



## **Council Member Motion**

**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 17th, 2020**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** Sept. 12, 2020  
**From:** Councillor Loveday and Mayor Helps  
**Subject:** Extending the "Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces" Program

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## **Background**

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis have had a profoundly negative impact on the hospitality industry including restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Council first considered the "Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces" motion from Councillor Loveday and Mayor Helps which directed staff "to report back with options for flexible, innovative, and expedited permitting of patios in public spaces".

City Staff and local businesses were able to quickly respond, and dozens of new patios were approved in time for summer enjoyment. This new flexible patio permitting was a timely lifeline for many hospitality industry businesses and increased vibrancy and economic vitality downtown and in village centers, while allowing for necessary physical distancing.

Actions taken by the City of Victoria aligned with the Province of British Columbia's move to temporarily authorize the expansion of licensed service areas, such as patios, to support physical distancing requirements and industry recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province of BC's temporary authorization is set to lapse on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Likewise, the City of Victoria's summer-long pilot project is coming to a close with a report expected from City Staff in early October.

It is therefore recommended that Council endorse in principle the extension of flexible, innovative, and expedited permitting of patios in public spaces and advocate to the Province of British Columbia to renew their support for expanded service areas.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council endorse in principal the extension of the Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces expanded and expedited patio initiative pending receipt of a report from City Staff detailing feedback from businesses and residents.

2. That Council request that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia, MLAs representing local ridings, and the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to advocate for an extension of the temporary authorization of licensed service areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Loveday



Mayor Helps