Attention: Government of Alberta

January 2021

**Re: SAFE SALES AND SERVICES NOT SUBSIDIES**

Dear Task Force:

The Airdrie Chamber of Commerce represents close to 500 businesses who, when able to operate, employ thousands of Albertans. Many of these businesses are on the brink of collapse following months of government-mandated restrictions that have either closed or drastically reduced their ability to produce revenues. Government subsidies have not matched the scale of impact these restrictions have had on revenues, and such restrictions lack sufficient data and fact-based rationale to justify them.

Nearly a year into this pandemic, many businesses have been forced to endure months of shutdowns. This is simply not a sustainable situation for our job creations or our provincial economy. On behalf of our members and the Airdrie business community, we are imploring the Alberta government to launch a safe re-open plan outlining actions expected of operators, and to reduce business restrictions, to begin re-opening and healing our economy.

Our Chamber commends the Alberta government’s decision to allow all retail businesses to remain open, this step is important to our economic outlook. The latest round of business closures, however, require more information and communication surrounding the available science and data than has been provided to date. Businesses who have been forced to close once again have followed health protocols, implemented new processes and procedures, spending valuable time and resources to do their part to protect society.

We respect that there is a balance that needs to be considered between protecting our citizens, health system, and the economy. We also need answers for the entrepreneurs who have poured their hearts, souls and savings into their dreams only to have them put on hold indefinitely. The pandemic has proven to be difficult to predict, anticipate and control, yet every extension of restrictions moves Alberta businesses closer to the brink of no return and insolvency with long term consequences for the fiscal future of our province. It is of vital importance to support our business community who is confused and frustrated with the current information dictating which businesses are and are not able to operate.

We understand many of the challenges and concerns that our government faces as a result of COVID-19, we are asking you to understand the catastrophic impact that restrictions are having on businesses and their employees. It’s time we had a plan to reopen business safely, sales are better than subsidies and ultimately necessary for survival. We thank you in advance for your attention to this letter signed on behalf of various local businesses in further support of implementing these initiatives forthwith.

Respectfully,

[Insert Name]

[Insert Business Name]