



March 9, 2021

Hon. Jason Kenney
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney:

On behalf of the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce and our close to 500 members, we are writing to express the serious frustrations of our business community regarding the Alberta government's reopening plan.

Many businesses in our community and across the province are closed with no defined pathways to reopen. Following the March 1 announcement, there is the very real perception that government is moving the goal posts on reopening and, consequently, arbitrarily picking winners and losers.

Recent research by the Alberta Chambers network indicates these perceptions are both valid and widely held. Of more than 500 business respondents, only 40 per cent had confidence in the data government was using to inform reopen plans. And of those who provided further details about the closure or limitation of their operations, only 25 per cent indicated they were provided with data about the risks of continuing to operate as usual.

Even more alarmingly, fewer than 50 per cent of those who shared further details about their circumstances had been provided with guidelines on the steps they could take to reopen or return to usual operations. Our members are telling us the lack of transparency and accountability is unacceptable.

If government will not support operators to reopen, the onus is on government to empirically demonstrate why an operator is required to remain closed. Businesses of all sizes across industries have successfully adjusted to operate safely by implementing appropriate health protocols. Businesses that remain shuttered deserve the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nikki Nordick'.

Nikki Nordick

Board President

cc: Hon. Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health

cc: Hon. Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation

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