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Town of Halton Hills
Office of the Mayor

March 19, 2020

Re: Business Continuity and Business Resources

To our valued business community:

As our country and local community faces the unprecedented global challenge posed by COVID-19, I want you to know that Town Council, the CAO and senior Town staff are aware of the challenges that our business community is facing. I also wanted to inform you of the steps we are taking to support our businesses.

The success of our 1400+ Halton Hills businesses is key to the Town's ability to deliver the services that our residents and businesses rely on each day.

COVID-19 is having a negative impact on our business community, caused by factors such as cancelled or delayed orders, supply chain disruptions, decreases in demand and a reduced workforce – among others. These challenges are being particularly felt by our restaurants, retail shops and event organizers. Some businesses have closed, others have reduced hours. The impact is being felt throughout our economy.

With the Province having declared a State of Emergency, for the safety of the public and Town staff, Town Hall closed to the general public effective March 18.

While business continuity may look a little different with the closure, work is still getting done, just in a different way. The Town's website, haltonhills.ca, will continue to keep you informed about Town operations, programs and services throughout the COVID-19 phase. Processes are being put in place to keep critical building, planning and economic development matters moving forward. Please call Town Hall at 905-873-2600 and our staff will provide assistance should you have any enquiries or special needs.

All levels of government are working closely together to coordinate their response to this unprecedented challenge. At the Town level, we have created a dedicated webpage with resources to assist businesses in mitigating COVID-19 impacts at investhaltonhills.com.

The Town is actively exploring potential financial tools to implement to assist businesses. An update on this will be available soon as we consult with senior orders of government.

1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, L7G 5G2

905-873-2600 | 1-877-712-2205 | haltonhills.ca

We are also reaching out to our business community and event organizers to collect data about the extent of the local impact of COVID-19. We will continue to share and cross-promote information with the Chamber of Commerce, BIAs, Halton Region, Regional Tourism Organization 3 (RTO3) and other key stakeholders. The Tourism Industry Association of Ontario is conducting a survey during these difficult times to ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector. I encourage you to participate in the survey which is linked from our website at investhaltonhills.com.

Looking beyond the current situation and as part of the Town's business continuity efforts, our 5-year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy will position Halton Hills as a prime investment destination, with a diversified and strong economy.

On behalf of Town Council, I wish you good health and resilience during this challenging time. Keep well.

Sincerely,



Rick Bonnette,

Mayor

cc.:

Town of Halton Hills Councillors

Brent Marshall, CAO

Damian Szybalski, Director of Economic Development, Innovation and Culture

Alex Fuller, Director of Communications