



MEDIA RELEASE

**SKNCIC MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER, CABINET MEMBERS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS & COVID-19 TASKFORCE ON WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST 2020
RE: COVID-19 Economic Planning & Border Re-opening**

The St Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce thanks the Prime Minister Hon Timothy Harris for accepting our invitation and for engaging members of his Cabinet, Senior Government Officials and the COVID-19 Taskforce in our discussions on Wednesday 5th August, 2020 on the way forward in our Federation's Economic Recovery and reopening of the borders.

We are assured by the information shared by all who presented that a strong foundation for the re-opening of the borders is being laid. We also acknowledge the public announcement on Tuesday 11th August 2020 that our borders will be reopened in October 2020. Although we are in unprecedented times; the announcement of this timeline should give all stakeholders, both within and outside of The Chamber's membership, adequate time to prepare themselves and feel confident that some level of increased economic activity will resume in the Hotel and Tourism Sector.

We continue to impress upon the business community and the general public the importance of compliance with the regulations which are intended to protect the health of all residents of the Federation; in particular, the wearing of masks in public spaces in accordance with SRO No. 38 of 2020. The Federation's success in re-opening the borders and maintaining its success with COVID-19 depends on our collective discipline and compliance with these regulations.

Further, we remind all businesses of the social and physical distancing protocols of SRO No. 38 of 2020:

- (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing of at least six feet (6 ft.) in and outside of their business, if in a line to enter the business;
- (b) determine the total number of persons that may be permitted in the establishment at any one time by permitting one person for every thirty square feet of business space;
- (c) place distance markers at least six feet apart, indicating where each customer must stand on a line at a check-out point or other line;
- (d) place distance markers at least six feet apart on the outside of the establishment, indicating where customers must stand while waiting to enter the establishment.

The SKNCIC will continue to work with the Government and the COVID-19 Taskforce to plan the way forward for the Federation's safe economic recovery.

14th August 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE