

Council Member Motion

Notice given on: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Meeting Date Wednesday, April 17, 2024
From Councillor Findlay
Subject Support for "Save BC Restaurants"

Background

In response to the BC Restaurant & Foodservice Association & Restaurant Canada's "Save BC Restaurants" menu, this motion will help to alleviate some of the strain on local food service establishments, and encourage the province to make changes to legislation and practices that directly affect one of the largest industries in British Columbia, and the sixth largest employer in the Cowichan Valley.

Recommendation

WHEREAS Restaurants Canada and the BC Restaurants & Foodservice Association provided a "Save BC Restaurants" menu to North Cowichan council, recommending options for support the BC restaurant & food service industry;

AND WHEREAS North Cowichan, and the Cowichan Valley, have a significant amount of food service establishments, resulting in the 6th highest employment industry in the Cowichan Valley Regional District;

AND WHEREAS food service establishments were disproportionately affected by government's Covid-19 policies and the fallout of the pandemic."

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that North Cowichan Council:

1. request a report from staff that outlines how North Cowichan can expedite the approval process for temporary and permanent patio additions for food service establishments; and
2. authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the provincial government advocating to:
 - a. remove the "red tape" for liquor licensing purposes, both in permanent and special event situations,
 - b. implement a "trusted owner" liquor licensing system, rather than a property-specific system,
 - c. reconsider the minimum wage levels, including an under-18 wage system, for entry-level positions such as food service workers, and
 - d. freeze WorkSafeBC premiums and return the overages in the program to the businesses most affected by the excess premiums charged.

Attachment:
"Save BC Restaurants" Menu