

Daily Update – 26 November 2020

Food Delivery Fess Bill tabled in Ontario that excludes ‘Chains’

Today, Minister Sarkaria introduced legislation that would protect restaurants from high delivery fees charged by some food delivery companies. According the media release, the Supporting Local Restaurants Act, 2020, if passed, would reduce fees charged by food delivery companies in areas where indoor dining is prohibited to help more small and independent restaurants stay in business.

The Act prohibits food delivery services providers, who are identified in the regulations, from charging restaurants more than the prescribed amount for food and beverage delivery services or related services. The prohibition applies in respect of restaurants that are not chain restaurants, that have indoor dining, and that are prohibited from permitting indoor dining by an order or direction under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 or the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

The bill defines “chain restaurant” as a restaurant that is part of a set of related restaurants consisting of 10 or more food service premises in Canada that operate under the same or substantially the same name, regardless of ownership, and that offer the same or substantially the same food items.

The CFA is working with Minister Sarkaria and the Opposition Parties to try and get the legislation amended to ensure that franchised businesses are not excluded.

Alberta bans all indoor social gatherings

Alberta rolled out new restrictions on Tuesday that prohibit all social gatherings in people's homes and make masks mandatory for all indoor workplaces in the province's two largest cities. The new measures introduced on Tuesday will be evaluated after three weeks, are:

- Social gatherings — No indoor social gatherings allowed. Outdoor gatherings limited to 10 people. Kenney said this will be enforced with fines of \$1,000.
- Schools — Beginning Nov. 30, all students in Grades 7-12 will immediately transition to online learning until they begin their winter break. In-person learning for all students will be delayed a week until Jan. 11.
- Weddings and funerals — Maximum of 10 people for wedding ceremonies or funeral services.
- Places of worship — Faith-based groups can operate with mandatory reduced capacity, of one-third of the building's occupancy. Mask use is mandatory. This is only in effect in regions with enhanced status on the province's COVID-19 map.
- Working from home — All businesses are encouraged to have employees work from home as much as possible. Kenney said that would include provincial government employees.
- Businesses that must close include banquet halls, conference centres, trade shows, auditoriums and concert venues, community centres, children's play places and indoor playgrounds. Sports are also included in this category.

- Food and beverage — Restaurants, bars, pubs and lounges will be open. Tables can seat a maximum of six people from the same household, while people who live alone can meet with up to two non-household contacts who are part of their cohort. Last call will continue to be at 10 p.m. and licensed food-serving establishments must close at 11.

Businesses that can remain open with restrictions include most retail businesses, with capacity limited to 25 per cent of fire code occupancy. That includes liquor and cannabis shops, grocery stores, pharmacies, clothing stores, computer and technology stores, hardware, automotive and approved farmers and seasonal markets. Also included are movie theatres, museums and galleries, libraries, casinos (though table games must close) and indoor entertainment centres.

Fitness and recreation centres can operate with reduced capacity, but only for individual workouts, with no group fitness, group classes, group training, team practices or games.

Restrictions around businesses are only in effect in regions with enhanced COVID-19 status.

The detailed media release is [available here](#).

BC Premier names new Cabinet

Premier John Horgan has revealed a new slate of cabinet ministers who will lead B.C. through the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the economic fallout.

The cabinet includes some new faces at the helm of major portfolios like finance and education, while some NDP party stalwarts will remain in charge of ministries like health.

The NDP are returning to power this fall with an unprecedented majority for the party, holding 57 of 87 seats in the legislature. The new executive council is gender-balanced, with an equal number of men and women in cabinet positions, and includes 20 ministers and four ministers of state.

The Minister's most relevant to the CFA are

- Finance: Selina Robinson (new to the role)
- Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation: Ravi Kahlon (new to the role)
- Labour: Harry Bains (has been Labour Minister since 2017. Before entering politics, Bains was an elected officer of [Steelworkers-IWA Canada](#) Local 2171 for over fifteen years.

CFA is concerned that the NDP Majority may push through a number of labour reforms that could have a negative affect on franchised businesses.

Saskatchewan: New COVID-19 restrictions suspend sports, extend mandatory masking to schools

Sports competition is suspended and gatherings at restaurants are being further limited under new COVID-19 restrictions announced by Saskatchewan on Wednesday. Limits on private gatherings like weddings and funerals, along with places of worship, will also be introduced.

Premier Scott Moe said he does not believe a full lockdown is "imminent" because he thinks the restrictions will make a difference.

Starting 12:01 a.m. on Friday, no more than four people will be allowed to sit together at a table at a restaurant, and tables will need to be separated by three metres unless there are "impermeable barriers" between them, in which case they can be placed two metres apart.

Restaurants will also need to keep information about guests or patrons.

All team sports and group activities are suspended, but athletes and dancers 18 years old and under may keep practising in groups of eight or fewer if they use masks and practise physical distancing. Fitness activities in groups of eight or less are still allowed, with conditions.

All places of worship must reduce capacity to 30 people, and no food or drink can be served. Mandatory non-medical masking is being extended to apply to all students, employees and visitors at schools.

All employees and visitors in common areas in businesses and workplaces, even where the public does not have access, also have to wear a mask.

All residents, employees and visitors in all common areas in provincial and municipal correctional facilities will also have to wear a mask.

Capacity will be restricted to 30 people at casinos, bingo halls, arenas, live theatres, movie theatres, performing arts venues and other facilities that currently have a capacity of 150 people.

Indoor gatherings such as banquets, weddings, funerals, conferences will also have a limit of 30 people, and food and beverage service will be prohibited.

The limit for private indoor gatherings will remain at five but the province said "gatherings of any size beyond your immediate household are strongly discouraged at this time."

The government announcement was initially scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, but was postponed for a day.

N.S. to provide grants for small businesses affected by latest Public Health protocols

Nova Scotia's provincial government will make some bridge funding available to bars, restaurants, gyms and other small businesses affected by the most recent round of COVID-19 protocols. A one-time grant of up to \$5,000 will be available for businesses in Halifax and Hants County that are now facing more restrictive Public Health protocols than businesses in other parts of Nova Scotia.

To be eligible, a business must see a 30 per cent revenue decrease in November due to Public Health protocols or expect a decrease of 30 per cent for December, have been in operation as of March 15, 2020.

Businesses eligible for the assistance will get up to 15 per cent of their monthly gross revenue for April 2019 to a maximum of \$5,000. For newer businesses, the revenue measure will be for February 2020.

Funding for the program is coming from the previously-announced Nova Scotia COVID-19 research council, which is overseeing a \$50-million fund. The grant can be used for any operational expense. Applications are expected to open in the coming weeks