

August 11, 2021

## **Press Release - Passenger Transportation Board to Stay Other Applications as Part of the Ongoing Investigation on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the BC Passenger Transportation Industry**

The Passenger Transportation Board, an independent tribunal with a mandate to make decisions on applications related to passenger directed vehicles in British Columbia, issued its decision to Stay other proceedings as part of its ongoing investigation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the passenger transportation industry, which includes the taxi and Transport Network Services (TNS) sectors, to better understand the new economic landscape.

On April 20, 2021, the Board initiated the COVID-19 Board Investigation, under the Uber Canada Inc. and Facedrive Inc. applications (collectively referred to as the “Main Applications”). “As a responsible economic regulator and a key stakeholder, the Board decided to conduct this investigation because it was concerned that it did not have sufficient empirical data to make sound, evidence based decisions which would support the overall health of the passenger transportation industry. For the benefit of all British Columbians; safety, transparency and fairness are at the forefront of our work,” said **Carmela Allevato, Chair, Passenger Transportation Board.**

Pursuant to section 14(d) of the *Passenger Transportation Act*, the Board reviewed other applications which involve similar questions of fact, law or policy that may be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 Board Investigation. Following this review, the Board has decided to Stay relevant applications currently before the Board— Swiftsure Taxi Co. Ltd.; Duncan Taxi Ltd.; Comox Taxi Ltd.; Oceanside Taxi Ltd. (#10336-20TNS).

The ongoing COVID-19 Board Investigation is being undertaken on behalf of the Board by Hara Associates (Dr. Dan Hara). Hara Associates is obtaining relevant data and information from passenger transportation businesses and the Ministry’s data warehouse.

The Board is committed to completing the investigation without delay and it is expected to take 3-6 months from when the Preliminary Decisions on the Main Applications were issued on April 20, 2021, barring any unforeseen circumstances. The Board encourages the passenger transportation organizations contacted by Hara Associates to cooperate by providing relevant data and information. Getting a clear picture of current economic conditions is in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

All regular updates will be posted on the Board’s website, <https://www.ptboard.bc.ca/>.

Media Questions: Please contact Kamran Shaikh of PR Associates at [kshaikh@prassociates.com](mailto:kshaikh@prassociates.com) or by telephone at 778.846.5406.