

September 10th, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta, BC V4K 3E2

RE: Proposed Motion Regarding Extension and Expansion of Patio and Public Spaces Project

Dear Mayor Harvie and Councillors,

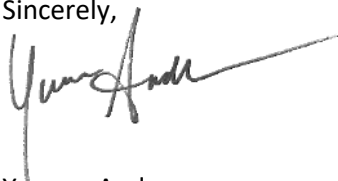
On August 26th our national body, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, shared The Canadian Survey on Business Conditions (CSBC), produced by Statistics Canada with support from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. It found that 29% of accommodation and food service businesses cannot operate at all with social distancing measures in effect, and that a further 31% will only be able to remain operational for up to 90 days with distancing measures in effect. With up to 60% of the hospitality industry nationwide at risk of failure within three months, we know that bold action needs to be taken in order to mitigate such an enormous loss to an industry which employs 1.2 million Canadians and contributes \$30 billion in wages and benefits annually to our economy.

Here in Delta we are fortunate to have a Mayor and Council who took bold action, early on, to help support our restaurant industry through Delta's COVID-19 Hospitality Adjustment Plan, including the Patio and Public Spaces Pilot Project. This pilot project has been a resounding success and has provided the opportunity for restaurants and cafes to welcome their patrons back to in-person dining through expanding their capacity to safely accommodate these guests in new and/or expanded patio spaces. The Delta Chamber of Commerce applauds Mayor and Council for taking proactive steps to support the industry in safely expanding their patio seating capacity through a simple, inexpensive application process and through effective communication to business and the public.

Our current reality, for the foreseeable future, is that the necessary safety requirements and provincial Public Health Orders will limit revenue and increase expenses for these businesses.. This is particularly concerning if patios are required to close for the season with little prospect for office or holiday parties coming in. As the COVID-19 CRERST Update from July 29, 2020 notes, "restaurant and cafe owners are particularly concerned about what business will look like once outdoor patio spaces close at the end of the summer season."

As such, the Delta Chamber strongly endorses the proposed motion before Council to "extend the expanded patio program indefinitely, and that further directs staff to authorize the winterization of patios on city property through the use of tents, louvered roofs, and heaters."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yvonne Anderson

Chair – Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Sean McGill, City Manager
Ms. Mel Cheesman, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. Garry Shearer, Executive Director – Delta Chamber of Commerce