

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Supporting the Hospitality Industry

Yukon NDP Proposal



Context

The impacts of the current wave of COVID-19 are being deeply felt by restaurant and bar owners, many of whom are struggling to keep their business open. Based on a roundtable discussion of restaurant and bar owners from across the territory, **we have assembled a list of ten actions that the Yukon Government could take to support the hospitality industry through this difficult time.**

Ten Actions for the Government

Regulatory Changes

1. Allow alcohol delivery with take out orders. Many restaurants depend on profits from alcohol sales, so this would increase the viability of switching to take out and delivery services.
2. Simplify the application process for current and new funding:
 - Make the application doable for people without specialized financial skills.
 - Make the documentation requirements more flexible. For example, if businesses have to prove their bills are already paid, then they have to wait until the following month to apply for funding.

Communications

3. Create and share a contact point for businesses to ask questions about COVID-19 public health orders, so they don't have to call the general COVID-19 line to get information.
4. When major new public health orders are announced, plan a virtual meeting for interested business owners to ask questions and get clarification on how to implement these orders.

Direct Funding Support

5. Dedicate a support person for the application process:
 - Give business owners direct support with the application process, via the creation of an application navigator position to help small and local business owners understand which aid they are eligible for and to assist them to work through the application process. This could be done in partnership with Service Canada and the Chambers of Commerce.
6. Expand eligibility criteria for programs:
 - Make programs accessible to businesses that have opened since the pandemic started.
7. Supplement federal programs by expanding them to ineligible businesses:
 - Match the Tourism and Hospitality program for businesses that have opened since the pandemic started.
8. Increase the amount of financial support that is available.

Indirect Funding Support

9. Waive, defer, or discount fees such as the liquor licence fees.
10. Increase discount at Yukon Liquor Corporation for restaurant and bar owners.

Coordination with other levels of government

1. Open a dialogue with municipalities on measures that would help support businesses and provide assistance wherever needed.
2. Work with federal representative to request increase eligibility for programs such as the wage subsidy program to businesses who have opened during the pandemic.

The Yukon's restaurants and bars are beloved local businesses that draw locals and tourists alike. **We must support them through these difficult times so that when the pandemic is over, we continue to have the vibrant and dynamic community that we love.**