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Hon. Premier Doug Ford  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Queen's Park

April 16, 2020

Dear Premier Ford,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the COVID-19 pandemic and for your openness to suggestions on how to respond to the evolving situation.

Small businesses are hurting right now as their revenues have evaporated but their expenses remain. According to a recent survey, one in three small businesses are at risk of permanent closure.

Rent is one of the largest single expenses for most small businesses. As of today, commercial landlords can legally evict businesses that could not pay their April rent.

I was pleased to learn that the federal government is launching the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program, but its success depends on cooperation with provinces, which oversee rent policy.

I am requesting that you cooperate urgently with the federal government to expedite cashflow relief to small businesses and that the province be prepared to contribute the following:

- Grants of up to \$5,000 for small businesses to assist with rent and utilities
- Freeze on commercial evictions until the pandemic is over

Local, independent businesses are the heart of every community. We cannot afford to lose them.

Thank you for doing everything you can to assist them when they need us the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Schreiner".

Mike Schreiner  
MPP, Guelph