

WE HAVE CREATED A POWERFUL COALITION OF INDEPENDENT **CANADIAN RESTAURANTEURS AND OUR SUPPLIERS** TO CREATE A UNIFIED VOICE **#SAVEHOSPITALITYCA**

TO OUR PARTNERS IN GOVERNMENT

The Food and Hospitality Industry is in a state of crisis and is in need of immediate and concrete support from all governments. It is the hardest hit industry and sits at the front lines of the pandemic. As 700 000 jobs were lost across the country in the hospitality sector last week alone, it's rebound and survival is crucial to our economic recovery.

The hospitality industry will be paramount to the economic recovery of other industries such as tourism, events, retail, arts and entertainment and will be key in maintaining the food supply system that supports many other businesses including our farmers. As the independent owners of these restaurants, food suppliers, alcohol purveyors, service providers and construction management companies, we cannot be idle in the way of demanding from society a response that has been afforded so many other industries in their times of crises.

Below is an action plan and prescription for you, our governments, to provide assistance during these unbelievable times. We have come together in an uncommon effort to create a unified voice of independently owned hospitality businesses and their supporting cast of industries. The financial pain about to be felt by all of our employees and by us as a group of owners and operators is beyond comprehension. We want to work with governments to demand concessions from landlords, banks and creditors. Governments should be weary of bailing out large corporate industries whilst they forget about the immense collection of independently owned hospitality businesses. The restaurants and companies signed on below, compiled in only a few days, represent more employees than the entire airline industry. More support and calls for participation continue to flow in. Most of us do not have shareholders. We feed our families and pay our mortgages with the income from our businesses.

Anyone can see that our livelihoods, and that of all of our employees, have been decimated in dramatic fashion in almost an instant. As many of us are still reeling at the immediate cessation of daily business and the loss of our staff, customers, colleagues and suppliers, we have come together quickly in order to outline our needs to those who can help. There are both immediate needs as well as long term planning that will support the re-launch of so many small businesses at once. Without proper aid this industry will likely collapse and take down many other supporting industries in the process. Investing in the hospitality industry now will pay off when we begin our collective recovery.

To every lawmaker and government official currently considering how to help those most affected by this catastrophe we say this: listen to us who own and run these businesses now.

BEFORE THE END OF MARCH 2020:

- Immediate unemployment benefits for all of our laid off staff. Our staff have been attempting to apply for EI for days now and they have received no confirmation from Service Canada of their request. They are all extremely nervous that their claim and benefits will take weeks (if not more) to process as backlogs are already overwhelming the system. This delay will leave them in an incredibly precarious financial situation. What is the federal government's plan to immediately add capacity to these processing systems? Service Canada needs to waive the waiting period for everyone laid off, not just those who are sick, or caring for the sick.
- Ensure that the normal EI benefits will be supplemented to take into account the high cost of living in our urban centres, the only way to do this is to pay them 100% of their average hourly earnings as our employees have also relied on income from tips.
- Immediate cessation of the collection of commercial property tax for restaurants, bars, affected retail businesses and their suppliers. A 60 day grace period has been provided for personal and business property taxes along with water/sewer service and solid waste management but they have not addressed electricity and natural gas utilities for business.
- An immediate government demand for rent abatement from all landlords of distressed hospitality and related businesses for as long as social distancing is an official government prescription for both base rent and additional rent amounts.
- Require insurance companies to cover business interruption during this time for lost revenue (they are currently denying such claims).
- Suspending all taxes owed to the federal and provincial governments including HST, EHT, source deduction obligations and corporate taxes as well as removing any penalties and/or interest for current late payments – as long as returns for HST, EHT, corporate taxes are filed on time (but without payment), businesses will not be penalized and charged interest only.
- Immediate abatement of all business loans from financial institutions for restaurant and hospitality related businesses. Most banks are deferring the principal only (including the BDC!) and not the interest. All payments need to be deferred.
- WSIB for February due March 31st needs to be waived without penalty and interest for 90 days.

IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD:

- A significant cash stimulus package for each operator in order to re-launch businesses (monies needed for re-purchasing lost inventory, pre-opening labour etc.).
- Allow restaurants to amend their current leases to reflect new lower retail rents for the next 3-12 months depending on conditions.
- New laws that regulate commercial landlords to stay within government mandated maximum increases in rent for lease renewals.
- Canada's largest commercial landlords should be required to waive rent payments while social distancing is still an official government policy. Smaller landlords should be given mortgage relief and tax incentives to provide rent abatement for the same period (or penalties for those who do not comply).
- Credit card companies should be required to waive all interest charges on cards related to restaurant and hospitality businesses – including merchant services providers (fees and equipment lease/rental).
- The temporary layoff period needs to be extended until further notice to ensure that all of our employees are not automatically terminated at 13 weeks triggering an obligation of termination pay for all of them. This will bankrupt the lion's share of independent operators.

The general message to lawmakers and government officials is this: we are an industry that employs an enormous amount of people who are disproportionately vulnerable to cash flow stoppages. Our businesses as well, are extremely sensitive to decreases in cash flow as our margins are famously razor thin. This is not a cash flow shortage, this is a complete termination of cash flow. Our businesses are like freight trains, they take a lot of energy to start up and a lot of energy to slow down. We have just experienced a violent derailment. For the sake of all of our employees and their families, we implore you to help us get back on track.

In Solidarity,

Ascar Hospitality Group Erik Joyal, John Sinopoli, Rahil Hoque 97 employees	Mahjong Bar and Bar Mordecai Josh LeBlanc, Emily LeBlanc 40 employees	Over Budget Inc. Grant van Gameren 300+ employees	John and Sons Oyster House John Belknap 19 employees	Hilite Fine Foods Joe Siegal, Brian Siegal 48 employees	Carbon Bar Yannick Bigourdain 60 employees
Mercatto Hospitality Steve Christian, Domenic Scarangella, Jack Scarangella, Doug Nigel 250+ employees	Burdock & Co. Andrea Carlson	Northwinds Brewhouse and Kitchen Jason Mirlocca 100+ employees	Porchetta and Co. Gary Quinto 30 employees	Lone Star Texas Grill Mark Findlay 1600 employees	Film Café Amaranta Rios 8 employees
La Palma and Constantine Steve Christian, Domenic Scarangella, Jack Scarangella, Craig Harding, Alexandra Hutchison 100+ employees	Port and Maple Leaf Tavern Todd Morgon 82 employees	Fred's Bread Andrea Damon Gibson, Steve Gibson 50 employees	The Vine Wine Agency Rob Groh, Anne Jasper 21 employees	OCO Hospitality – Uncle Ray's, Union Chicken & Amano Restaurants Dan Kennedy, Adam Teolis, Michael Angeloni, 230 employees	The Shameful Tiki Room Alana Nogueta 13 employees
Oliver and Bonacini Hospitality Andrew Oliver 1900 + employees	East Side Social and Lil Joe Cherie Stinson and Joey Skeir 24 employees	MiraMira Amira Becarevic 10 employees	Gusto 54 Restaurant Group Janet Zuccharini	Noble Estates Wine and Spirits Mark Coster 8 employees	Cherry Street Bar-B-Que & Elm St Italian Deli Lawrence La Pianta 35 employees
FAB Restaurant Concepts Sean Bailey, Jane Henderson 500+ employees	City Betty Amanda Gatien 10 employees	Sweet Escape Pâtisserie Michelle Edgar 6 employees	Lox and Schmear Lev Levine 3 employees	Greenplanet Biofuels Steve Hyman 14 employees	Monarch Tavern Michael Dorbyk 10 employees
Oyster Boy Adam Colquhoun 25 employees	Eatertainment and The One Eighty Sebastian Centner 90 employees	Reyna Nicki Laborie 95 employees	Soos Zenn Soo 13 employees	Happa Izakaya Lea Ault, Justin Ault 20 employees	100km Foods Inc. Grace Mandarano, Paul Sawtell 30 Employees
	Founder Restaurant and Bar Kendall Collingridge 5 employees	Pearl Diver Tom Malycha 28 employees	Midfield Wine Bar and Tavern Giuseppe Anile 10 employees	Goods and Provisions and The Comrade Dean Fletcher, Nicole Andriet, Jessica Toombs 25 employees	Scaramouche and the Glen Tavern Keith Froggett Carl Korte 75 employees
	Dog & Tiger Public House Luke Nicholson 14 employees	Anjinov Construction Management Chris Dineley 20 employees	Le Duperie Francisco Landaeta 70 employees	Cucina Urbana Michael Wilson 21 employees	City Fish Market Theo and Gus Rousianos 16 employees
		Barocco x Nino Bruno Colozza 8 employees	Resto La Banane Français & CXBO Chocolates Sarah Keenlyside, Brandon Olsen 50 employees		

TOTAL EMPLOYEES LAID OFF: 6,183 INDIVIDUALS

#SAVEHOSPITALITYCA

ASCARI

GARE DE
L'EST
BRASSERIE



OLIVER & BONACINI
HOSPITALITY



FAB RESTAURANT CONCEPTS



Scaramouche

CUCINA {urbana}

CONSTANTINE



EAT
ERT
AIN
M-
ENT



founder
RESTAURANT & BAR



DOG & TIGER
PUBLIC HOUSE

Bar Isabel
Bar Raval
Cressy House
El Rey
Harry's Charbroiled
Overbudget Inc.
Piquette
PrettyUgly
Quetzal
Rosalinda
Tennessee Tavern
Victor Dries



REYNA



RESTO

LA
BANANE

FRANÇAIS



LONE STAR
TEXAS GRILL



NOBLE ESTATES
Wine & Spirits



GOODS &
PROVISIONS

