



March 1, 2022

The Honourable Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General  
PO Box 9010, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

**Re: Enabling Patio Use to Support Business and Community Vibrancy**

In 2020 the Province, through the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB), established an expedited, no fee, online process for Temporary Expanded Service Areas (TESA). These TESA areas enabled restaurants, breweries, distilleries and other licensed establishments to expand their liquor service areas to help overcome the burden of indoor capacity restrictions imposed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In support of the Province's streamlined process, Delta Council endorsed a plan which would allow for the pre-approval of TESA applications to the LCRB; this endorsement was subsequently extended indefinitely to support local businesses. Numerous Delta restaurants, bars, and manufacturers took advantage of the Province's TESA program by investing in temporary patio spaces which now contribute to the vibrancy of our neighbourhoods.

It is understood that the LCRB is no longer accepting new TESA applications and that any existing TESA will expire on June 1, 2022. For those businesses wishing to extend the use of their TESA space beyond this period they must apply to the LCRB for a permanent outdoor patio or (indoor) structural change. This application requires payment of a \$440 fee, the submission of floor plans, and referral to the local government.

The lifting of some of the Public Health Orders recently has allowed restaurants to return to full capacity. On February 14, 2022, Delta Council passed a resolution seeking the Province's continuation of the TESA program indefinitely. The flexibility introduced through the TESA program provided a positive outcome for businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic.

... 2

March 1, 2022  
Page 2

The forthcoming expiry of approved TESA licenses will result in additional constraints to these businesses and, in the absence of greater clarity around the LCRB requirements, continued inconsistencies in local government approval.

The process is too onerous for small business who are already reeling after the devastating financial losses encountered due to effects of pandemic restrictions. We would like to request that the online process for TESA be extended indefinitely to ensure the survival of struggling food and beverage establishments.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George V. Harvie", with a horizontal line underneath.

George V. Harvie  
Mayor

cc: The Hon. John Horgan, Premier of BC  
The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation  
Ian Paton, MLA Delta-South  
Delta Council  
Sean McGill, City Manager, City of Delta  
Marcy Sangret, Director of Community Planning & Development, City of Delta