



3017 Gaetz Avenue  
Red Deer, Alberta  
Canada T4N 5Y6

January 25, 2021

Premier Jason Kenney  
Government of Alberta  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

To Premier Kenney,

On behalf of our 840 members we are joining the calls to permanently end business closures. At this stage we share the serious concern that “the cure may be worse than the disease” as our economy approaches near-irreparable levels of damage through business closures and mass unemployment. According to Statistics Canada’s December 2021 employment report there are 24,000 fewer people in working in Red Deer compared to the December 2019.

The Red Deer Chamber shares the government’s goals of bending the curve and protecting the vulnerable to ensure our medical system is not overwhelmed. With that said, our organization has been continually impressed with the business community’s ability to quickly comply with evolving restrictions and implement PPE and health protocols to limit the risk of transmission. Fortunately, the data suggests they have been successful as businesses are not a substantial source of transmission.

With the curve bending and the vaccination program underway, we implore you to reopen the economy with common sense and data-backed restrictions, or at the very least provide clear expectations vis-a-vis target numbers for r-rating, case counts, hospitalizations, etc. We are fully confident in the business community’s ability to safely operate in a manner that limits transmission while allowing owners, operators, and employees to earn a living.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Rick More  
CEO

Reg Warkentin  
Policy & Government Relations Manager

Cc:  
Emergency Management Committee  
MLA for Red Deer North, Honourable Adriana LaGrange  
MLA for Red Deer South, Jason Stephan  
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw

