

Township of  
**Langley**



Est. 1873

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR RELEASE: May 26, 2020**

### **TOWNSHIP PATIOS OPENING TO HELP RESTART BUSINESS**

Patrons can safely sip and sample offerings from the Township of Langley's food and beverage establishments and help them recover from the financial impact of COVID-19, as the temporary expansion of outdoor patio spaces has been permitted by Township Council.

"We encourage residents to enjoy good food, a cold drink, and wonderful company that is physically distanced in the great outdoors, as we follow the four phases of BC's Restart Plan and foster our community's economic recovery," said Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese.

During a Special Meeting held May 25, Council passed resolutions allowing for the temporary expansion of patio seating for restaurants, cafés, pubs, craft breweries, wineries, distilleries, and cideries to help businesses counter the economic hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Township is following a new policy directive set out last week by the Province of BC, regarding the temporary expansion of service areas for businesses with existing liquor licenses. Occupancy limits will not change, but the new measures will permit seating in previously unused places such as parking lots and sidewalks, where possible, to provide space for social distancing requirements.

Establishments that would like to expand patios onto private property have Council pre-approval to go ahead with their plans.

Those who want to expand patios onto public space, such as sidewalks, would require a permit from the Township's Engineering Division at 604.533.6006 or [enginfo@tol.ca](mailto:enginfo@tol.ca).

"Supporting our local businesses and helping them thrive in the new normal brought on by COVID-19 is vital to ensuring the Township of Langley's economy remains strong," said Froese. "This must be achieved with the health and safety of our residents and frontline workers as our top priority, and by adhering to guidelines laid out by the Province."

“Allowing the expansion of outdoor patio seating at Township food and beverage operations this summer will help accomplish that goal, support our economic recovery, and allow the public to experience the exceptional products and services businesses in our community have to offer,” he added.

Council also expanded the scope of where food trucks can operate. Historically, business licences were only available to mobile food vendors who were allowed to operate in municipal parks through the Park Permit process. The Township will now be accepting business licence applications for any zone where restaurant use is permitted, and issuing licences on a seasonal basis for each location where the vendor would like to operate.

Food trucks making use of the new provisions must provide food for take-out only, with no tables, chairs, or covered areas, and must comply with all bylaws.

With Phase 2 of BC’s Restart Plan underway, all businesses re-opening in the Township of Langley must have a safety plan in place, demonstrating how they are practicing proper hygiene, physical distancing, and other health and safety measures.

Local businesses that provide essential services and offer delivery, contactless pickup, and physical-distanced interactions can be found listed community by community on the Township’s **Buy Local - Open for Business** directory at **[invest.tol.ca/openforbusiness](https://invest.tol.ca/openforbusiness)**.

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