



LOCAL 444

A Community Partner representing active and retired members throughout Windsor and Essex County.

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May 26, 2021

Mayor Nelson Santos and Council:

Premier Doug Ford's "Roadmap to Reopen" is clearly a roadmap for our region to continue to suffer an unjust lockdown. The vaccination rates in our region continue to soar as our covid numbers continue to decrease. Our great numbers have not happened by accident. **We, The People** of Windsor-Essex have done our part to do what is necessary to "flatten the curve."

It is unfair to hold us accountable for other regions in Ontario. There was a time when our numbers were above the acceptable limit (according to Dr. Williams) while other areas were below. They were opened, we were closed, and we accepted it. After doing our part, wearing our masks, keeping our distance, getting vaccinated to the tune of a benchmark of 70%, our covid numbers continue to drop in our community, as well as in our hospital's ICU. Yet under the Premier's new plan, our province is placed in another two weeks of lockdown; **at least** an additional **42** days before this economy can reopen.

As one writer put it, "People have sailed around the world faster." We cannot continue to live in fear and act like we are in the middle of the darkest times of this pandemic; as if we don't have access to a vaccine. The world has made significant positive changes: there are stadiums, restaurants, and stores right across the Border (US) that are opening to total mask-less capacity.

Ontario continues to be the last economy to open. The Province dangles a carrot, but when Windsor-Essex gets close to a provincial threshold, they find a longer stick that we will never be able to reach. This is resulting in people being out of work and businesses closing. Yes, we have golf and tennis open, but we are setting record highs for suicide, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. Our economy is dying; our people are dying; and I am calling on our cities and towns Elected Officials to stand up for the people you represent and say "Enough is enough!"

We have reached and surpassed every threshold to open safely. As a community, we know what has to be done to open safely. You have all witnessed it in our Costco's, our Walmart's, our assembly and parts plants, and our Casino, the small period of time that it was open. It is wrong to hold us ransom for what the GTA does or does not do. You have the power to allow us all to continue to follow proper handwashing, mask-wearing, distancing and any other

precautions that need to be taken to reopen our economy today. Stand up to this injustice and stand up for the regions that you represent by sending a resolution to Premier Doug Ford and his government, that the economy should be open on a regional case- by-case basis.

We can open, and we can open safely.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Cassidy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "D" and a flourish at the end.

Dave Cassidy
PRESIDENT
LOCAL 444 UNIFOR

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