



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

PATRICK WEILER

Member of Parliament
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country



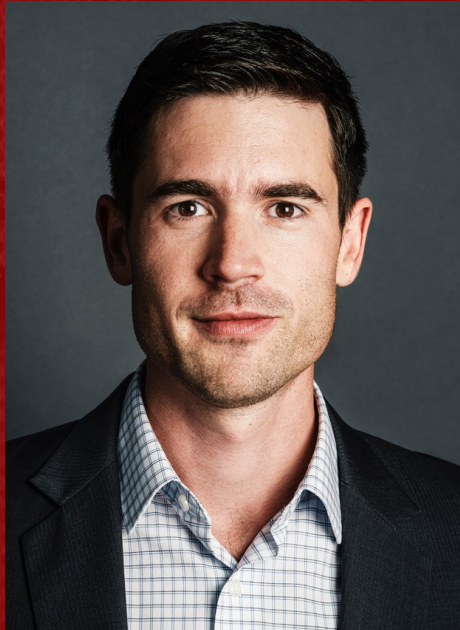
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

As summer 2020 winds down, there are many questions regarding what the future months will hold for our families, communities and our work. Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic presents a long-term public health challenge that remains Canada's top priority to keep Canadians safe and healthy.

Our success in mitigating the worst health impacts of the pandemic will be directly responsible for our success in managing its economic impacts. Regular meetings with all levels of government, businesses, non-profits and community members continue to inform my work in ensuring our community's concerns and priorities get addressed in our programs and policies.

The historic Safe Restart Agreement is at the core of this support, a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and guard against future waves of the virus. Included in the agreement is funding for transit, childcare, testing and contact tracing, healthcare, long-term care and more. On August 11th, I was proud to announce that BC Ferries, along with Translink and BC Transit, would be eligible for the \$1.1 billion dollars in transit support to help restore and expand critical transportation service here in our communities.

Returning to school is an important step to restart our economy and get parents back to work. We are therefore investing \$2 billion (\$240 million for BC) in a Safe Return to Class Fund to ensure that provinces and territories have additional resources for a safe start to the 2020-2021 school year.

I continue to be amazed by the leadership in our community in supporting our most vulnerable and for how businesses and non-profits have adapted to our unprecedented circumstances. I am proud to see how federal programs have contributed to these efforts throughout our communities.

Like many others, I had to largely pivot summer work this year from face-to-face events to online engagement. I had the pleasure of hosting two Virtual Town Halls to engage with our community on some important issues in our riding. In July, I digitally welcomed the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, to our riding, where we discussed issues surrounding Canada's Clean Energy Future. In August, I hosted

the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard, where I had the opportunity to engage the Minister on our Government's plan for healthy oceans and fisheries. You can watch these virtual townhalls on my Facebook page and website.

I also had the opportunity to announce a series of important infrastructure projects across our province. West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country received one of the greatest amounts of infrastructure funding this year of any riding in our province through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). These important projects will create jobs and help set our communities up for success over the long term as our economy recovers and we Build Back Better. The last page of this letter contains the details of the investments in our riding.

While we have seen an impressive economic restart in some sectors, we know many local businesses and workers continue to face challenges, which is why we extended our support measures for businesses and are implementing new measures to support individuals in the next phase of our economic recovery. These changes include the transition from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Employment insurance (EI), introducing flexibilities to EI to allow more Canadians, including expectant mothers, to qualify, and putting a freeze on EI Premium rates for the next two years. The proposed Canada Recovery Benefit, Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit will ensure all Canadians have access to necessary support during the pandemic. Visit canada.ca/coronavirus for more information.

The September 23rd Speech from the Throne will present a bold plan for the recovery of our economy and the vision for how we will continue to create a more sustainable and equitable society. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on what should be included in this vision.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weiler, MP
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

September 2020

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Photo: Announcing funding eligibility for BC Ferries through the Safe Restart Agreement



SUPPORTING YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY



Canada Summer Jobs 2020

The Federal Government provides a wage supplement through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program for employers to hire people aged 30 and under. This year, we expanded the program through to February 2021, increased the subsidy and allowed other flexibilities to meet urgent pandemic needs. 230 CSJ jobs were created in the riding with the \$990,467 investment. It has been a pleasure to meet so many talented young Canadians supporting our communities in roles ranging from fighting food insecurity, supporting our most vulnerable to environmental conservation.

