



May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Queen's Park Legislative Building  
1 Queen's Park, Room 281  
Toronto Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Firstly, we would like to thank you and the Province of Ontario for your wise guidance and capable and compassionate handling of the Coronavirus pandemic.

In the Upper Ottawa Valley, we have been very fortunate - our dispersed population and strong civic compliance has allowed us to weather this pandemic so far relatively unscathed. Through careful management, our local hospital and our long-term care homes have so far managed to avoid outbreaks.

That said, we the undersigned mayors, are very concerned about the virus silently hitch-hiking a ride into our communities and undoing the gains that our sacrifices have made. Tens of thousands of Southern and Eastern Ontario residents are about to travel to their seasonal properties in Central and Northern Ontario for the May 24<sup>th</sup> weekend. Shopping for supplies at local grocery and hardware stores, pharmacies, gas stations or liquor stores will significantly increase the risk of Coronavirus exposure to our local front-line essential staff who work in facilities caring for our most vulnerable.

With great respect, we implore you to issue Provincial restrictions on non-essential Regional Travel until the end of May, or at minimum, a very strongly worded Provincial Directive to citizens to stay home and not travel to other regions of the Province for a few more weeks.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

  


Mayor Bob Sweet, Town of Petawawa

Mayor Sue D'Eon, Town of Deep River

Mayor Jed Reinwald, Township of Laurentian Hills

Mayor Debbi Grills, The United Township of Head, Clara & Maria

c.c. Minister John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew, Nipissing, Pembroke ,  
Warden Robinson, County of Renfrew