing measures are insufficient.

Please consider the requests outlined in my previous letter. I attach that letter, in addition to several resources about this issue passed on to me by Mr. Cowen, which highlight the regional impact for southern Vancouver Island's tourism industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

