



TOM MRAKAS  
MAYOR

## RESPONSE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE “SHUTDOWN”

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 1, 2021**

“As I have maintained all along, we need to put the proper protocols in place to manage the spread of the virus. I also understand there is an urgency with respect to hospitalizations and ICU capacity. However, what I am struggling with is how this most recent set of restrictions will address this.

There are several regions which have been under these same restrictions for the last few months, yet the case counts and hospitalizations in those areas are growing. If we want to address the issue of ICU and hospital capacity, we need to target the right places. While I respect the decisions of the Premier and Cabinet; these are tough decisions for the province as a whole, I am truly disappointed in this decision that will do nothing but hurt our small local businesses (restaurants, gyms, personal services).

This is being called a province wide ‘shutdown’, yet retail is open, malls are open, industrial and manufacturing are open, you can go play a round of golf with 3 others...what exactly is being shut down? This is not a shutdown; it is a closure of a select group of business who are largely not responsible for the spread. How many cases have been in a manufacturing/industrial setting? How many in local grocery stores? Many more examples and yet they have not been shut down.

Why are we shutting these select businesses and penalizing them? Why take away their incomes? Dr. Kurji has told us, we know these closures have a huge impact on people’s well-being and mental health. Let’s focus on enforcing protocols and restrictions where the data shows the transmission is occurring. We all want to keep everyone safe as we continue to vaccinate, but we need to revisit our approach to this and not just close certain select businesses. This approach, in my opinion is not going to help, and only hurt our small businesses who are hanging on by a thread.”

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mrakas", is written over a faint background image of the Aurora Town Hall building.

Tom Mrakas  
Mayor – Town of Aurora