

May 27, 2021

The Hon. Iain Rankin  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Office of the Premier  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Rankin:

We are writing to you today, as a follow up of the meeting you hosted with Nova Scotia's 12 business improvement districts (BIDs), on May 21. First of all, we wish to thank you for your speedy response, productive conversation, and the decisions that have been made over the past week: improvements to the Small Business Impact Grant Part 3, with \$5,000 payments to all eligible businesses (though we would note that many businesses impacted by restrictions, including restaurant/retail suppliers, event planners, personal services, are still ineligible for supports); changes to the restrictions regarding delivery of alcohol; and consultations that have been undertaken this week with the business community so that our input can inform the reopening plan that is intended to be released to the public on Friday.

We look forward to reviewing with our members details of the reopening plan, anticipating that it will be a phased approach that will see reduced restrictions tied to ongoing health benchmarks (vaccination rates, new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, etc.), as we have seen in other provinces. We also hope that it will, as far as possible, be able to show a path back toward elimination of all significant restrictions that hamper our key downtown and main street businesses, such as capacity restrictions in stores and restaurants, reduced hours, and interprovincial travel. Businesses crave certainty in order to make decisions, and as much as the plan can provide that, the better.

As requested, the BIDs will send a follow-up letter outlining our requests of the federal government, and any support you can give to those with your discussions with the Prime Minister and other premiers would be appreciated.

We know that high vaccination rates are the key to returning to improved economic conditions, and we will continue to enhance our messaging, individually and collectively, around the importance of vaccines, regular testing, safety protocols, and other Public Health guidance.

Finally, we wish to re-emphasize the importance that the reopening plan be accompanied with a recovery plan, with a variety of programs, initiatives, and investments. Our downtowns and main streets are not a light switch that can simply be turned back on, but rather many switches, which collectively require the cooperation, talent, and creativity of government and the private sector to once again burn brightly in all of Nova Scotia's communities.

Sincerely,

Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission

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Downtown Halifax Business Commission

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Downtown Truro Partnership

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Kentville Business Community

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North End Business Association

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Porters Lake Business Association

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Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association

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Sackville Business Association

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Spring Garden Area Business Association

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Spryfield Business Commission

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Sydney Downtown Development Association

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The Village On Main – Community Improvement District

Graziella Grbac, Executive Director, [graziella@villageonmain.ca](mailto:graziella@villageonmain.ca), 902-407-3533, 902-229-6711

Cc:

The Hon. Labi Kousoulis, Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth

The Hon. Zach Churchill, Minister of the Department of Health and Wellness

Scott Farmer, Deputy Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth

Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister of the Office of Strategy Management

Duff Montgomerie, Deputy Minister of Advanced Labour and Education

Jennifer Church, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth  
Fiona Gibb, Director, Projects, Department of Inclusive and Economic Growth