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Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: nairncentre@personainternet.com

December 22, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Premier:

Re: Closure of Non-essential Businesses During the Pandemic

Please be advised our Council adopted the following resolution at their meeting of December 14, 2020:

RESOLUTION RE: CLOSURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES DURING THE PANDEMIC

RESOLUTION # 2020-15-246

MOVED BY: Katherine Bourrier

SECONDED BY: Rod MacDonald

WHEREAS many municipalities in Ontario are comprised of small “non-essential” businesses and these municipalities rely on the commercial taxes collected from these businesses;

AND WHEREAS, these small businesses are comprised of local employees and owners, and in many cases generations of these people, and these businesses take very strict measures for safety purposes during COVID-19, such as recording people’s names and phone numbers upon entry, as well as limiting the number of customers to very few;

AND WHEREAS, the province has deemed many of these businesses as non-essential and has forced these businesses to close during the “first wave” of COVID-19, and once again these businesses are to close during the “second wave” in regions that are in the province’s “Grey Zone: Lockdown” forcing many into bankruptcy;

AND WHEREAS, the province is allowing the large retailers and big box stores to remain open, essentially funneling hundreds of people into these stores, and these stores do not record anyone’s name or phone number thus making “contact tracing” due to exposure of the virus virtually impossible;

AND WHEREAS, these large retailers and big box stores sell more than just essentials and are in direct competition with small businesses who are not allowed to open, or only with online shopping or curbside pick up, creating an uneven playing field;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the municipality of the Township of Nairn and Hyman is calling upon the provincial government to stop the mandatory closures of these small businesses, as our municipality believes that these businesses are “essential” for not only taxes collected by the municipality but also the mental health of the owners, employees and clients of these businesses, and that these small businesses have not been linked to the spread of the virus;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the provincial government be requested to address the inequity created between small businesses required to close and businesses permitted to open and continue sales;

AND FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our MPP, the Premier, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Sincerely Yours,

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

Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

Cc: AMO
Michael Mantha, MPP Algoma-Manitoulin
All Municipalities in Ontario