

adventure MADE DAILY

THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM IN KINGSTON ONTARIO

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Kingston is home to approximately 130,000 people. It is located within a prime tourism triangle, equidistant from Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, where the St. Lawrence River meets Lake Ontario and the Rideau Canal. Kingston is home to Fort Henry, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The city's motto is 'Where History and Innovation Thrive'. Kingston consistently ranks as one of the best places to live and visit in Canada. Kingston is a city with the energy of youth. Queen's University, St. Lawrence College and the Royal Military College are within a few kilometers of each other and they offer an ever-changing exuberance, energy and creativity to this historic limestone city. Kingston is a city where hundreds of years of Canadian history guide the development of contemporary culture. Live music, art, theatre, and festivals fill the calendar year-round and are developed in a uniquely made Canadian way.



5,525,638

TOTAL VISITORS IN 2018



99,823

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ON BUSES



\$528
Million Dollars

TOTAL VISITOR SPENDING IN 2018



1,875
Passengers

NUMBER OF CRUISE PASSENGERS IN 2018



34 unique
spots

Kingston is home to over 34 museums, art galleries and historic sites that makes Kingston unique among Canadian communities



19,382
room nights

Kingston named a top 10 destination of where to host a sporting event in Canada : and contributed to 19,382 room nights

KINGSTON

◁ Accommodation Partners ▷

Thursday, March 26, 2020

To: Lanie Hurdle, CAO
City of Kingston

On behalf of Kingston Accommodations Partners, we are requesting that the City of Kingston grant some relief to the Accommodation Sector. Here are a few highlights suggesting how devastating this pandemic has been to the industry and just how vital the hotel/motels and B&B's are to the overall economy of the City of Kingston.

Devastating effects of the Covid- 19 pandemic to the hotel industry

- Beginning the week of March 8th, Kingston and area accommodations have seen double-digit declines in occupancy
- Unprecedented layoffs and closures of major hotels in Kingston
- As of March 25, 2020, 14 hotels have closed, Delta, Residence Inn, Holiday Inn Waterfront, Courtyard Marriott, and Ramada to name a few of the larger properties
- The Canadian hotel industry recorded negative year-over-year results in the three key performance metrics during the week of March 8-14, 2020, according to data from STR
- In comparison with the week of March 10-16, 2019, the industry reported the following:
 - Occupancy: -24.4% to 46.0%
 - Average Daily Rate (ADR): -2.8% to \$140.70
 - Revenue per available room (RevPAR): -26.4% to \$64.71
- According to the KAP survey of accommodations, between 400-600 people in the hotel industry have been laid off for an indefinite amount of time and this number is rising rapidly, the layoffs will increase as we move further into the crisis.

- Using 40% drop as an average baseline and assuming no further drop will take place for the months of March, April, May and June, the Kingston tourism sector will lose \$61m in direct spending.

Request to the City of Kingston

- Relief from Property Tax
 - no late payment fees or charge for NSF cheques or any late payments
 - property tax due dates to be deferred for 180 days
- Relief from Utility Bills
 - no late payment fees or charge for NSF cheques or any late payments
 - deferred payments for 180 days

Ontario's Economic Statement – First Stage Support

On March 25, 2020 Ontario Finance Minister Rod Phillips recommended the following and stated that it is meant for municipalities to defer costs incurred by business:

- **Deferring the upcoming June 30 quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days to make over \$1.8 billion available.**

What other municipalities are doing

Windsor

In response to recent events stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Windsor is introducing the following measures to assist property owners with the financial burden as it relates to property taxes:

- The third instalment for the 2020 Interim Property Taxes has been changed from April 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020
- All remaining pre-authorized payment withdrawals scheduled in the months of April, May and June will continue to be taken on the scheduled dates unless otherwise cancelled/adjusted by the property owner (see options below)
- All remaining postdated cheques for the April 15, 2020 instalment will be cashed on the scheduled dates unless cancelled by the property owner (see options below)
- Charges for Non-Sufficient Funds related to property tax payments will be waived through the period ending June 30, 2020

- There will be no late payment charges in either form, penalty and/or interest, through the period ending June 30, 2020

London

City of Mississauga announced property tax due dates will be deferred for 90 days. This means that payments originally due in April, May and June are all pushed back 90 days, however, the city said they must be paid by the end of 2020.

Ottawa

The city of Ottawa is extending a grace period to April 15. So, there will be no late penalties between Thursday and April 15. Program proposed to allow property taxpayers to delay paying taxes would be available to residential landowners and small business landowners. However, the small business landowners will only be eligible for deferrals if the assessed value of their property is \$2.5 million or less.

Mississauga

City of Mississauga announced property tax due dates will be deferred for 90 days. This means that payments originally due in April, May and June are all pushed back 90 days, however, the city said they must be paid by the end of 2020.

Toronto

Toronto Mayor John Tory has announced a 60-day grace period for City of Toronto residents and businesses on city-related payments due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The deferral is retroactive to March 16 and would cover property taxes, water and solid waste utility bill payments for all residents and businesses, Tory said in a statement issued on Friday.

We need immediate leniency in payments.

We are in this together and we will be out of this together!

Thank you,

Krista Marie LeClair

Executive Director

Kingston Accommodation Partners