



May 25, 2021

**The Honourable Iain Rankin
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 1X5**

RE: Private Campground Owners Association of Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Premier,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Campground Owners Association of Nova Scotia (COANS), its Private Campgrounds and their campers.

Firstly, I would like to thank you and your Team for your leadership managing public health interests and limiting the economic toll during the past year and we applaud your efforts during this most difficult period.

Last year when COVID-19 entered our world last year, COANS was grateful to have had the opportunity to work closely with NS Health and Dr. Strang to develop guidelines and protocols to facilitate the opening of Private Campgrounds in the Province.

Private Campground Owners re-tooled their entire operation to ensure that the health and safety of their employees and campers were maintained and they were successful doing just that as we did not have any outbreaks at any Private Campground in Nova Scotia (or the rest of Canada for that matter) that we are aware of.

We were extremely disappointed in the announcement last week to cancel overnight reservations and place restrictions on seasonal camping. While we are supportive of your actions to restrict the spread of COVID, please understand that the suddenness of this announcement 2 days before one of our busiest weekends resulted in financial hardship and tremendous inconvenience to our Private Campground Owners.

Being a seasonal industry, we have discovered that there are not many support programs from the Federal Government or the Province available to our Campgrounds. Each day that we are closed, there is little hope to recapture that lost income.

Given the above, we are asking that you and Dr. Strang include Camping, both overnight and seasonal, in your re-opening plans to be announced on May 28th. We are confident that our campgrounds and their camping consumers will continue to follow our recommended guidelines like we were able to do all of last year.

Additionally, we believe that allowing campgrounds to re-open further and giving our campers the ability to get outside and social distance from others would greatly benefit all Nova Scotians mentally.

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We would like to thank you again for your efforts to combat COVID-19 and we respectfully ask you to consider allowing our Private Campgrounds to expand their business in your plans to announce the re-opening of the Province in the coming days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane Devenish', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shane Devenish
Executive Director
Campground Owners Association of Nova Scotia
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cc: Nadine Breau, COANS President nadine.breau@me.com
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The Honourable Labi Kousoulis, FinanceMinister@novascotia.ca
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