

## **Council Motion**

**Whereas** the Province of Ontario announced on February 26, 2021, that it would activate the Emergency Brake in the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit, moving the region into the Grey-Lockdown level within the Public Health Framework effective Monday March 1, 2021;

**And Whereas** the Province took this action based on the advice of Dr. Charles Gardner, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit based on concerns about the number of COVID-19 variant cases in the region;

**And Whereas** Dr. Gardner indicated on February 28, 2021, that the most recent weekly COVID-19 statistics have shown the number cases declined this past week, and most of the public health indicators show the Health Unit at either Red or Orange level;

**And Whereas** it has been shown that when Simcoe-Muskoka moved to the Red level on February 16, 2021, small businesses took appropriate steps to ensure both their employees and customers were able transact in a safe environment;

**And Whereas** moving to the Grey-Lockdown level imposes restrictions on small business that are unfair and unjustified in comparison to the restrictions imposed on large retail stores;

**And Whereas** there is no evidence of significant community transmission of COVID-19 occurring in small businesses;

**And Whereas** the restrictions in the Grey-Lockdown level limit access to physical fitness and recreation programming and negatively impact the mental health of children, young adults and other members of the Community;

**And Whereas** there are alternatives to imposing the Grey-Lockdown level to protect the most vulnerable in the community, such as accelerated vaccinations in Simcoe-Muskoka and re-enforcing public health protocols;

**And Whereas** the Town of Wasaga Beach has supported the provincial leadership on matters pertaining to COVID-19 in the past but is struggling to make sense of this most recent decision;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach formally requests the Province to release the emergency brake for the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit and return the area to the more appropriate Red Level under the provincial COVID-19 Framework

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach formally requests that the provision of notice where a region's framework level is changing be provided in a more timely manner so that municipalities and businesses can adjust their operations accordingly.

Carried