



# KINGSTON ECONOMIC RECOVERY TEAM

For Immediate Release  
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## Mayor Bryan Paterson Announces More Details About Economic Recovery Team

**Kingston, ON** – Today Mayor Paterson announced the members and mandate of the Kingston Economic Recovery Team. This 10 person team (nine representatives and a special advisor) reflect the diversity of the industries most impacted by COVID-19 and the provincial closure of non-essential businesses.

“Kingston’s economy, like many communities, has been hit hard because of COVID-19 and there are still many unknowns as we push forward. However, I am confident the group we’ve put together will help us get through this, get people back to work doing what they love, and help us emerge stronger than before,” said Mayor Paterson. “We’re a city with resilient, strong and innovative citizens and our advantage, because of our size, is our ability to mobilize and work together – and we will.”

The provincial closure of non-essential businesses has had a dramatic and immediate impact on several sectors in Kingston’s economy including: accommodation and food services, retail, recreation, personal services, arts and entertainment, and construction services. In an effort to bring these industries together to generate ideas and recommendations for recovery, the Mayor asked representatives from sectors hardest hit locally by the pandemic (as well as stakeholder organizations that support Kingston’s business community) to help lead Kingston’s recovery effort. Dr. Kieran Moore, KFL&A Public Health’s Medical Officer of Health, will also serve as Special Advisor to the team to ensure public health is at the forefront of all decision making.

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## Team members

### City of Kingston / Public Sector Representatives

Bryan Paterson, Mayor of Kingston (Chair)

Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Kingston

### Public Health Special Advisor

Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health, KFL&A Public Health

### Restaurant Sector

Tim Pater, Owner/Operator, Black Dog Hospitality Group

### Personal Services Sector

Aba Mortley, Owner, Cher-Mère Day Spa

### Retail Sector

Susan St. Clair, General Manager, Cataraqi Centre

### Accommodation Sector

Sean Billing, Owner, Frontenac Club

### Non-Profit / Charitable Sector

Bhavana Varma, President and CEO, United Way KFL&A

### Construction Sector

Dan Corcoran, Owner/President, Corcoran Excavating Ltd.

### Cultural Sector

Tricia Baldwin, Director, Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts





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## Team mandate and structure

The Kingston Economic Recovery Team is intended to function as a community working group. They will plan and coordinate short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Kingston. The objective is to generate recommendations to respond quickly to changing conditions from both a public health and economic perspective.

Getting to work right away, the team will operate with greater flexibility than a City of Kingston sponsored committee or taskforce. The meeting schedule will be at the call of the chair and frequency will be based on the need to address issues as they arise. Recognizing that people will want to hear what the team is working on, meetings will also be open to the public and will begin in a virtual format. The first meeting is being planned for the week of May 11th – the exact date and time is still to be confirmed.

The team will receive staff level support from both the Kingston Economic Development Corporation and the City of Kingston. The work of the group will be communicated to the public and the team will report to Kingston City Council regularly.

The team will also consult local experts and representatives from other sectors, to get advice on what's working and what's not, to seek out new ideas and to talk to other key partners throughout the course of its mandate. There will be opportunities as well for public engagement and the team will have the ability to branch off and create project or issue-specific working groups as necessary.



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## Quotes

“As Special Advisor to this Committee I will ensure that the health of our community is always at the forefront of our decision making. The Committee will have to take proportionate efforts to re-open our economy with continuing to protect and promote the health of the community.” – **Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health and CEO at KFL&A Public Health**

“We applaud the Mayor for launching a Kingston Economic Recovery Team and are proud to offer our organization as a key resource and administrative support. Our objective is take a team approach to business survival. The Board and staff are committed to supporting the Mayor’s Team as we work together to limit the negative impact of COVID-19 on Kingston’s economy.” – **Donna Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer, Kingston Economic Development Corporation**

“The tourism industry has been one of the hardest hit industries by COVID-19. Kingston’s food and accommodation sector has been especially impacted and represents nearly 9% of the city’s workforce. Tourism Kingston looks forward to being an active participant on the Mayor’s Economic Recovery Team and to collaborating on a plan to safely and effectively support recovery efforts.” – **Megan Knott, Executive Director, Tourism Kingston**

“The Chamber has been focused throughout this crisis on supporting our members and the overall well-being of our community in every way possible. We understand these are very difficult times for everyone, especially our businesses and not-for-profit members, their employees and their employees’ families. We are thrilled to be working in partnership with the City and community partners in this important recovery effort. We have every confidence that we will emerge from this crisis stronger together.” – **Karen Cross, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce**

“The health community, and the whole community has done a phenomenal job dealing with the virus, now we need to do an equally good job at recovering our local economy - especially small local businesses.” – **Doug Ritchie, Managing Director, Downtown Kingston Business Improvement Area**