

March 30, 2022

**Dear Mayor Hall,  
Prince George City Council**

I am writing in response to recent correspondence Council has received regarding seasonal patios. I have to agree with the statements and requests that Todd Corigal and our industry representative from ABLE, BC Craft Brewers Guild, BC Restaurant and Food service Association, and Restaurants Canada in their correspondence with you, but I would also like to provide you with the perspective of a business owner that built one of these patios and is trying to do so again.

Last year, when this became an option, we were told the red tape would be gone. It was. We decided that Friday to build a patio, by the following Friday we designed and built all of the furniture and structure and opened it. We contacted the City, someone there gave us a form to occupy the parking spots, another told us what clearances they required to accommodate pedestrian and vehicle traffic. This was clear, simple and I am sure it cost City Administration next to nothing. We have a liquor license, so we needed provincial approval for that license. They provided some standards and guidelines, we met them, sent pictures when it was done. Approved.

For this year, I started the process last September. Got an engineered drawing, paid my \$440 to the province and submitted my liquor license change. They said they would send it off to the local government for approval and get back to me. 5 months later I hadn't heard anything, so I followed up. The guy there says it is with The City. I call the City, they have not received anything from the Province. Call the Province back, the guy there thinks they've lost it, tells me, maybe I should apply again, and my new application would be looked at in the order they receive them.

Now at this point I must admit I should have also applied separately with the city back in September. As an experienced person I was not aware I should have done this on my own after the Province said they would contact the City and get back to me.

At this point, I now need to submit 2 applications to the city, pay \$1600, a bit of back and forth with the planning department, and another \$300 to put up a massive development sign in my window for 2 weeks.

Up next I will expect this matter to go before Council for Approval. This part is because the added floor space increases our capacity on our liquor licence. I don't really need the extra capacity but that's just how this process goes. I will also expect them to be told I am going to owe the City about \$4200 for the use of the 4 parking spots the patio occupies. This will bring the costs up above \$6500 before the patio is even built.

If this seems like a bit of a run around its because it probably is. Some of these hurdles are on the Province and I can tell you from experience, my snag here with them, is quite typical.

Even after all that, I will probably have an easier time than just about anyone else in this process, as one of the toughest and most costly hurdles are engineered drawings. My father is an engineer, so this part was easy and cheap for me. For others it may cost thousands, if they can get an engineer that's not so busy that they would not turn them down. That would be added to the ~\$6500.

Last year, was a text book example of how when the red tape and fees are cut, businesses will get things done. Tell us the safety guidelines you need and let us handle it. So many people,

including many of you, raved about our patio and others like it. Now to do the exact same thing we must pay a bunch of extra money and jump through a bunch of hoops. Please do not just stop at cutting the red tape when it comes to patios. There are many other places where you could save City and Private resources.

To add the request for consideration from the Chamber and Industry associations, I am requesting you waive the parking spots rental charges.

These patios are not just a great asset to the businesses they belong to, but they are community assets. They build social connection, create a more desirable city to live in and visit and they make the streets they are on safer for all. Please do not discourage more of them from being created.

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**Eoin Foley**

President Nancy O's Restaurant Group,  
Betulla Burning,  
Birch & Boar Butchery Inc.

Redacted