



The City of Niagara Falls, Ontario

Resolution

No. 9

November 17, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Mike Strange

Seconded by: Councillor Wayne Thomson

WHEREAS In relation to Section 22 of Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act where the Acting Niagara Regional Public Health Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hirji ordered that restaurants and bars enforce that people are only able to dine with those living in their household (or those essential to their physical or mental health);

WHEREAS The Chief Medical Officer of Health indicated in his letter to Regional Councillors, that "It must be emphasized that operators of [restaurant] establishments do not seem to be responsible for infection spreading; rather, it is members of the public who are misusing freedom to dine in restaurants [...];"

WHEREAS evidence has shown that the majority of COVID-19 cases in Niagara have not occurred in restaurants;

WHEREAS restricting dining to family members only will have severe financial hardship on restaurants and is not consistent with Provincial orders and guidelines;

WHEREAS restaurant and bar owners have spent a significant amount of money and resources on making their employees and premises COVID safe;

WHEREAS the new section 22 issued by Niagara Regional Public Health are not consistent with Provincial guidelines, leading to confusion amongst business across Niagara. As it currently stands, the Provincial COVID-19 framework in ORANGE level restricts diners to 4 diners per table and the Regional Medical Officer of Health's order indicated that no more than 6 people be seated at a table;

WHEREAS many hospitality workers are laid off and financially struggling, along with business owners in this industry; and

WHEREAS, the hospitality industry directly accounts for 13% of all jobs in Niagara;

WHEREAS each level of restrictions has devastating ramifications for the people working in these industries;

WHEREAS these restrictions will make the problem worse by driving people together in to situations where no contact tracing, sanitization, face coverings or physical distancing is enforced;

WHEREAS businesses and business leaders were not consulted on the best direction;

WHEREAS many other types of businesses are allowing significantly more people in to their establishments in a safe way;

WHEREAS this approach didn't work in Peel and numbers continued to escalate;

WHEREAS there is no evidence that this type of measure will improve public safety;

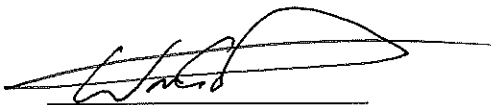
WHEREAS restaurants are more than just eating and drinking places, they're places to celebrate and enjoy family and friends and are an integral part of the fabric of our communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Health Department step up inspections and enforcement of Provincial COVID-19 protocols for those in non-compliance under Provincial Orders, that compliance with the Provincial Framework be made the priority, and that Public Health immediately halt the directive of dining only with those in the same household, in order to avoid unnecessary business losses and casualties;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution immediately be sent to all of the Members of Niagara Regional Council, Senior Staff at the Region of Niagara and all Local Area Municipalities.

CARRIED.
W.M.

AND The Seal of the Corporation be hereto affixed.



WILLIAM G. MATSON
CITY CLERK



JAMES M. DIODATI
MAYOR