



Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington

August 21, 2020

Right Honorable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Building
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

When we met in Seattle in 2017, we discussed the longstanding tradition of cooperation between Canada and the state of Washington. Over the years, we have creatively worked together to solve problems and realize so many opportunities.

Today, I am writing to express my hope that we can use this cooperative spirit to address the unique circumstance of Washington residents living in Point Roberts, WA and the pressing challenges they face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we have informed the Canadian Consulate General in Seattle, the border closure is a significant issue for the approximately 1,300 Washingtonians living in the Point Roberts community who, as a result, essentially have no land access to the rest of the state without entering British Columbia and traveling through the Peace Arch Border Crossing.

Given the community's isolation, there are very limited services available in Point Roberts and residents customarily travel into Canada or to Whatcom County to obtain needed goods and services, including regularly accessing schools and education centers due to quarantine rules. As such, Washingtonians living in Point Roberts face unique hardships resulting from COVID-19 border closures, including challenges for students' academic and athletic careers, increased uncertainty for local businesses, and an inability to see family and loved ones living outside the Point Roberts enclave on the Tsawwassen peninsula.

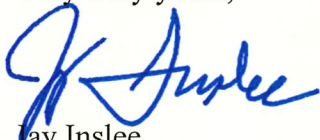
In the discussions my office has had with the Consulate and local officials, the possibility of developing a remedy similar to what is done for U.S. citizens travelling by land to Alaska from the United States has been a proposed solution. As you are aware, a transit pass which must be conspicuously displayed allows the driver to cross at the border and travel through Canada directly to the Alaskan point of entry. A similar permit method for Point Roberts residents to travel through southern British Columbia directly to and from the Peace Arch Border Crossing is

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one possible way to provide needed relief. My office would welcome additional suggestions the Canadian government has to address the unique challenges faced by Washingtonians living in Point Roberts.

It is my goal to develop a practical solution to this issue that can work through the duration of the border closure resulting from COVID-19. We very much appreciate the cooperation of the Canadian government on a number of border closure-related concerns. I am hopeful that we will be able to provide meaningful relief to Point Roberts residents as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please direct them to my Director of International Relations and Protocol, Schuyler Hoss, at (360) 239.1317 or Schuyler.Hoss@gov.wa.gov.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor