



JOHN FRASER, MPP / DÉPUTÉ

Ottawa South / Ottawa-sud

May 4, 2020

The Office of the Premier
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

I'm writing on behalf of the many garden centres and plant nurseries in my riding of Ottawa South who are upset to not have been permitted to fully re-open today along with other seasonal businesses. In addition, they have been disadvantaged during a crucial sales period by large retailers and grocery store chains, many of whom have remained open during the pandemic, allowing customers to browse and purchase similar gardening products.

Friday's announcement limited garden centres and plant nurseries across the province to curbside pick up and delivery, many of who were already permitted to do so.

These local businesses, often family-run, rely heavily on seasonal activity. The month of May is crucial to these businesses' survival. Most flower growers do upward of 60 per cent of their sales between Easter and Mother's Day, coming this Sunday.

What's more, Artistic Landscaping and Design in my riding says that curbside pick-up creates complications for customers as they often want to browse the plant and garden selection, see the product for themselves and seek advice from experts. The business employs knowledgeable horticulturists who assist customers in selecting their products.

Often garden centres and nurseries offer a wider selection in a bigger space than grocery stores, who typically build fairly small enclosures in their parking lots, making physical distancing between customers challenging.

On behalf of the many garden centres and nurseries operating in my riding and across the province, I respectfully request that your government allow these small seasonal businesses to resume full operation, in compliance with enhanced safety measures and guidelines, right away. Many businesses, thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in plant material are at risk.

Sincerely,

John Fraser
MPP, Ottawa South

1828, rue Bank Street, Ottawa (Ontario) K1V 7Y6

Tel. / Tél. : (613) 736-9573 | Fax / Téléc. : (613) 736-7374 | E-mail / Courriel : jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org