

DEPUTATION IN WRITING

REGIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 9, 2020

Subject: Mandatory Wearing of masks

Spokesperson: Martha Moriarty

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

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Submission to York Region Special meeting, July 9, 2020

I heard on CBC this morning that York Region Council is meeting on Thursday of this week to debate and vote on the issue of mandating masks in all public places in York Region. I believe that this is an initiative that is long past due. All over the province, municipalities are mandating the compulsory wearing of masks - the city of Toronto today, Durham and other areas in the GTA on Thursday. It's time.

I have recently started venturing out into local businesses to "test the waters" and to try to resume a normal way of doing things. Generally, I find that the small businesses are being very good at requiring their employees and customers to wear masks. It's the big stores that concern me. Last week I was in Staples and Home Hardware in Newmarket and felt very unsafe. Almost none of their employees were masked, and only about half their customers. Even if a check out employee is behind a plexiglass barrier, the public is not protected, and it also doesn't send a good message if an employee is seen unmasked. As well, some of their customers were not respecting the distancing lines on the floor, making us all even more unsafe. I have heard similar stories from friends who have been in other stores.

I think that many people just don't get it. I WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT YOU. SO YOU SHOULD WEAR A MASK TO PROTECT ME!

If the Region and the province really want things to get back to normal, if they really want an economic recovery, the mandating of mask-wearing needs to be a priority. I would certainly feel much safer giving my business to a store that was protecting me and the general public.

Mask-wearing is really such a simple thing that our citizens can do. It is the responsible and considerate thing to do to protect all our citizens and stop the spread of covid-19. I urge Council to consider the implications for protecting the health of York Region citizens, and the chances for economic recovery of local businesses, and to vote FOR the mandatory wearing of masks in public places in York Region.

Martha Moriarty

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

1-877-464-9675 x. 71320

york.ca

