



May 26, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

**RE:** Helping businesses meet public health guidelines for re-opening

Dear Premier Ford,

Thank you for your government's ongoing leadership in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the Province's collaborative, evidence-based approach to re-opening the economy.

In Guelph, as in many cities across Ontario, our local businesses are eager to work with public health authorities and all levels of government to find safe, responsible ways to re-open their doors while maintaining safe physical distancing for customers and staff and adhering to strict infection control measures. While we recognize that many businesses have already been permitted to re-open as part of Phase 1, our community continues to search for innovative solutions to allow more businesses to resume safe operations and further stimulate economic recovery.

On behalf of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, and in solidarity with Guelph's vibrant and diverse business community, we ask that our provincial leaders support municipalities and regulatory bodies to make reasonable and time-sensitive policy modifications to enable businesses to re-open in accordance with their ability to meet public health guidelines, rather than their inclusion in a broader list of permitted industries as part of the phased re-opening plan.

Specifically, we ask that the Province consider:

- Working with municipalities and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) to allow restaurants to expand their dining spaces into public sidewalks and laneways, ensuring safe physical distancing for both diners and staff.
- Allowing professions that are able to comply with public health requirements for safe operation to resume work immediately.
  - o For example: Professional photographers have not been permitted to resume work, though many have reported

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- that they are able to comply with physical distancing requirements.
- Similarly, health service providers like chiropractors and massage therapists uncertain of their ability to re-open, though they operate similarly to physiotherapists and other care providers who are permitted under the Phase 1 requirements.

Thank you again for your leadership during this extraordinarily challenging time. We share your dedication to preventing further spread of the novel coronavirus and hold the safety and wellbeing of all Ontarians as our first priority. We are equally committed to continuing to work in partnership with the provincial and federal governments to stimulate economic recovery with a thoughtful approach to re-opening businesses in accordance with public health guidelines.

Thank you,



Cam Guthrie  
Mayor of Guelph



Mike Schreiner  
Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph  
Province of Ontario



Lloyd Longfield  
Member of Parliament for Guelph  
Government of Canada

Cc: Shakiba Shayani  
Chief Executive Officer, Guelph Chamber of Commerce

Marty Williams, Executive Director  
Downtown Guelph Business Association