



Community Services

Legislative Services

March 23, 2021

File #120203

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

**Re: City of Sarnia - Advocate the Province of Ontario to Adjust the Capacity Limits
as part of the COVID-19 Colour Coded System**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 22, 2021 received and supported correspondence from the City of Sarnia dated March 4, 2021 advocating the Province of Ontario to adjust the capacity limits for dining, restaurants, sporting and recreational facilities, places of worship, event centers, and all retail/small businesses as part of the COVID-19 Colour Coded System.

Attached please find a copy of the City of Sarnia's correspondence dated March 4, 2021.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Yours very truly,

Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk
cschofield@forterie.ca

CS:dlk

Attach

c.c.

Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca

Wayne Gates, MPP wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Niagara Region ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Ontario Municipalities

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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
City Clerk's Department

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March 4, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Colour Coded Capacity Limits

At its meeting held on March 1, 2021, Sarnia City Council discussed the challenges local businesses are facing with respect to the colour coded system within the Province's COVID-19 Response Framework. The following motion was adopted:

That Sarnia City Council strongly advocate to the Province of Ontario that they adjust the capacity limits for dining, restaurants, sporting and recreational facilities, places of worship, event centers, and all retail/small businesses as part of the colour coded system.

The following rationale was provided with the introduction of the motion:

- The red zone currently only allows 10 people indoors at a dining or a sporting / recreational facility (regardless of the size), places of worship are capped at 30% or 50 people, and retail / small business is limited to a 50% capacity.
- These businesses and organizations have heavily invested in facility improvements and expensive upgrades to ensure safe social distancing and have all the appropriate safety and protection measures in place.
- Businesses in particular cannot properly plan under the current uncertainty and that means the loss of jobs and income for both workers and owners as well as mental health challenges.

- Indoor capacity limits for restaurants, dining, sporting / recreational facilities, event centers, retail / small business, and places of worship should not involve arbitrary numbers (regardless of size), but instead be changed to the amount of people per facility which ensures that strict and safe social distancing can be maintained.

Sarnia City Council has requested that all municipalities in Ontario join this advocacy effort.

On behalf of Sarnia City Council, I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'AB', followed by a horizontal flourish.

Amy Burkhart
Acting City Clerk

Cc: All Ontario Municipalities
Ms. Marilyn Gladu, MP Sarnia-Lambton
Mr. Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton