



Financial District Pilot Zone Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Toronto Region Board of Trade supporting businesses during the pandemic?

Over the course of the pandemic, businesses across the Toronto region - large and small - have faced many challenges. In collaboration with all levels of government, as well as business community leaders, the Toronto Region Board of Trade is helping ensure a safe and sustainable reopening and recovery of this region's business districts.

Whilst our public health officials continue to focus on controlling the pandemic, we have been focused on ensuring the right conditions are in place for the safe return to this region.

We have created resources and guidelines and with our partners, have taken practical steps to help the business community reopen safely and provide confidence that the right measures are in place. From enabling safe travel and screening practices, to setting up safe buildings and workspaces, we are working together to chart a path to economic recovery. You can find these resources on our [website](#). We will continue to share resources and we encourage you to sign up to receive our latest updates.

What is the Financial District Pilot Zone?

To develop a path forward for our economy and the businesses that power it, the Toronto Region Board of Trade launched its [Reimagining Recovery Framework](#) in May, 2020. Building on the work and success of this Framework, the Board, with the generous funding support of the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, embarked on a journey to solve for the safe reopening, continued operation, and recovery of business districts.

To better understand the complexities and mitigations needed to ensure the safe reopening and recovery of Toronto's economic centre, three distinct pilot zones were established. For each, key organizations were engaged to explore concerns and provide the necessary tools for a safe, sustainable reopening.

The three pilot zones are:

- Financial District Pilot Zone
- Pearson Employment Area Pilot Zone
- Scarborough Centre Pilot Zone

Who is leading the Financial District Pilot Zone initiative?

The Toronto Region Board of Trade convened a working group of 70 leaders in the public, private and health sectors to focus on creating the right conditions to support a safe reopening and sustainable recovery of the Financial District, in lockstep with public health guidance.

This group is led by four co-chairs: Jan De Silva, President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade; Mayor John Tory, City of Toronto; Richard Joy, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute Toronto; and Grant Humes, Executive Director, Financial District BIA.



What resources are available to building owners and businesses in the Financial District?

The Board has been working with our partners to identify solutions and learnings to support the reopening of the Financial District safely, fully and sustainably, in accordance with public health protocols.

We have developed a set of tools and resources that building owners/leaders can reference to help support their recovery planning.

A Playbook

- An actionable guide for businesses to reduce COVID-19 transmission and ensure consistent, clear communications with employees and visitors.

Leading Practices

- A searchable database of the FDPZ Playbook's leading practices for COVID-19 mitigations and innovations, informed by public health expertise.

Additional Resources

- A *Ready for You* infographic explaining the employee return to work journey highlighting some of the COVID mitigations in place
- Other materials including videos from our technology showcase and vaccination roundtable, partner stories and mitigations will be made available in the coming weeks

What else did the Nanos survey reveal?

In early 2021, the Board commissioned Nanos Research to survey downtown workers. The findings of a poll of over 500 workers revealed that 64 per cent said they feel safe going to their workplace in the core. Understanding that safe travel is a top priority for returning working, the Board is working with the TTC and Metrolinx on a list of mitigations in place to ensure the safety of riders.

What is the importance of the Financial District to Toronto's economic recovery?

The Financial District is the heart of downtown Toronto and it includes many high-rise office towers, Union Station, the PATH Underground Walkway, and other ground-level retail and restaurants. Toronto's Financial District is the second largest financial centre in North America. Pre-pandemic, the downtown core attracted a daily workforce of approximately 550,000 daytime workers, 118,000 in the Financial District itself.

Bringing this workforce back to the office safely and sustainably will contribute to the recovery of nearly 2,400 small businesses in the district and reignite the collaborative and social benefits of working together, in-person.

How can I stay up to date on new information?

The Toronto Region Board of Trade will continue to share insights and updates on COVID-19 leading practices, guides and resources. We will also continue to host events with our partners and leading health experts. To stay up to date, please sign up on the Ready for You [website](#) to be added to our mailing list.