

URGENT UPDATE ON LOBBYING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Camps are one of the only industries that have lost 100% of their operating revenues this year, but have expended, on average, 40% of their operating expenses. We need your help once again in our efforts to lobby the federal government.

Many of you replied to our previous request with your support by sending letters to the Finance Minister. We know this takes time and effort, but please understand we are not doing this for Manitou, we are doing this for the many camps across Canada that will not open next summer as a result of the lost revenue. One of Manitou's owners, Mark Diamond is the Vice-President of the Ontario Camps Association and is directly involved with lobbying efforts.

In order to help camps survive, the OCA, CCA and their members have been advised that we need everyone's help to do the following:

1. E-mail a personal letter to your local MP requesting immediate assistance for summer camps and copy mark@manitoucamp.com

Let your MP know how summer camp has shaped your personal/professional life and/or has helped your children. Explain how camps create better people, with strong Canadian values shaping us to be the best citizens possible. Camp gives children the leadership, communication and people skills that they need to be successful in life as a camper, CIT and on staff. Share your concerns that thousands of kids will not be able to go to camp next summer because there has been no financial support for the hardest hit industry; one of the only to shut down for 12 months! Let them know that camps help the most vulnerable, and those who face mental health challenges. Also, remember 1/3 of children that go to camp are subsidized. We have not included a template as we have learned that personal letters from the heart are far more powerful. [CLICK HERE](#) to find your MP's contact information.

2. Share government contact information

If you have any contacts in the Prime Minister's Office or in Finance Minister Bill Morneau's office, or with any high-level government official, please contact them and CC Mark (mark@manitoucamp.com) so that we can follow up. We have to pull out all the stops now!

Every Minister we have connected with has validated the need for a sustainability grant for the Camp industry, however, their specific ministries do not fund camps. Unfortunately, nobody has been willing to take responsibility for this file. We need an ambassador and it appears it will have to be in either the PMO or Finance office.

3. If you have a contact in the media, please ask if they are willing to report on the plight of the camp industry and share the following information with them:

- Camps are one of the only industries that have lost 100% of their operating revenues this year, but have expended, on average, 40% of their operating expenses.
- Camps are not just good for the local economy, adding over a billion dollars across the country and 70,000 jobs, they have the more important benefit of teaching good positive values which in turn contribute to a better Canadian society.
- Camps are the cultural fabric of our nation. If there is any industry that should be financially supported it's the one that supports our Canadian youth and young adults.
- If they are interested, please have them contact Mark.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to urge the government to help all Canadian camps to continue. Together we can make a difference united in support of the camp industry.

Mark & Jeff



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