



# Suze Morrison

## MPP TORONTO CENTRE

May 1, 2020

Dear local community businesses,

The contributions that you make to our community as small businesses and Business Improvement Areas are deeply valued and I want to thank you for all you do. During this unprecedented time, I am deeply concerned with the impact that COVID-19 is having on the viability of local businesses and I believe that the provincial government has the ability to help.

I can see that the small businesses within our community are struggling. You are vital members of our neighbourhoods and you should not have to choose between closing up shop or sinking so deep into debt that you will never get out. Now is a time where you need more help getting through this pandemic and we need our provincial government to take further steps to provide you with these lifelines.

I fully support MPP Andrea Horwath in her calls to the Ford Government for immediate and effective action in support for our businesses that may be struggling. The help that we are calling for from the province includes:

- A 75 per cent commercial rent subsidy up to \$10,000 a month for three months;
- A utility payment freeze;
- A remote-work set up fund for small businesses, which could help them with things like setting up an online retail operation, or buying laptops and software for staff;
- An auto insurance grace period for taxis and car-sharing drivers;
- A designated emergency fund for small businesses and entrepreneurs who have faced historic barriers to accessing traditional capital, as proposed by the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce. .

It is through these proposed supports that I believe we can protect our small businesses, ensuring that you can return to business and continue to enrich our community for years to come.

I encourage those within our local business community to reach out to my office to voice any concerns you may have, we are here to support you and will fight to get you the help you need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suze Morrison', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Suze Morrison  
Member of Provincial Parliament — Toronto Centre

