

August 16, 2021

Mayor and Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Re: 'Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses' Program

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Burnaby Board of Trade and our business community, I am writing to you to express my appreciation for the *Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses* program, and to respectfully encourage City Council to direct staff to develop new programs to allow expanded patios and outdoor food and beverage service to continue in Burnaby.

The *Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses* program had a very positive impact on our local food and beverage businesses during the pandemic, providing a lifeline for many who faced indoor dining restrictions and capacity limits over the past year and a half. On behalf of those businesses, we thank the City for moving quickly to allow patios and other outdoor uses by businesses across Burnaby.

The current program is slated to wind down on October 31, and I am writing to express our support for the development of new City programs and bylaws that will provide businesses opportunities to expand into adjacent outdoor areas for food and beverage service permanently. It is important that these new programs seek to provide the flexibility for ongoing outdoor patio use, while seeking to limit negative impacts on adjacent businesses of any proposed patios, and ensure their placement is appropriate for their host neighbourhood.

The benefit of the *Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses* program has not been felt by the participating businesses alone, but in many cases have provided new, attractive spaces for residents and tourists to patronize and to engage with our community. The outdoor space created by Steamworks Brewery, for example, has added vibrancy to their neighbourhood and greater usability to William Street. This is an example of the type of outdoor space we hope can continue into the future in a permanent capacity, and therefore is not required to be physically removed on October 31.

As the chamber of commerce for Burnaby and the home of our business community, we welcome any opportunity to engage with Mayor and Council, or City staff, in the development of permanent options for outdoor spaces in our city so that we keep the many lively new spaces created by our local restaurant sector.

Sincerely,



Paul Holden
President & CEO
Burnaby Board of Trade