

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Wearing masks indoors

Spokesperson: Michelle Fung

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Ontario has been doing exceptionally well in containing the virus and minimizing the case number everyday. On July 6, the province had zero deaths from Covid19. We must not let this progress falter. The work of our first responders must not have been done in vain.

This is why mandating masks to be worn indoors is so crucial. Toronto has passed this, and eastern Ontario has just passed this law as well. I believe that Markham is capable of being just as responsible, if not more. My friends in health care have been in isolation from their families for months, and have sacrificed so much for our safety to get to where we are today. They, too, are Markham residents.

Many non-restaurant businesses must conduct their business in close contact, such as banks, hairstyling and barber shops, cosmetics (e.g. Nail salons), and more. Without masks, we may end up driving up the Covid19 case numbers, decimating the progress that Ontario has fought so hard to make in these past few months.

According to Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University, Covid19 spreads the fastest in tight, enclosed spaces with little ventilation. Many businesses fit this description, not just office cubicles and pods in South Korea, where they have experienced a spike in cases recently. As a safety measure, we need to be wearing masks indoors to minimize the spread of Covid19.

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It is critical that we stimulate the economy, but even more crucial that we have people who are alive to stimulate the economy. We should not be forced to make a choice between risking our health and cashing in a cheque. At the end of the day, if people are dead or are recovering from covid19, there will be no more cheques to cash and no one to help stimulate the economy. I know that if my high risk parents are to contract the virus, I will be in no mood to do any spending, especially if people are not wearing masks indoors, which is where the virus thrives the most: within an enclosed space with little ventilation.

Please keep the above information in mind when voting occurs. I sincerely and earnestly hope that we are able to pass the bylaw that mandates masks be worn indoors, whether for the economy or for our families.

Thank you so much for your time and all that you have done for the city of Markham. We love our city and we don't want to watch it become a ghost town. We are not going to be the next Leamington.

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