

January 15, 2021

Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Premier Kenney,

As the representative for businesses in Okotoks and the surrounding area, the Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce is the collective voice of hundreds of businesses. This is a responsibility we take seriously, and we are always looking for the ways that we can support our community to the best of our ability.

Though 2020 was a struggle, we recognized and supported measures taken to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We offered virtual support for our business owners, became a resource for businesses in the area who need more information, and supported and disseminated information about how businesses could incorporate the necessary safety measures into their businesses. We have seen businesses following all recommended health protocols, processes, and procedures – expending time and money while bringing in less income – only to be forced to close for a time period that seems to be continually extended.

Each time businesses are shut down the results within our community and our economy are devastating. We commend the Government of Alberta's decision to allow retail businesses to remain open at reduced capacity, however mandating the closure of other businesses with no end in sight is having detrimental effects. The Okotoks Chamber recognizes that there are certain indicators that the Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Management Cabinet Committee use to determine the levels of restrictions that Albertans are going to face. We are asking the Alberta Government to share these indicators with the public in a clearly defined re-opening plan.

Businesses need to have some optimism for the future, and we are calling on the government to provide that in the way of clear communication. Facing a future with no end to the closures in sight, honest information and a clear outlook could be the reason an entrepreneur chooses to hold on just a little bit longer. Businesses need to know what the timing of a reopening strategy could be and what it would necessitate, including actions and further safety measures that businesses will be expected to undertake. We are fully in support of protecting the health of our community, and that includes our economic wellbeing.

We are always available for conversation should you wish to discuss this matter further. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors  
Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce

CC: Hon. Ric McIver (Vice Chair, Emergency Management Cabinet Committee)  
Hon. Kaycee Madu  
Hon. Travis Toews  
Hon. Jason Nixon  
Hon. Devin Dreeshen  
Hon. Prasad Panda  
Hon. Rajan Sawhney  
Hon. Tyler Shandro  
Hon. Rick Wilson  
Hon. Doug Schweitzer (Chair, Jobs and Economy Cabinet Policy Committee)  
Hon. Demetrios Nicolaides  
Hon. Jason Copping  
Hon. Travis Toews  
Hon. Nate Glubish  
Hon. Grant Hunter  
MLA Glenn van Dijken  
MLA, Martin Long  
MLA Sigurdson