

DEPUTATION REQUEST

REGIONAL COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Subject: To Speak in Support of the Motion

Spokesperson: Tara Hillis

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

Stand4THEE

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

I have worked closely with SME's for the past 22 years. The impact of restrictions imposed has been devastating to this sector in particular. When we examine big box business, we can see how measures have disproportionately harmed small business in particular. Current available data suggest transmission risk in these establishments is extremely low. Decisions being forced upon entrepreneurs should be evidence-based, and not designed from a place of fear or public opinion. We must consider all relevant issues and impacts.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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STAND4THEE

CANADIAN ALLIANCE EMPOWERED WITH ACTION

To: ALL MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS & BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LEADERS

Over 200,000 small businesses in Canada are projected to close in the next 12 months. While big box retailers are recording record profits, small businesses are being disproportionately harmed by emergency mandates that are arbitrary, unfair and ever changing. Available data from Public Health as provided to the **CFIB** (Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses) reveals that **only 0.1% of positive cases** are associated with restaurant and retail establishments. Capacity restrictions and curbside-only mandates are destroying small business, many of whom rely on the impulse shopping that occurs with in-store browsing (a significant portion of their total revenues).

Additionally, recent data provided to us by **ACITA** (Association of Canadian Independent Travel Advisors) revealed that only **1% of transmission** has been traced to **international airplane travel**, despite the fact that our borders have remained open in the height of the pandemic's first wave, and throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. The travel industry is in dire straits. Consultants, airlines and tour companies are concerned with government bailouts. Bailouts that mandate refunds to customers and the return of commissions already paid out to agents on cancelled files. Some have had to pay back thousands to-date – an almost impossible notion considering next to no cash inflows. They then find themselves in the untenable position of being unable to fulfil government financing mandates. They expect most travel businesses to fold by the end of 2021 as a result.

The government has not provided owners opportunity for open dialogue, nor have they been transparent with the decision making process itself. Business owners are demanding transparency and a voice in the process. Show them the evidence-based science behind decisions. After 10 months of secrecy and policies based solely on fear and public opinion, entrepreneurs have had enough and they are saying **No More!**

Join **Stand4Thee**, an organization of Canadians empowered with action, in supporting **Ontario's** hardworking small business **retailers** and **restaurateurs**. Take **ACTION** to keep businesses open by voting in favour of ending the lockdowns and restrictions when the opportunity to do so arises. Restrictive measures didn't work the first time. Einstein said it best when stating "The very definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting different results". **END THE LOCKDOWNS!**

Honour the businesses that employ 70% of Canada's workforce. Whereby the hard work and determination of owners' form the hallmark of the country's business landscape, we have an obligation to fight on their behalf. The demise of Canadian business is not just a loss to the entrepreneur – it is a loss for all of us. The time to take action is **NOW!**

If **WE** don't stand for them, then who will **Stand4THEE?**

For further information, please visit us at **www.stand4thee.ca** or contact Rebecca Sheppard at **rebeccastand4thee@gmail.com**.