



May 28, 2020

To: Cornwall City Council
Cc: City Clerk Manon Levesque
Re: Response on Home-Based Businesses - COVID-19

On request from the office of the General Manager, Planning, Development and Recreation, the Cornwall Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA) was requested on May 26th to prepare a response to the motion presented to council by counsellor Eric Bergeron at the council meeting on May 11th regarding "Home-Based Businesses - COVID-19". *It is important to note that, within the timelines given, the DBIA did not have sufficient time to solicit formal feedback on this subject from members.*

In general, DBIA members support the concept of creating an attractive entrepreneurial environment in the City which would serve to attract more remote workers and encourage individuals to start up new companies from home.

However, it is important to note that members are very concerned about the vacating of office buildings in favour of the "work from home" model that the pandemic has encouraged. Many of our retail and food establishment members rely on the hundreds of people that work in offices in the downtown area to patronize their establishments. If this becomes a trend there will be a significant negative impact to many downtown businesses and may in fact result in closures.

The DBIA supports the creation of simplified processes to start businesses located anywhere in the City, however, the DBIA recommends that any bylaw or zoning changes do not undermine or undervalue the importance of a strong, well populated, Downtown Core.

The DBIA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to Council.

Thank You,

Martha Woods,
Chairperson,
Downtown Business Improvement Area
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