



SENT VIA EMAIL (Premier@ontario.ca)

December 17, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford;

Re: Simcoe/Muskoka's Provincial COVID Alert Designation

With the holiday season fast approaching, may we offer our collective best wishes to you, your colleagues and your families for what will undoubtedly be an unique festive season. Further, please know we are extremely grateful for your administration's unwavering commitment to the people of Ontario during this pandemic. Together, we have all had to make incredibly difficult decisions. Decisions based on science and data and with the expertise, advice and direction of our health professionals.

As municipal administrators we are exceptionally proud of the conduct, commitment and diligence that has been exhibited by Muskoka's citizens, businesses and municipal administrations relative to both Provincial and Federal directives in the war on COVID-19. Despite a constituency with a disproportionate number of "most vulnerable" citizens (seniors), and an extreme and extended influx of our very valued seasonal residents (many from areas experiencing extreme pressures from COVID-19 cases), data confirms our pride in Muskoka's efforts to date.

To the point of this writing, we would like you to know that despite our commitment to heeding the advice of our health professionals, we feel that the data behind the science of pandemic decision-making does not support Muskoka's transition to the recently imposed "Red Zone" designation of COVID-19 control. It is effectively "guilt by association" by virtue of our of Health Unit configuration with Simcoe County.

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

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Further, potential transition to an even higher level of COVID control, short of a necessitated Province-wide directive, would be extremely difficult for us to defend based on the current science.

Respectfully,



Terry Glover
Mayor
Lake of Bays



Phil Harding
Mayor
Muskoka Lakes



Paul Kelly
Mayor
Gravenhurst



Peter Koetsier
Mayor
Georgian Bay



Graydon Smith
Mayor
Bracebridge



Karin Terziano
Mayor
Huntsville



John W. Klinck
District Chair
The District Municipality of Muskoka

Cc: The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
Mayor Graydon Smith, Town of Bracebridge
Mayor Peter Koetsier, Township of Georgian Bay
Mayor Paul Kelly, Town of Gravenhurst
Mayor Karin Terziano, Town of Huntsville
Mayor Terry Glover, Township of Lake of Bays
Mayor Phil Harding, Township of Muskoka Lakes
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, SMDHU
Julie Stevens, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Muskoka
Norm Barrette, Commissioner of Health Services, District of Muskoka