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Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Premier Kenney

The Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1000 businesses who, when able to operate, employ over 15,000 Albertans. Our Chamber commends the Alberta Government's decision to allow all retail businesses to remain open, in albeit limited capacity, refraining from trying to decide which goods are "essential" vs "non-essential" as 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. As the Voice of Business in the Greater Parkland Region for over 60 years we must support our members who have made it clear, while they support the measures taken to protect their well-being, their confusion and frustration with the current information dictating which businesses are and are not able to operate.

There are several reference points that the Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Management Cabinet Committee use to make their recommendations and decisions. We are asking the Alberta government to outline a re-open plan that correlates these data points in detail with policy that clearly outlines actions expected of operators to begin reopening and to keep our economy going.

Our Chamber of Commerce respects that there is a balance that needs to be considered between protecting our citizens and health system and the economy. We need answers for the entrepreneurs who have poured their hearts, souls and savings into their dreams only to have them put on hold for an indeterminable amount time; while business appreciates the revised relaunch grant being made, it simply does not make up for the costs endured and the uncertainty faced by operators every day. The pandemic

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has proven to be difficult to predict, anticipate and control, yet every extension of restrictions moves these Albertans – and the Albertans who depend on the jobs our entrepreneurs create – closer to the brink of no return and insolvency with long term consequences for the fiscal future of our province.

Thank you for your consideration. We are always available to meet and discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Richard Wong  
Chair, Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce