



April 13, 2021 – BY EMAIL ONLY

Mayor and Council
District of Sechelt

Dear Mayor and Council,

Our Chamber sent an urgent email on April 6th asking that you immediately implement a flexible approach to outdoor patios and such, so as to address the dire situation faced by many of our restaurants and other food and beverage outlets resulting from the recent new regulations from the Public Health Office.

Since then, we have been made aware of the City of Coquitlam's innovative approach to approving temporary patios. And we are aware of other communities adopting similar approaches.

Our members are having to adopt new processes and incur unexpected costs simply to keep their doors open, while complying with PHO regulations. We implore the District help these businesses and their staff through these very difficult times by immediately implementing actions that promote flexible and creative ideas.

Sincerely,
SECHELT & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ed Pednaud

ED PEDNAUD
Executive Director

Attachments

Sechelt & District Chamber of Commerce

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Coquitlam accelerating application process for restaurant patios

Patio season: The City of Coquitlam is [fast-tracking permits](#) to allow more restaurants to build patios.

B.C. recently [enacted restrictions](#) on dine-in restaurants to allow for a "circuit-breaker" from COVID-19 transmission. As restaurants close for indoor dining, the city responded by accelerating the process of obtaining a permit for outdoor dining.

Keeping businesses open: Last year, Coquitlam enacted a temporary [patio permit program](#). The program has since been extended to Oct. 31st of this year to allow restaurants the opportunity to stay open.

Applicants do not have to meet the usual requirements for hosting an outdoor dining space and the application is typically processed within two days. Restaurants also have the option to expand onto sidewalks and other public property if they don't already have an accessible outdoor space.

- If you're interested in applying for a permit you can check to see if your business [qualifies](#) or send the city an [email](#) expressing your interest.
- **Restaurants need your support:** Visit a [local restaurant](#) with an outdoor dining space in order to show solidarity for small businesses.