

June 8, 2021

Dr. Lianne Catton
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Porcupine Health Unit
169 Pine Street South
Timmins, ON P4N 8B7
via email

Re: PHU Region in need of a measured, regional metric to re-opening

Dear Dr. Catton:

On behalf of The Chamber and our members, thank you for your continued leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we understand the need to remain within the emergency brake measures at this time, our business community critically requires a measured, regional metric to re-opening. As the remainder of the Province moves to Step One of the Roadmap, we are gravely concerned with the impact this will have on our small and medium-sized enterprises.

As previously seen during the regional-based approach to re-opening in November 2020, increased movement from clientele travelling to other regions to purchase products and services further exacerbated COVID-19 cases. At the risk of encouraging movement as an unintended consequence of this Emergency Brake extension, benchmarking the Porcupine Health Unit region will provide a timeline that could potentially discourage this movement and provide greater confidence to business owners and operators.

Additionally, as numbers increase in the Far North, The Chamber will continue to act as a partner in securing more support for First Nation communities should it be needed. We believe that the need to revert to campaigns that discourage regional travel is necessary to mitigate the rise in those communities.

We understand the strain this places on your administration, but as office settings continue to see outbreaks, thorough investigations and the subsequent promotion of those outbreaks must continue to be publicized. At the very least, this will promote greater vigilance to potential contacts. business shutdowns will continue to have a heavy impact on sales and continuity.

As business and community leaders, we stand ready to work with you to ensure a safe, transparent, and sustainable re-opening that avoids another wave and prolonged public health restrictions on our business community.

We would be happy to discuss this issue further and look forward to continuing to work with the Porcupine Health Unit on solutions that support the health of Ontarians and our economy.

Sincerely,



Keitha Robson
Chief Administrative Officer
Timmins Chamber of Commerce



Melanie Verreault
2020-21 President
Timmins Chamber of Commerce

CC: Mayor George Pirie
MPP Gilles Bisson

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