

## COVID 19 Stabling/Training Task Force

First of all, I hope you are all doing well and being careful during this crisis.

I am writing to you to on the issue of stabling and care of the horses at Elements Fraser Downs and Hastings Racecourse. I do not take issue with all of us being ultra-careful and doing our parts as we try to flatten the curve of this pandemic.

However, we have a problem and that is an extreme shortage of places we can board/train our horses. Several of our HRBC members who stable at Fraser Downs year round have no place to go. I think we all understand why there is no racing and why there may be no racing for some time.

This is the time for standardbred and thoroughbred owners, trainers, grooms, breeders, everyone to come together to figure out how we can save our beloved industry on a go forward basis. To that end I would like the Horse Racing Industry Management Committee to put together a Taskforce of standardbred and thoroughbred representatives to work with Great Canadian representatives to figure out a solution to this extreme shortage of stalls for the horses of both breeds. The committee should be small and flexible and putting aside any other issue they may have and go directly to government to see what support the agriculture ministry may be able to assist with. I believe that if we involve government (especially the BC government) there is a chance we can work out how to look after our horses. This taskforce would only work on the issue of care and stabling for our horses. We know various levels of government have offered support and what may needed is to let them know we need help on this issue right now.

While I am not an expert by any means, it seems to me that we may be able to get some direct guidance whereby the backstretch area at both Hastings and Fraser Downs could be kept open with the implementation of what in most circumstances would be extreme rules. Other tracks have shut down racing but are keeping the stabling areas and the tracks available for modified training. Some governments have even mandated that stabling areas and some limited training (Louisiana) be maintained. Yesterday, Hoosier and Pompano rescinded evictions by working together.

Surely we can find a way to do that at our two locations. Cooperation is the key.

Thank you for your consideration and any action you may be able to undertake. We all need to work together now to come out the other end of this crisis stronger and better.

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