

PRESS RELEASE



**FLIN FLON & DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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Flin Flon & District Chamber of Commerce

Connecting Businesses and the Community - Promoting and Improving Trade & Commerce and the Economic, Civic & Social Welfare of the District.

The Flin Flon & District Chamber of Commerce is standing against the continued Code Red restrictions imposed on ALL communities in the Northern Region announced January 19th. We are adding our voice to the calls for change from our friends in other Northern Chambers and thank The Pas Chamber for highlighting this message. After countless meetings, calls and conversations over the past months, and with our connections through both the Chamber network and government, we have repeatedly expressed our concerns over the broad use of restrictions for the entire Northern Region in Code Red when the situation in separate communities can vary greatly. The latest decision from the government has shown that, to date, they have not been listening to the voices from our Chambers and communities.

Our businesses are suffering unnecessarily, and it is often due to lack of understanding of our region.

We believe the Northern Health Region has been considered incorrectly. The North Region is a very large area and the high case counts in certain areas cannot be considered to directly affect the entire region. This region must be treated differently in consideration of area demographics. Each area within the region measured separately. The distance between these communities is much larger than the distance between communities in the southern part of Manitoba, and therefore it is a must that they be considered separately. **We need a new lens put on this issue.**

As a Chamber, we continue to voice our concerns to the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, who has the ear of our provincial ministers, as well as to the Saskatchewan Chamber, Canadian Chamber and CFIB. We have expressed how a small business closure in Flin Flon is much more broad reaching for the community than in a large urban center. The Northern region MUST be treated differently than southern regions. A broad brush does not work here.

We understand the science and the reasons behind the lockdowns. We do not agree with the use of existing health region borders to administer these rules with no recognition for the actual state of the pandemic in communities separated by several hours of travel distance. We ask that the data be the guide for these decisions and believe that the data will show the virus is currently contained in northern communities such as Flin Flon and The Pas. Prolonging the harshest restrictions in these

areas, without any additional aid programs, does irreparable harm to our small businesses and our community members.

We have done the difficult work for months in keeping this virus in check in our communities - we believe we have earned the opportunity to get **back to business - safely and with all pre-cautions in place.**

We believe the government has the ability to do this and urge them to do so or explain to us why they won't.

Sincerely,

Kory Eastman and Dianne Russell – Co-Vice Presidents on behalf of:

The Board and membership of the Flin Flon & District Chamber of Commerce

CC to:

Hon. Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba

Hon. Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Training

Niki Ashton, MP

Chuck Davidson, CEO, Manitoba Chamber of Commerce

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Doctor Brent Roussin

Tom Lindsay, MLA

Cal Huntley, Mayor of Flin Flon

Bruce Fidler, Mayor of Creighton

Carl Lentowitz, Mayor of Denare Beach

RM of Kelsey

CFAR

The Reminder