

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Support of permanent outdoor patio program

**Importance:** High

**From:** [concessionbia@gmail.com](mailto:concessionbia@gmail.com) <[concessionbia@gmail.com](mailto:concessionbia@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2022 12:59 PM

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The Concession Street BIA is in full support of expanding the outdoor patio program to make it a permanent year-round fixture. Outdoor patios allow small businesses to expand their seating capacity in a time when their economic recovery, scaling their sales and enticing people back to their establishments is critical. As Canadians we have seen that patios are not just a summer thing. Warm sunny winter days, late autumn sunshine, early Spring-like weather and beautiful evenings any time of year are good reason to visit your local patio. Year round patios will give restaurants to get really creative in how they adapt these spaces to the season.

An added bonus is that these spaces animate our BIA and make it a more inviting place for visitors, so other small businesses can also benefit from that foot traffic. This commercial corridor vibrancy in turn then adds to the appeal and allure for new businesses to also join our BIA and invest in our street. For these reasons, the Board of Management is in full support of this motion.

Sincerely,

Cristina Geissler, Executive Director, Concession BIA