Photo: Visiting Canada Summer Jobs student, Dakota, at Zero Ceiling which is a Whistler-based organization that aims to eradicate youth homelessness.

Summer-In-Review

WEST VANCOUVER & BOWEN ISLAND

As businesses continue on their road to recovery, I've had the opportunity to meet with small business owners virtually and in person to hear first-hand their experiences dealing with COVID-19 and how the federal government can continue to help.

However, businesses in our community are showing leadership themselves. Lebanese communities around the world were impacted by the tragic explosion in Beirut. Michel Ibrahim, who owns a West Vancouver barbershop, has raised \$500,000 in donations for the Red Cross to support the families affected by the Beirut blast at the time of writing. We are thankful for Michel's efforts and the federal government will continue to match donations that are made.

The passion for fisheries habitat restoration has not been diminished by the pandemic. I had the opportunity to visit with the West Vancouver Streamkeepers to review the fish ladder project they are working on at the mouth

of Nelson Creek. This is in addition to the \$1,172,000 being invested this year in projects in our riding that are improving the sustainability of wild salmon as part of the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.

With systemic discrimination in our own country under the microscope this year, it was an honour to bear witness to the unveiling of a sign commemorating the Squamish Nation name of Bowen Island (Nexwlélexm) on National Indigenous People's Day. It was also especially meaningful to participate in the West Vancouver Police Department's raising of the Pride flag for the first time in their 108-year history in support of the LGBTQ2+ community.

I'm also pleased to announce over 1 million for the West Vancouver Ferry Building, restoring the 106-year-old institution that has served as a community public art gallery and centre for 30 years.



Photo: Pride Flag raising at the West Vancouver Police Department



Photo: Visiting Michel Ibrahim's barbershop on Marine Dr.



Photo: West Vancouver Ferry Building Restoration Project.

SUNSHINE COAST

On July 3rd, it was announced that the Sunshine Coast was the recipient of funding for three infrastructure projects as part of the ICIP. On August 5, I joined MLA Nicholas Simons to make the joint announcement of \$955,000 in funding (\$573,000 federal, \$382,000 provincial) to expand the capacity of the White Tower Storm Water Pond Project. This project is innovative, cheaper and more sustainable by using the existing natural assets of the Town instead of building engineered works.

I had the opportunity to speak with businesses from Gibsons to Egmont. I owe a special thank you to Chris Nicholls of the Gibsons Chamber of Commerce and Theresa Logan of the Downtown Sechelt Business Association for accompanying me on a tour to discuss challenges and opportunities with their membership. Their creativity and flexibility in responding to the pandemic is impressive and, I will support them to bridge the gaps.

COVID-19 has brought the issue of food security to the forefront. While only about 3% of food consumed on the Sunshine Coast is produced locally, we are blessed with high-quality, small-scale farms. I am excited to have met Raquel Kolof of Hough Heritage Farm and several members of the Sunshine Coast Farmers' Institute who are working collectively to increase the profile and opportunities for local farmers. CSJ is proud to support positions at farms and organizations working on food security across the Sunshine Coast.

Abandoned and derelict vessels remain a significant challenge in Pender Harbour and Porpoise Bay. I look forward to removing more of these sources of contamination from our waters with the support from the next intake of the federal government's Abandoned Boats Program and working to improve vessel-owner liability to avoid similar issues in the future.



Photo: Annelise Sorg and Canada Summer Jobs student, Zakary Acciaroli.



Photo: Meeting Peter from The Common co-working space in Squamish.

SEA TO SKY CORRIDOR

I was welcomed to visit the N'Quatqua, at the northernmost point of our riding, to visit the site where after extensive planning by the N'Quatqua Nation, the first federal infrastructure investment in decades was announced. The Government of Canada is proudly investing \$4,463,366 in this N'Quatqua-led multi-use facility that will replace the long-condemned community centre and provide key services to support the Nation's on and off reserve members.

It was wonderful to catch up with Mayor Richman to tour the site of the soccer fields that will be funded by the ICIP, and to visit with MLA Jordan Sturdy at North Arm Farm and Mayor Elliot to discuss shared priorities.

