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Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

October 9, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

Today there was a record high number of Covid-19 cases in Ontario. And the positivity rate continues to increase.

Public health officials are calling for targeted closures of indoor dining, bars and nightclubs in certain regions, including Toronto.

I appreciate that your refusal to heed this advice is due in large part to your concern with the economic stability of our province's businesses. It is a gut wrenching decision to choose between saving lives and livelihoods.

However, it appears that the writing is on the wall and that as we face a second wave, we must make targeted closures in hot spots to slow the spread. These businesses will need support in order to survive government mandated restrictions.

I am writing to urge you to implement the following four recommendations immediately:

1. Provide financial grants to small businesses that will have to be closed during the next round of closures. Quebec is providing \$15,000 to each business in this circumstance. I would urge you to do the same.
2. Provide businesses, especially restaurants, ample notice of any impending closure - at least 3-5 days. This will help manage the fallout of lost costs, including pre-ordered food and supplies.
3. Ensure that any shutdown of businesses is done equitably and do not provide an unlevel playing field to large businesses and box stores.
4. Commit to fixing the rent relief program so that small businesses can apply for the relief they need and were promised.

We must learn from the missteps taken during the panic of addressing the first wave and ensure that our small businesses remain in a position to survive the second one.

Sincerely,

Mike Schreiner
MPP, Guelph

Cc: Minister Phillips