



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

February 10, 2021

Dear Premier John Horgan,

On behalf of the Official Opposition, we are writing to express our concern about the increased volume of visitors to Peace Arch Park, which straddles the international border between the U.S. and Canada.

While the Canadian side of the park has been closed since June 2020, many Canadians are still taking advantage of an unwritten loophole that allows for face-to-face interaction on the U.S. side. Canadians who visit friends and family on the U.S. side of the park are free to return home without being subject to Canadian quarantine laws. While we appreciate the desire for families to reunite – it must be done through the proper channels and following all health guidelines, not a loophole no one wants to take responsibility for.

Just this past weekend, local residents reported seeing busy streets and more than 75 tents pitched with people gathering from either side of the border, many without masks. Countless constituents who live close to the border have contacted our offices commenting that they feel unsafe. They are concerned with the increase of Canadian visitors to the park who are returning to our province without being forced to quarantine.

Currently, Washington State officials have not shown any willingness to close the American side of the park to help limit the number of people who gather.

Therefore, we are asking you to call on Washington State Governor Jay Inslee to close public access to Peace Arch Park on the U.S. side until it is deemed safe for non-essential cross-border travel once again.

At a time when possible COVID-19 variants could spread rapidly, it is critical that your government take swift action and do everything in its power to ensure safety in our communities. Residents shouldn't feel afraid to walk out their front door because others are exploiting a loophole.

Now, more than ever, we must hold the line in the fight against COVID-19. It's in the best interest of all British Columbians to see increased restrictions on both sides of the border at Peace Arch Park to better protect our communities.

Sincerely,

Trevor Halford
MLA, Surrey-White Rock

Stephanie Cadieux
MLA, Surrey South