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April 3, 2020

To :

Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, Government of Canada  
Doug Ford, Premier, Government of Ontario  
François Legault, Premier, Government of Quebec  
Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa  
Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, City of Gatineau  
Tobi Nussbaum, President & CEO, National Capital Commission  
Perrin Beatty, Canadian Chamber of Commerce  
Rocco Rossi, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Dear business and community leaders,

**RE: COVID-19 - Border issues between Gatineau and Ottawa**

We are reaching out on behalf of the business communities served by the Gatineau Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa Board of Trade and Regroupement des gens d'affaires de la Capitale nationale (RGA). Our organizations have formed a collaboration called the 'GO Alliance' with a mandate to support businesses and increase economic growth in the Ottawa-Gatineau region.

We are strong advocates of the measures created by our government and health officials to flatten the curve and expedite our economic recovery. We promote these measures widely in our respective communities. We also work closely with our local stakeholders and political representatives as well as our Chamber colleagues at the provincial and federal level to support effective and informed decision making.

The recent increase in border controls between our provinces compels us to request special attention be given to the impact of decisions made on cities that border provincial boundaries. The proximity of our two cities has always united the National Capital Region which is borderless in the eyes of our residents and businesses. We are concerned that any future escalation of controls may negatively impact our delivery of essential services, goods and people.

Further, we strongly encourage increased collaboration between our two provinces in order to minimize disparity in the measures and policies which may lead to unintended commercial and talent leaks. Members of our business community have expressed concern about how these restrictions could delay or prevent workers fulfilling their responsibilities, including those working in essential services.

We request greater clarification be given to our communities regarding these controls and the acknowledgement of our unique circumstances related to the direct and immediate impact of restrictions due to our shared economy. In particular, we wish to be able to reassure our community in regard to the following scenarios;

- Employees living in Ontario, but working in essential businesses in Quebec;
- Employees living in Quebec, but working in essential businesses in Ontario;
- Quebec companies with employees living in Quebec, but who must carry out work or deliver in Ontario;
- Transport of goods ordered online by consumers.

These situations which affect many companies and residents in the region require special attention as tighter controls could negatively impact our collective goal of prioritizing public health. Greater standardization of measures between provinces, including the list of essential services, is imperative.

Again, you have our full support as we work together to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and prepare for rapid recovery. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

Sincerely,



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cc:  
Gatineau City Councillors  
Gatineau Members of Provincial Parliament  
Gatineau Members of Parliament  
Ottawa City Councillors  
Ottawa Members of Provincial Parliament  
Ottawa Members of Parliament