



The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

Dear Premier Ford,

June 23, 2020

On behalf of the Council and the Town of Amherstburg, I would like to thank you for your leadership during the pandemic. Undoubtedly, the decisions you have had to make in the interest of saving lives in the province could not have been easy. We appreciate your difficult position.

I write to you today regarding the decision to maintain the Stage 1 designation for Windsor/Essex County. Your government's recent allocation of \$15 million for the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection program, the resources allocated by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour are truly appreciated in trying to reduce/isolate the cases of COVID-19 in the agriculture sector.

In the interim, the Town of Amherstburg businesses desperately want to open, *need* to open soon, or they may close indefinitely. Because of that, we ask that the decision to move to Stage 2 be made expeditiously, before additional layoffs and business closures occur in the Town of Amherstburg. We understand that this urgency has been shared by other municipalities in the province, but now this region is the only one with businesses still not able to operate at the advanced stage.

Should you not be able to approve the movement to Stage 2 for the Town of Amherstburg, in collaboration with the Amherstburg Chamber of Commerce, and all of our business owners, we ask that specific increased funding be made available to our business owners. As small town businesses that rely heavily on our reputation of award winning tourism, they cannot endure the loss of business any longer. With no tourist events allowed, our businesses are already suffering. Under the extended Stage 1 restrictions, many will certainly close without a further influx of funding.

The Town of Amherstburg has a rich history, both provincially and federally, back to the War of 1812 which was fought on our shores. I'm sure you can appreciate our concern for the viability of our town, and are able to move us forward or provide further relief to our businesses in the interim.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Mayor Aldo DiCarlo
Town of Amherstburg
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