



Hon. Carole James
Minister of Finance
Province of British Columbia

Room 153 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

April 6th 2018

Re: Proposed changes to the Municipal & Regional District Tax

Dear Minister James,

As a local tourism-based business that relies on and works closely with our community destination marketing organization, I am writing to request that Government not proceed with any proposed changes to the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) as outlined in February's budget.

As you know, tourism is a \$17 billion industry employing 290,000 employees in some 19,000 businesses across the province.

Here in Golden, tourism is also primary economic driver and employer, enjoying growth of 120% in recorded MRDT revenues since the inception of the DMO in 2007.

A key reason for our success is the partnership between the Province, the local commercial accommodations sector, and our Destination Marketing Organisation, Tourism Golden, that invests revenues from **MRDT** into sales and marketing initiatives that generate positive and significant results.

In addition, my family is also an engaged member of the Golden community. The increase of tourism and tourists in our small town, due to the success of our DMO, has brought many significant positive effects for my family and our community.

That is now all at risk. Any alternate uses for MRDT could seriously hamper Tourism Golden's ability to bring tourists to our region and could mean the end of our programs – and success – if implemented.

We respectfully request that the Province immediately suspend any implementation of changes to the MRDT.

Minister James, thank you in advance for considering this urgent request. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Lucille Hayward, Owner, Moberly Lodge

Cc: Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture
His Worship Ron Oszust, Mayor of the Town of Golden
Karen Cathcart, Area A Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District Hon. Doug Clovechok, MLA
Columbia River - Revelstoke
Walt Judas, CEO, TIABC
James Chase, CEO, BCHA

