

April 6, 2020

Hon. Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South
7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

RE: Amendment to allow for delivery and curbside pick-up for recreational retailers

Dear Minister Phillips,

Thank you for your continued leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation evolves, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) continues to take concerns from the business community and communicate them to all levels of government.

I am writing to ask the government to consider making a regulatory amendment to the *Cannabis License Act* to allow cannabis retailers to deliver products purchased online or over the phone to a customer's residence (same-day delivery) or to the customer's vehicle outside of the licensed cannabis retail store (curbside pick-up).

We agree that prioritizing public health is our best long-term economic strategy. Although the mandatory closure of workplaces will affect many of our members, this is a short-term measure so that our businesses and economy can recover quicker. However, limiting access to legal cannabis could have unintended consequences. During this state of emergency and self-isolation, it is important to maintain adequate opportunities for adults to access cannabis products in a safe environment to protect the health and safety of Ontario residents. The illicit market is ready and willing to deliver cheap and potentially dangerous products to Ontarians.

It is important to underscore we are not asking for specialized treatment but for the cannabis sector to be granted the same treatment other retailers have received with respect to e-commerce and delivery options. We believe this would strike the balance between protecting public health by combatting the illicit market, providing Ontarians with safe alternatives for consumption, and helping independent retailers and their employees at a time of crisis.

Public health and safety are priorities for all Ontario businesses. We will continue to monitor and assess new developments pertaining to COVID-19 closely and work with our members, partners, and all levels of government to provide support to Ontario business.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce