



KINGSTON ECONOMIC RECOVERY TEAM

Question and Answer

- **What is the purpose of the Kingston Economic Recovery Team?**

The goal of the team is to bring together leaders from the industries hardest hit by the pandemic to plan and coordinate community-led strategies and recommendations to respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

- **How long will the team run?**

The team is intended to operate for a term of one year with an option to renew for additional one year terms as necessary to support recovery efforts

- **What about the social and mental health impacts of COVID-19?**

United Way KFL&A has been working closely with local social services agencies to address both the short-term and longer-term impacts of COVID-19. As a member of the economic recovery team, United Way President and CEO Bhavana Varma not only represents the non-profit/charitable sector of our local economy, but will also help ensure connection between both economic and social recovery efforts.

- **How was the team formed?**

This diverse group was formed in consultation with Kingston's business support organizations and with various community leaders from industries that have seen immediate and dramatic economic impacts related to the pandemic (tourism, accommodation and food services, retail, arts and entertainment, personal services, and construction).

These representatives come highly recommended from their peers and reflect a diverse mix of people – some who have been involved in city initiatives in the past and others who are new. Each member has substantial experience and knowledge of their respective industries in Kingston and many also serve on business organization boards. All are committed and driven to help the Kingston economy rebound stronger than before.

- **Does the team have a budget?**

No. The team will, however, receive staff support from the City of Kingston and from the Kingston Economic Development Corporation to communicate to the public and report to City Council on the work being done and initiatives and strategies being implemented.

Depending on the recommendations developed by the group there may be financial requests but only as recovery tools to support Kingston's economy. Recommendations with financial considerations will be brought to Kingston City Council and/or the appropriate board or organization for approval.



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- **Is the recovery team a City of Kingston committee?**

No. This is a community group responding to community economic impacts of COVID-19 and developing recommendations. As a working group, the team will operate with less formality and with greater flexibility than a City of Kingston sponsored committee or taskforce. Recommendations will be on-going and action items will be carried out by a specific business support organization, the City of Kingston, or the Mayor. All recommendations and policy considerations tasked to the City of Kingston will have to be brought to Kingston City Council for approval.

- **Will there be opportunities for others to participate in the work of the team?**

The team will draw on the expertise of key partners across various sectors. This will include consultation and information sharing with experts and businesses in a range of different industries. The team will also have the ability to branch off and create project or issue-specific working groups as needed. The group will also explore ways to engage and communicate with the public on the work of the recovery team.

- **How often will the team meet?**

Meetings will be at the call of the chair. Frequency will vary based on the need to address issues. Meetings will be open and be conducted in accordance with advice from KFL&A Public Health. It is expected that meetings will begin in virtual format with the potential to transition to in-person meetings at a later date.

- **What if the industries experiencing the most dramatic impacts changes over time?**

The team has the ability to call in other experts, partners or leaders to inform the group and built into the structure is the ability to create additional working groups.