I also had the opportunity to drop into the excellent tourism discussion led by the Resort Municipality of Whistler with Mayor Crompton. While the immediate focus was on saving summer for our tourism sector, I had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with businesses and to discuss what the fall and winter seasons will hold, and what businesses need to remain successful as we move forward.

Traveling by e-bike, I met with incredibly entrepreneurial businesses ranging from those pioneering clean technologies to those that make Squamish "Hardwired for Adventure".

Finally, I had an extraordinary opportunity to visit the Squamish Lil'wat Culture Centre to view the ceremony and opening of acclaimed artist Ed Noisecat's exhibit and learn about the ongoing mentorship that he will provide to local artists going forward.



Photo: Welcomed to N'Quatqua territory in D'Arcy by Chief Micah and Councillor Chantel on the site of the future Multi-Use Facility.

FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN WEST VANCOUVER-SUNSHINE COAST- SEA TO SKY COUNTRY



LOCAL RECIPIENTS OF THE INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

\$1 MILLION	1. AMBLESIDE FERRY BUILDING RESTORATION
\$4 MILLION	2. BOWEN ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE
\$4.4 MILLION	3. N'QUATQUA MULTI-USE FACILITY
\$2.2 MILLION	4. XWU'NEKW PARK SEA DIKE
\$230 THOUSAND	5. JACK WEBSTER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
\$1.4 MILLION	6. SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE FACILITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT
\$1.6 MILLION	7. PEMBERTON VALLEY SOCCER FIELD & AMENITY BUILDING PROJECT
\$268 THOUSAND	8. SOUTHERN STL'ATL'IMX HEALTH CENTRE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT
\$573 THOUSAND	9. GIBSONS WHITE TOWER STORM WATER POND PROJECT
\$1.1 MILLION	10. COOPERS GREEN HALL REPLACEMENT
\$101 THOUSAND	11. ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCE SPACE FOR HACKETT PARK

West Vancouver & Bowen Island

In addition to funding for the West Vancouver Ferry Building Restoration Project, on Bowen Island we invested over \$4M for the construction of the Bowen Island Community Centre Project. This long-awaited project will provide multi-use space for recreational and arts programming that will greatly benefit the community while providing a safe and comfortable space to learn, play and be active.

Sea to Sky Corridor

As well as the aforementioned \$4.4M for the N'Quatqua First Nation Multi-use Facility, our Government invested in a series of projects in the Sea to Sky Corridor, including over \$2.2M for the construction of the Xwu'nekw Park Sea Dike at Mamquam Blind Channel and \$230k for the Jack Webster Bridge Replacement. These projects will make our communities more resilient to climate change and increasing flood risks and provide a new two-lane bridge over Culliton Creek. We also invested \$1.4M to the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Facility Revitalization Project which will significantly improve the building and bring our Nations together.

Our Government understands the important role that sport, recreation and active living play in our communities. I am therefore pleased to see \$1.6M announced for the Pemberton Valley Soccer Field and Amenity Building Project, which will construct a new grass soccer field with a water well for irrigation, fencing and lighting, and an amenity building with washrooms, change rooms, storage, concession, and commercial kitchen space.

We also invested \$268K for the Southern St'atl'imx Health Centre Refurbishment Project, which entails the replacement of two trailers, with one new trailer to be used as the Southern St'atl'imx Health Centre that supports four First Nations with medical, dental and counselling services.

Sunshine Coast

The Gibsons White Tower Storm Water Pond project was one of three major infrastructure announcements on the Sunshine Coast. Coopers Green Hall in Halfmoon Bay is a historic building that provides a hub for the community, bringing people together through recreational activities and events. We are therefore proud to invest over \$1M for the construction of a new community hall which will include a large meeting and event space, lobby, decks and a mechanical room.

We also invested \$101,200 for the Accessible Performance Space for Hackett Park in Sechelt, which includes the construction of a multi-use outdoor amphitheatre, performance platform and pathways leading to the facility. This will be a great boon to the community and provide a safe and accessible place to walk, gather and play.

Speech from the Throne 2020 - We Want to Hear From You!

Share your thoughts and priorities on the Throne Speech on September 23rd by emailing us at Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca or sending a letter to the Constituency Office at 6367 Bruce Street, West Vancouver, BC, V7W 2G5.

No postage required.