Dear (Enter Name of MP)

I am writing as a constituent on behalf of the more than 24,000 Travel Agents in Canada to draw urgent attention to the state of our industry as the economy begins to reopen and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA) is calling on the government to ensure that continued or altered government programming is available to all Canadians in our industry, and urgently requesting sector specific aid that our industry will require to recover from the pandemic. I am calling on the government of Canada to take action on the issues that ACTA has outlined.

We have appreciated the government financial relief programs during COVID-19. With revenue losses greater than **90%** since government travel advisories and bans were imposed, financial aid programs including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) have kept our businesses alive. As CERB is expected to end in the fall, many Canadians that are unable to work will require access to the revamped Employment Insurance (EI) program recently announced by Finance Minister, Bill Morneau.

We appreciated that CERB included our self-employed workers. As the federal government makes changes to the EI program this summer, we **implore the government to include self-employed workers in an EI type program**, similar to the United States CARES Act, which extended unemployment type benefits to self-employed workers. A large segment of the 24,000 business and individuals selling travel are women and small businesses. Over 30% of Travel Agents are independent entrepreneur contractors who will continue to require financial aid.

We know that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted all Canadians. However, as most other businesses and parts of the economy can begin to re-open, the travel industry will lag behind considerably. Even within the travel industry, hotels and car rental companies will recover more quickly than airlines and Travel Agencies. The unique economic impacts to our industry heightened by ongoing travel advisories will require **sector specific financial aid for the survival and long-term recovery of our industry**. ACTA estimates the economic loss to travel agencies in Canada will be **$30 Billion**.

I appreciate your leadership throughout this pandemic, and I urge you to continue to actively communicate with the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA), who are working to provide solutions for travel agency businesses, employees and independent contractors as our country works to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,

(Add your name here)

CC The **Right** Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport

Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

Members of the COVID-19 Cabinet Committee

{Add in the name of your local MPP/MLA)