

Dear Mayor and Council,

As we approach the warmer summer months, and as British Columbia heads into Phase 2 of its reopening strategy, supporting local pubs, restaurants, cafes, and of course, breweries will be extremely important. For breweries especially, the summer months are often the time of year that people love to frequent the patios of our local spots the most, and with the limitations on capacity in place due to COVID-19, this summer stands to be a challenging one. However, with the challenge comes opportunity. Several municipalities in Metro Vancouver, including the City of Delta and the City of North Vancouver, have petitioned the Provincial Government to provide increased flexibility in outdoor dining and liquor licensing, in order to give restaurants, pubs, and breweries the opportunity to extend their patio spaces into adjacent parking lots and/or sidewalk space.

Thankfully, the Province announced on Wednesday the 13th that they would do exactly that. Soon, establishments will be able to apply for extensions to their liquor license to allow for larger patios. What this means now is that municipalities have to step up and provide flexible permitting processes for local restaurants, breweries, pubs and cafes to apply for temporary patio extensions into sidewalks and parking lots. This would allow breweries and restaurants to increase the number of patrons they could serve while safely observing social distancing rules and making everyone feel comfortable. Obviously, the safety of patrons and the public are paramount, and the extension into public space would have to be done in such a way that allows space for pedestrians to travel safely, with enough distance between everyone. For a local example, we can look to the City of Vancouver, who yesterday unanimously approved a motion by Council to direct City staff to create a framework to allow for expansion of outdoor patios, seating, and parklets.

It will be critically important for the municipality to develop a quick and efficient process for granting temporary patio extensions moving forward. We are in an extremely unique time, and ensuring local businesses survive and thrive during this crisis will require creative thinking, and for all of us to work together.

We respectfully ask you to consider working quickly on a flexible and efficient system to allow our local businesses to extend their outdoor seating areas, thus increasing the likelihood that the local spots that everyone love can survive this crisis. We look forward to working with you on a plan to reopen safely, and we look forward to get back to serving the people of Langley, and with your help we will continue to serve the best beer in British Columbia.

Sincerely yours,

Langley's Craft Brewers

Kevin Larsen – Camp Beer Co.

Derrick Smith - Dead Frog Brewing

Arnold Tobler - Farm Country Brewing

Tanner Smith - Five Roads Brewing

Lance Verhoeff - Trading Post Brewing