



March 9, 2021

Hon. Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island
95 Rochford Street,
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Re: Re-Establishment of the Atlantic Bubble

Dear Premier King:

On behalf of the members of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce (GCACC) and the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island (TIAPEI), we write to you to express our support to safely re-establish the Atlantic Bubble in advance of the 2021 tourism season. The GCACC and TIAPEI were encouraged by your recent comments to reduce travel restrictions within Atlantic Canada and have the Bubble in place again by early spring.

While there seems to be uncertainty about whether New Brunswick would be prepared to rejoin the Atlantic Bubble before late June, we believe that there are options that could be considered for safely reopening our borders in the Atlantic region. **The establishment of a Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island Bubble could offer a phased-in approach to reducing travel restrictions in the shorter-term.** A NS/PEI Bubble would remove restrictions for travel between the two provinces earlier and provide tourism operators and our economy with a jump on what we hope will be a much stronger tourism season. While there is a controlled border with the ferry between NS and PEI, there may also be innovative approaches to create safe access between NS/PEI via the bridge to New Brunswick.

Island business owners are looking forward to the summer of 2021, expecting increased traffic with the Atlantic Bubble reopening earlier than last year. Many are uncertain of the conditions required by the four Atlantic provinces to re-establish the Bubble. **In collaboration with your fellow Premiers in Atlantic Canada, we would request that a plan be developed that clearly defines the conditions required for reopening the Bubble.** With lowering daily COVID-19 case numbers across the region, our members await further communications on how and when they might best plan for the safe reopening of our borders.

Additionally, taking what we learned from the 2020 Atlantic Bubble, we urge your government, together with the other Atlantic provinces, to harmonize rules and regulations for re-establishing the Bubble. With clear and consistent guidelines across the region, harmonization would provide a higher level of clarity and reduce confusion for businesses and visitors alike when operating and traveling throughout Atlantic Canada. An example of this would include having the same protocols for seasonal residents and approved visitors arriving from outside the Atlantic Bubble.

We support your government in your responsibility to act in the best interest of Islanders' public health and well-being. We believe that there is an opportunity to discuss the safe re-establishment of the Bubble with your Atlantic colleagues in preparation for the fast-approaching tourism season. TIAPEI and the GCACC thank you for consideration of our suggestions and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Penny Walsh-McGuire
CEO
Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce



Corryn Clemence
CEO
Tourism Industry Association of PEI

CC: Minister Matthew MacKay, Department of Economic Growth & Tourism;
Kirk Nicholson, President, TIAPEI;
Colin Younker, President, GCACC;