

**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

10 Peel Centre Dr.  
Suite A, 5th Floor  
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9  
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

December 2, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford,

On November 26th, Peel Regional Council passed the enclosed resolution (Resolution Number 2020-976) requesting the provincial government revise the Rules for Areas in Stage 1 under Ontario Regulation 82/20 to address the inequity created between small businesses required to close and businesses permitted to open and conduct sales.

The Region of Peel's fundamental priority throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been to protect the health and safety of Peel residents and this continues to be the highest priority during this crisis, which is why we support the Province's decision to move the Region of Peel into the "Grey: Lockdown Level" of the provincial COVID-19 framework.

While we continue to support this decision, it is critical to recognize that some of the lockdown measures have created an uneven playing field, placing small businesses and local retailers at a significant competitive disadvantage. Larger retail outlets, which are permitted to remain open, sell more than just essentials and are in direct competition with small retailers, which are limited to online sales and curb side pick-up or delivery.

With the holiday shopping season upon us, we must do everything possible to support small businesses. The survival of these businesses is essential for Peel's and the Province's recovery efforts. As such, the Region of Peel is requesting that the Province revise the Rules for Areas in Stage 1 under Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the "lockdown") to address the inequity created between small businesses required to limit their sales to online or curbside pickup and businesses permitted to open and continue in-person sales; to avoid unfair competitive advantage between businesses; and to provide consistency with continued effective health risk management in consultation with Public Health.

In addition, the Region is requesting that clearly defined requirements for masking, physical distancing with capacity limits on a per square meter basis, and limits on numbers of persons admitted to big box and other businesses be implemented and strictly enforced, with additional provincial resources to support enforcement.

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The Region encourages the Province to move forward with these measures expeditiously, as many small businesses and local retailers are on the brink of insolvency and need support from all levels of government. It is our shared priority to reach a balance in preventing further spread of COVID-19 to keep our community safe, while supporting these businesses that will form the foundation upon which we build back an even stronger economy.

As we move through this pandemic, the Region will continue to seek opportunities to work with you to help and support Peel's residents and business. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4310. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel

CC: Peel-area MPPs  
GTHA Municipalities

Attached: Resolution 2020-976





**APPROVED AT REGIONAL COUNCIL  
November 26, 2020**

**8. COVID19 RELATED MATTERS**

**8.1 Update Regarding Public Health Staffing in Response to COVID-19**

**Resolution Number 2020-976**

**Moved by** Councillor Crombie

**Seconded by** Councillor Brown and Councillor Groves

*Whereas on November 23, 2020, the Region of Peel entered the province's "Grey Zone: Lockdown," which has put significant restrictions on business operations in the Region, including the closure of small businesses, except for those that can provide online shopping, curbside pick-up, or delivery;*

*And whereas, daily COVID-19 numbers in Peel continue to increase;*

*And whereas, hospitalization numbers and the number of patients in the ICU, throughout Peel, continue to rise;*

*And whereas, the safest way to shop to stop the spread of COVID-19 is through infrequent trips to the store, online shopping, by curbside pick-up, or through take-out;*

*And whereas, in an effort to keep the supply chain operating and ensure people can get the essentials they need like groceries, large retailers have been permitted to continue to operate, albeit with capacity limits;*

*And whereas, larger retailer outlets sell more than just essentials and are in direct competition with small retailers who are not allowed to open, or only with online shopping or curb side pick-up, creating an uneven playing field for small businesses and local retailers;*

*And whereas, the holiday shopping season has begun, a critical time for small businesses due to the provincial restrictions;*

*Therefore be it resolved, that the provincial government be requested to revise the Rules for Areas in Stage 1 under Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the "lockdown") to address the inequity created between small businesses required to close and businesses permitted to open and continue sales; to avoid unfair competitive advantage between businesses; and to provide consistency with continued effective health risk management in consultation with Public Health;*

*And further, that strict enforcement of requirements for masking, physical distancing with capacity limits on a per square metre basis, and limits on numbers of persons admitted to big box and other businesses be emphasized and pursued;*

*And further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Peel-area MPPs:*

*Sara Singh, MPP Brampton Centre  
Gurratan Singh, MPP Brampton East  
Kevin Yarde, MPP Brampton North  
Prabmeet Sarkaria, MPP Brampton South  
Amarjot Sandhu, MPP Brampton West  
Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon  
Natalia Kusendova, MPP Mississauga Centre  
Kaleed Rasheed, MPP Mississauga East-Cooksville  
Sheref Sabawy, MPP Mississauga-Erin Mills  
Rudy Cuzzetto, MPP Mississauga-Lakeshore  
Deepak Anand, MPP Mississauga-Malton  
Nina Tangri, MPP Mississauga-Streetsville,*

*with a request that they advocate and speak up on behalf of the businesses that they are elected to represent*

*And further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the City of Toronto and Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area municipalities.*

**Carried**