

**MAYOR PATRICK BROWN**

April 1, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via: premier@ontario.ca

RE: Supporting small businesses in the City of Brampton

Dear Premier Ford,

Today is a critical day for our economy and especially for small business in the City of Brampton. They are apprehensive due to the impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses. This anxiety is compounded by the need to pay rent at a time when many have been forced to close and therefore have no revenue or sales. Many will not have the financial resources to pay their business rent that is due today.

We have held consultations with our business community and they have told us that, although they understand and support the closures of non-essential businesses as an integral action in combatting COVID-19, they are very anxious about the necessity to pay their rent, and the consequences which may arise if they are unable to do so.

The City of Brampton asks that you consider initiatives to support small businesses during this time and provide relief. Please consider some potential action:

- put measures in place to assure business tenants that they won't experience punitive action, be evicted or sued as a result of missing their rent payment or making a partial payment this month and potentially for the next several months.
- encourage corporate landlords to negotiate new lease term agreements. The government of Nova Scotia has provided new lease templates to facilitate, for example.
- provide landlords with access to sources of funding to ensure they can make their own bill payments while not receiving rent payments from their tenants.

Thank you for supporting the City of Brampton's small businesses, I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown
Mayor

cc: Members of Brampton City Council
Brampton MPPs
Hon. S. Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. S. Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon
Mr. J. Wallace, Chief of Staff to the Premier