

# METRO VANCOUVER TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TASK FORCE



City of Vancouver, City Clerk's Office  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Third Floor,  
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4  
Email: publichearing@vancouver.ca

September 15, 2020

## **RE: Motion B.4 - Extending Pop-Up Patios This Fall and Winter and Making Pop-Up Patios a Part of Every Summer in Vancouver**

Dear Mayor Kennedy and City Council:

On behalf of the members and stakeholders of the Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC) and the Metro Vancouver Tourism and Hospitality Industry Response and Recovery Task Force (MVTHIRRTF), we are writing in support of the motion to extend pop-up patios this fall and winter and making pop-up patios a part of every summer in Vancouver.

As you know, the restaurant community is a vital piece of Vancouver's visitor economy that supports 70,000 jobs and generates \$4.8 billion in economic activity. Since the start of this crisis, countless restaurants have made changes to their establishments to allow them to re-open by adapting to the evolving public health measures to keep the public safe.

What's more, the temporary expedited patio permit enacted by Council several weeks ago allowed restaurants to maintain safer levels of occupancy and provide patrons with the option to dine outside, alleviating anxiety about dining in close quarters.

While restaurants continue to struggle to generate a profit, these measures have propelled operators to rehire staff, extend their operating hours, and avoid closing their doors for good. In fact, Council's decision on outdoor patios was so well received, Tourism Vancouver and its partners were able to leverage the opportunity to launch Dine OutSide from August 21 to September 21 to help maximize the value of the expanded patios and our culinary culture.

The pop-up patios are an important part of the solution for many local restaurants to make it through the challenging fall and winter months. We support Councillor Kirby Yung's motion to encourage the Province to extend the blanket allowance for expanded outdoor liquor service within current operator's existing allowable liquor seat allocations. It's clear that residents also like the city's temporary expedited patios with 81% of 1,700 respondents in favour of extending patio service through the fall and winter months according to Councillor Kirby Yung's twitter poll.

Mayor and Council, your leadership in helping Vancouverites stay safe, as well as helping businesses cope with the economic hardships caused by COVID-19 is both widely acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity for the MVTHIRRTF and TIABC to voice its support of this motion. We look forward to working productively with you during this difficult time to ensure that our restaurant operators can continue to thrive for years to come.

Sincerely,

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