



Dear City Council:

On behalf of Calgary Arts Development, I am pleased to offer our support for a Municipal Bylaw mandating participation in the Province's Restriction Exemption Program (REP) for all businesses that are considered "in scope" according to the Provincial Regulations. Through grant investments, we support more than 170 non-profit arts organizations whose businesses depend on having people gather together in person. Pre-COVID (2019), our grantees offered live experiences to 3.2M attendees. The arts sector was one of the first to shut down during COVID, and most arts organizations have been connecting with audiences primarily on-line or through outdoor events. Now organizations are ready to open their doors to small scale live audiences once again. A Municipal Bylaw would be of great assistance to the arts sector broadly that includes both not for profit and for profit entities all of whom are businesses.

We support a program that allows businesses to operate as freely as possible if they require that their patrons or clients above the age of 12 show proof of vaccination. Live experiences have been hit especially hard by this pandemic, and we understand that vaccination is our best way through this. We have seen the results of how vaccination rates increase when a vaccine verification program is in place.

The current REP places businesses in a very tough position. Not only does it download the cost of enforcement on businesses that have few resources to spare, when it is optional it creates confusion and pits businesses against each other. Already there is evidence of public harassment of businesses and venues choosing to participate in the REP. If we are truly all in this together, then the same rules and regulations should apply across the board. We need a program that can be applied consistently and fairly, and that keeps front line staff and volunteers safe.

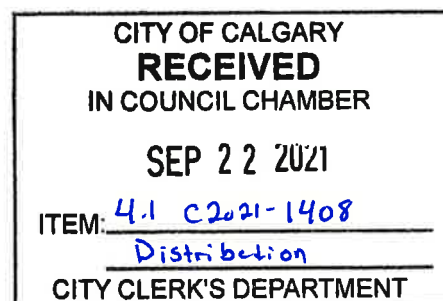
A Municipal Bylaw requiring all "in scope" businesses to participate in the REP would ensure that the public knows that the same rules apply no matter where they go. We believe it will also increase vaccination rates and help protect our health care system. Businesses cannot survive in an economy without a functioning health care system, and it is up to all of us to do our part.

We strongly urge Council to pass a Bylaw mandating participation in the REP for all "in scope" businesses. This is what our businesses want. It is what they need. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patti Pon'.

Patti Pon
President & CEO





September 21, 2021

Attention:

His Worship Mayor Naheed Nenshi; Councillors Ward Sutherland, Joe Magliocca, Jyoti Gondek, Sean Chu, George Chahal, Jeff Davison, Druh Farrell, Evan Woolley, Gian-Carlo Carra, Jeromy Farkas, Shane Keating, Diane Colley-Urquhart, Peter Demong

The Calgary Hotel Association strongly urges Calgary City Council to pass a Bylaw mandating participation in the Restriction Exemption Program for all "in scope" businesses.

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

The Calgary Hotel Association (CHA) is pleased to offer our support for a Municipal Bylaw that would mandate participation in the Province's Restriction Exemption Program for all businesses that are considered "in scope" according to the Provincial Regulations.

We support a Program that allows businesses to operate as freely as possible if they require that their patrons or clients above the age of twelve show proof of vaccination or negative test. Businesses have been hit especially hard by this pandemic, and we understand that vaccination is our best way through this. We have seen the results of how vaccination rates increase when a vaccine verification program is in place.

However, the current Restriction Exemption Program places businesses in a very tough position. Not only does it download the cost of enforcement on businesses that have few resources to spare, but it also pits them against each other and puts the safety of staff and volunteers in jeopardy. Already, there is evidence of public harassment of businesses and venues choosing to participate in the REP. If we are truly all in this together, then the same rules and regulations should apply across the board. We need a program that can be applied consistently and fairly. And to be clear, for many businesses the "choice" to participate isn't much of a choice at all, as they will not survive under the current restrictions.

A Municipal Bylaw that would require all "in scope" businesses to participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program would ensure that the public knows that the same rules apply no matter where they go. We also believe that it will increase vaccination rates and help protect our health care system. Our businesses cannot survive in an economy without a functioning health care system, and it is up to all of us to do our part.

We strongly urge Calgary City Council to pass a Bylaw mandating participation in the Restriction Exemption Program for all "in scope" businesses. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sol Zia", is written over a faint, rectangular stamp.

Sol Zia, Executive Director, Calgary Hotel Association

CC:

Peter Catarino, Chair, Calgary Hotel Association

Danny Marshall, Vice-Chair, Calgary Hotel Association

Ruhee Ismail-Teja, Director, Policy and Communications, Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Brad Perry, Interim CEO, Calgary Economic Development

Patti Pon, CEO, Calgary Arts Development

September 21, 2021

Calgary City Council

On behalf of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, the voice of Calgary business, I am pleased to offer our support for a Municipal Bylaw that would mandate participation in the Province's Restriction Exemption Program for all businesses that are considered "in scope" according to the Provincial Regulations.

We support a Program that allows businesses to operate as freely as possible, even patrons or clients above the age of twelve must show proof of vaccination. Businesses have been hit especially hard by this pandemic, and we know widespread vaccination is our best way to overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic. We have already seen the results of how vaccination rates increase when a vaccine verification program is put in place.

That said, the current Restriction Exemption Program places businesses and frontline workers in a tough position for the following reasons:

1. Most critically, businesses and workers shoulder the frustration of customers and are criticized by a small but belligerent minority of people for choosing to use the REP rather than the restrictions. [Langdon Firehouse Bar and Grill](#) is one of many examples of businesses that have already faced this in the last few days.
2. Businesses require clarity and simplicity, and many businesses and consumers continue to be confused about when restrictions apply and when the REP applies. Consistency will help minimize this confusion.
3. The current system also hurts consumer confidence, as customers that are more comfortable among only vaccinated people are hesitant to go to all businesses, as they are unsure which are participating in the REP.

A Municipal Bylaw that would require all "in scope" businesses to participate in the Restrictions Exemption Program would ensure the public knows the same rules apply across all Calgary businesses. We also believe a Bylaw will increase vaccination rates and help protect our health care system. Our economic recovery depends on our health crisis being under control, and as such, this is of critical importance.

We strongly urge City Council to pass a Bylaw mandating participation in the Restriction Exemption Program for all "in scope" businesses. Feedback from Calgary's business community has been overwhelmingly in favour for the implementation of vaccine passports, with [70% of Calgary and Edmonton businesses](#) supporting the implementation of these measures.

We also recommend City Council strongly proposes to the Government of Alberta that it consider **all** non-essential businesses to be “in scope” as a constructive way to reduce the number of businesses subject to restrictions, increase vaccination rates, and decrease the uncertainty associated with the current restrictions. Most notably, retail, shopping malls, and food courts should be eligible for the REP so that they are not subject to restrictions such as capacity limits.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly or have your staff contact our Director of Policy and Communications, Ruhee Ismail-Teja at rismailteja@calgarychamber.com.

Sincerely,



Deborah Yedlin

President & CEO
Calgary Chamber of Commerce

About the Calgary Chamber

The Calgary Chamber is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan business organization. For 130 years, the Chamber has worked to build a business community that nourishes, powers, and inspires the world.