



MPP Peter Tabuns
Toronto-Danforth

923 Danforth Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4J 1L8
Phone: 416-461-0223
tabunsp-co@ndp.on.ca



Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth

100 Queen Street W, Suite C44
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
Phone: 416-392-4060
councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca

June 3, 2020

Premier Doug Ford
Ontario Legislature
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing to you as representatives of the Toronto-Danforth riding in Toronto. This letter follows up on the letter we sent you at the end of April asking for your immediate action to prevent the rising tide of commercial evictions and failing businesses that we are seeing in our business community.

Many, probably most, of our small businesses are unable to pay rent. We said over a month ago that that the "current Federal/Provincial CECRA program for small businesses will not work for most." Today the Globe and Mail reported "only 16,000 of Canada's nearly 1.2 million small businesses" have had their landlords apply. This is consistent with what we have heard from our local small businesses and from their landlords. At this minimal uptake you have to admit that this program is a failure for small businesses.

In British Columbia the government has brought in an eviction moratorium for any business whose landlord has declined to apply for CECRA in circumstances where such an application would be coverable. You could do the same.

Currently the landlords have little impetus to apply for the CECRA, yet they are the only ones who can apply. This catch 22 can only be broken with a freeze on commercial evictions as B.C. has done.

You yourself have called out "greedy landlords" and threatened to act. Well, landlords are not acting and small businesses are being pushed out into the street.

As we have said before, you should bring in a multi-month eviction moratorium for small businesses and provide commercial rent subsidies of up to \$10,000 per month. That would maximize their chances of survival in Ontario. If you are not willing to up financial support that then at least take the steps that New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and now British Columbia have done – put a moratorium on commercial evictions starting with at least this month.

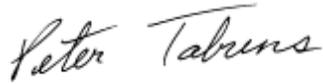
You have said Ontario is "Open for Business." If this is not a hollow slogan then your government simply has to institute a freeze on commercial evictions now.

What we said in April is still true, "Failure to act will mean that we will face main streets full of boarded up shops. It will mean the destruction of years of efforts by hard working small business people and their employees. In quite a few cases where business people have provided personal loan guarantees it can

mean personal financial ruin. In total it will be a massive set back to the economy of our community and this province."

Please act today.

Sincerely,



Peter Tabuns
Member of Provincial Parliament
Toronto-Danforth



Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth