



Office of the Mayor

Town of Oakville

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Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
11th Floor McMurtry-Scott Building, 720 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

May 29, 2020

Minister Downey,

I am writing to you on behalf of Oakville's Economic Task Force and the foodservice industry in Oakville to request urgent action to ensure the safe re-introduction of patio service for restaurants in Ontario. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) is currently not reviewing patio applications and this may result in catastrophic delays and bottlenecks that may end in restaurants missing the entire patio season when the Province lifts its provincial restrictions.

I agree that public health should be at the forefront of any reopening decision, however the Province and the AGCO should prepare now for the anticipated demand for patio applications by updating its policies and processes.

The Provincial government and the AGCO can help the foodservice industry by:

- Immediately commence its review of patio applications from restaurants in anticipation of the provincial order being lifted to ensure restaurants can safely maximize their patio season
- Waive the provincial fee of \$815 associated with the application for *Changes and/or Additions to Existing Licensed Areas*
- Streamline the application system to expedite notifications, reviews and approvals to minimize the weeks or month-long processing period for restaurant owners

In order to be in a ready stance for when Provincial restrictions on restaurants are lifted, Oakville Town Council passed a motion that will enable the provision of temporary commercial services outdoors, including patios or pop-up facilities associated with existing restaurants. The motion also waived the municipal portion of patio and bistro application fees for 2020. In addition, Town staff is streamlining our internal approval processes.

Time is one resource that restaurant owners, who have been hard-hit financially, do not have. I am available to further discuss this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rob Burton