

April 15, 2021

Object: Support for the Patio Program

Dear Members of Council:

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting its restaurant members and takes pride in their resilience and the hard work they have done to ensure the safety and health of their employees and the town residents and visitors. Patios have proven to be a safe way to keep restaurants open while also becoming extremely popular with the community.

We are grateful to the Town staff for creating the Patio Program this year. However, the recommendation of the MHC to remove the patios by the end of 2021 seems premature and there should be no end date on the Patio Program. We are still in lockdown; we haven't even started the recovery phase, which will last for several years. It could be easier to grandfather the existing patios and have it reviewed each year until the effects of the pandemic actually wear off.

Please accept this letter of support for the Patio Program and we are confident that our concern will be heeded.

As a leading advocate for the business community, we are committed to supporting and promoting a safe and healthy economic recovery and ensuring the sustainable prosperity of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Thank you in advance,
Kind regards,



Eduardo R. Lafforgue
President & CEO

Cc: Marnie Cluckie, CAO
Cc: Peter Todd, Town Clerk