

## **April 27 BIA Call Notes**

**John Kiru**

**James Rilett, Restaurants Canada**

**Councillor Bradford**

**Tobiah Abramson, CafeTO**

**Mike Major, BIA Office**

**John Kiru acknowledged the land we are meeting on today.**

### **James Rilett, Restaurants Canada Update:**

James Rilett, Vice President of Restaurant Canada's central Canada operations has joined our call. Presentation has been circulated with meeting notes. BIAs are welcome to use data as they wish. Please credit Restaurants Canada.

#### **Top four Restaurants Canada requests:**

1. Implement a made-in-Ontario recovery fund targeted to restaurants, similar to the US Rescue Plan Act.
2. Implement additional tranches of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and extend it to all restaurants, regardless of size.
3. Wholesale price or rebate program for licensees.
4. Derive an exit resolution for many employees not able to be re-employed within next two years due to length of time expected for business demand to come back (ESA layoff provision)

Essential workers vaccination. Restaurants Canada has advocated to put restaurant workers on the vaccination schedule along with retail workers. With more vaccines to come, quicker rollout will bump the current scheduled June date.

**Kensington Market BIA:** what can BIAs do to help Restaurants Canada with their four asks?

**James Rilett:** We find local BIAs have closer relationships with elected officials. Any help pushing those asks on them would be great.

**The Junction BIA:** Is Restaurants Canada lobbying for restaurant and essential retail to be included in the vaccination schedule?

**James Rilett:** Many conversations happening offline. We are working with government to make it easier for employees to get vaccinated. If we cannot move dates up, we hope to make it as convenient as possible.

**Mike Major:** Are Toronto centric restaurant stats available?

**James Rilett:** Yes. Will pull those and share with TABIA for circulation.

**West Queen West BIA:** Idea that each BIA identify a vacant storefront and use designated space for vaccination of local workers.

**James Rilett:** Biggest problem is ever changing landscape. A couple months ago there was no consideration of mass vaccination clinics at businesses.

### **Councillor Bradford Update:**

Councillor Bradford shared updates on the following items:

- Letter circulated today to the Province with TABIA calling for a plan to open live music venues for live streaming purposes. Letter also addresses challenges in other industries who are permitted to open.
- Small business tax subclass. When Province releases regulations, MPAC will share some proposed modeling. City's Revenue Services to launch consultations sometime in May.
- Second round of Main Street Support Grants. Councillor spoke with Minister Sarkaria. Second round of funding should be deposited within next 10 days, if not already received.
- The Mayor has seen this group's ask for additional funding for Toronto businesses. Appreciates and agrees with the sentiment. The challenge being the Province is very singular focused and will be for days ahead. Conversation is focused on vaccines and lockdowns.
- Toronto focusing on their own ask that 50% of provincial vaccine supply be allocated to Toronto hot spots.

**Church-Wellesley Village BIA:** Are drag performers included in your letter's ask?

**Councillor Bradford:** Not specifically stated but not be precluded. Councillor Wong-Tam had a motion further highlighting the need for that.

### **CafeTO:**

CafeTO continues with the initial installation schedule. IBI continues to draft traffic plans for BIAs who have not yet received. As previously stated, there will be no in person site visits this year. IBI does not feel that virtual visits would work.

CafeTO guidelines have been updated. Restaurants should not make furniture accessible to the public when storing in the curbside lane closure.

When reviewing traffic plans, ensure you tell IBI how many planters you want in each closure (green boxes on the traffic plans).

For BIAs who have approved their traffic plans, asphalt ramps will start to be installed May 01.

Second registration window closed yesterday. Forty restaurants approved. CafeTO registration will remain open for the rest of the Summer if any restaurants have missed out on registration.

CurbTO will transition to a case-by-case review. Will not be a general application program as last year.

## **BIA Submitted CafeTO Questions:**

**Willowdale BIA:** Given the current lock down, will road closures still be implemented following the original timeline? Will curb lane approvals be issued before or after the current lock down is lifted?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Curb lane closures will continue to happen May 08. Pre installation work (ramps) starting May 01. Ramps only installed for BIAs who have approved their plans.

**Willowdale BIA:** Can a CafeTO Report be provided twice a week?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Very few new registrations received, no benefit to having two reports per week but it can be arranged.

**The Junction BIA:** The scheduled rollout is set to begin in just over 1 week, on May 8. Could we please get access to schedule for each BIA's rollout day this week, so that we can inform members, manage deliveries, and manage schedules? Thanks!

**Tobiah Abramson:** CafeTO is behind in the drafting of traffic plans. No specific installation schedule to provide currently.

**Leslieville BIA:** When can we expect IBI to submit plans to us?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Ongoing. IBI has two teams working on plans, east and west sides of City.

**St. Lawrence Market BIA:** If CafeTO is delayed due to the current stay at home order or other Provincial directives, can we at least install the public parklets so people can use them for take out?

**Tobiah Abramson:** CafeTO will send out a letter tomorrow with updates. Speaks to updated guidelines.

**Forest Hill Village BIA:** Have not heard from IBI. Can you share IBI contact details?

**Tobiah Abramson:** [Cafeto2021@ibigroup.com](mailto:Cafeto2021@ibigroup.com)

**Little Portugal on Dundas BIA:** IBI are drafting the traffic plans with no BIA consultation?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Drafted based on who is registered. You will be sent draft plans and can provide any comments you want. Send back to IBI, those comments are used to produce final traffic plans.

**Kensington Market BIA:** Specific CurbTO issues. Do we continue to message you or is there another CurbTO contact?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Will be included in letter. [CurbTO@toronto.ca](mailto:CurbTO@toronto.ca).

**Church-Wellesley Village BIA:** Can we install fencing, planters but not seating so we are ready on that front?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Yes. Suggest to check is that constitutes as essential construction before proceeding.

**The Junction BIA:** Install curb lane closures, without BIA parklets?

**Tobiah Abramson:** Closures will be installed but furniture will not be delivered. CafeTO guidelines updated specifically address issue of furniture storing.

**Mike Major, BIA Office Update:**

The BIA office will approve funding for all who have applied for mural grants.

**BIA Submitted Questions:**

**Riverside BIA:** Can the City please share an update about events/permits?

**Response received from Matt Ootes:** The City is looking at the potential need for further event permit cancellations in line with our three-month rolling cycle approved by the Emergency Operations Centre and at this time no definitive decisions have been made. Our previous announcement with cancellation of permits for outdoor in-person events was until July 1, 2021 in line with provincial framework for reopening and was made at the end of February 2021.

We continue to monitor the on-going pandemic and roll out of vaccinations and consult with event organizers, stakeholders, and City Divisions to inform and allow for organizations to make appropriate planning decisions around their operations.

**New Business:**

*Discussion on recent City Hall motion to permit consumption of alcohol in public parks being deferred to staff.*

*Discussion on Buy Toronto Time campaign circulated by TABIA this morning.*