



March 24, 2021

TO: The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Email: Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

AND TO: Windsor-Essex Health Unit
Attention: Dr. Wajid Ahmed
Medical Officer of Health, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Email: wahmed@wechu.org

The Ontario Nurses Association
Email: onamail@ona.org

The Canadian Union of Public Employees
Email: info@cupe.on.ca

The Ontario Medical Association
Email: info@oma.org

Re: Colour Coded Capacity Limits and Capacity Limits for Restaurants in Stage 2 under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

At its regular council meeting held on March 15, 2021, the Town of Essex Council reviewed the attached correspondence received from the City of Sarnia and the Township of Lake of Bays advocating to the Province of Ontario that they adjust capacity limits for restaurants, sporting and recreational facilities, places of worship, event centers, and all retail/small businesses as part of the colour coded system. As a result, the following resolution was passed:



R21-03-103

Moved by: Councilor Verbeek

Seconded By: Councilor Bondy

That the correspondence from The Corporation of the City of Sarnia and the Township of Lake of Bays regarding colour coded capacity limits and capacity limits for restaurants, , sporting and recreational facilities, places of worship, events centers, and all retail/small businesses as part of the colour coded system, be received and supported, and

That a letter of support be send to the Province of Ontario, the Windsor-Essex Health Unit, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Nurses Association, The Corporation of the City of Sarnia and the Township of the Lake of Bays.

Carried

The Town of Essex strongly supports these requests for immediate measures to be taken to adjust capacity limits for those facilities that operate with the appropriate safety and protection measures. As we enter the spring and summer seasons it is also crucial that reasonable and proportionate capacity limits be set for outdoor dining and patios and other outdoor facilities.

I trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Auger", written over a white background.

Robert W. Auger, L.L.B.

Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk

rauger@essex.ca



c.c. Township of Lake of Bays
Email: ward@lakeofbays.on.ca

The Corporation of the City of Sarnia
Email: clerks@sarnia.ca



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
City Clerk's Department

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Sarnia ON Canada N7T 7N2
519-332-0330 (phone) 519-332-3995 (fax)
519-332-2664 (TTY)
www.sarnia.ca clerks@sarnia.ca

March 4, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Colour Coded Capacity Limits

At its meeting held on March 1, 2021, Sarnia City Council discussed the challenges local businesses are facing with respect to the colour coded system within the Province's COVID-19 Response Framework. The following motion was adopted:

That Sarnia City Council strongly advocate to the Province of Ontario that they adjust the capacity limits for dining, restaurants, sporting and recreational facilities, places of worship, event centers, and all retail/small businesses as part of the colour coded system.

The following rationale was provided with the introduction of the motion:

- The red zone currently only allows 10 people indoors at a dining or a sporting / recreational facility (regardless of the size), places of worship are capped at 30% or 50 people, and retail / small business is limited to a 50% capacity.
- These businesses and organizations have heavily invested in facility improvements and expensive upgrades to ensure safe social distancing and have all the appropriate safety and protection measures in place.
- Businesses in particular cannot properly plan under the current uncertainty and that means the loss of jobs and income for both workers and owners as well as mental health challenges.

- Indoor capacity limits for restaurants, dining, sporting / recreational facilities, event centers, retail / small business, and places of worship should not involve arbitrary numbers (regardless of size), but instead be changed to the amount of people per facility which ensures that strict and safe social distancing can be maintained.

Sarnia City Council has requested that all municipalities in Ontario join this advocacy effort.

On behalf of Sarnia City Council, I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amy Burkhart'.

Amy Burkhart
Acting City Clerk

Cc: All Ontario Municipalities
Ms. Marilyn Gladu, MP Sarnia-Lambton
Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton

March 2, 2021

Via Email

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

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Capacity Limits for Restaurants in Stage 2 under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, please be advised Council is striving to support their local businesses during this pandemic however, the uncertainty they face day to day as rules change have become overwhelming and onerous to these small businesses and something needs to change. With that said, Council at their last regular meeting on March 2, 2021 had a wholesome discussion regarding the challenges our businesses are facing. The following resolution is a result of those discussions:

"Resolution #8(b)/03/02/21

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario passed O. Reg. 263/20, Rules for Areas in Stage 2 under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020;

AND WHEREAS Schedule 2, Subsection 1(7) states that the total number of patrons permitted to be seated indoors in the establishment must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the establishment, and in any event cannot exceed 10 patrons;

AND WHEREAS restaurants throughout the Province are facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the amount of patrons being turned away is impacting the overall experience of the restaurants;

AND WHEREAS many restaurants fluctuate in size and would be able to accommodate more than 10 patrons, while maintaining a physical

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distance of at least two metres from every other person in the establishment;

AND WHEREAS the inequity of establishing a capacity limit of no more than 10 patrons for larger restaurants continues to impact the financial viability of the restaurants during this difficult time;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Township of Lake of Bays hereby requests that the Provincial Government review and reconsider the capacity limits for restaurants across the Province be based on the size of the square footage of the seating area instead of a flat occupancy.

AND FURTHER THAT the concept of introducing capacity limits for other businesses listed in Schedule 2 of O.Reg 263/20 being impacted by the constant uncertainty of their operations during this pandemic including restaurants, personal care services, resorts, camps, fitness and recreational amenities, churches, etc. be considered while in lockdown status.

AND FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Premier, Doug Ford, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and all Ontario municipalities.”

Council appreciates and thanks you for all your hard work and dedication during these unprecedented times and is hopeful that the above-noted resolution will assist in amending the restrictions set out in the COVID-19 Response Framework.

Sincerely,



Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC*,
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.
CS/cw

Copy to: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
All Ontario Municipalities