

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