

Name

Owner Mindie Ferkul

Submitted on Sat, 05/30/2020 - 13:14

Submission

I am addressing the effect of Covid-19 to the tourism sector with respect to our business, in the form of continued event cancellations of Canadian hand-crafted arts and crafts events throughout Ontario in tourist areas and special holidays.

We participate in above said events that typically would attract tourists from all over the world (and locals), seeking Canadian hand-crafted goods, such as:

- Toronto- Historic Distillery District Artfest Victoria Day weekend, One of a Kind Spring show & sale, Beaches Arts and Crafts summer show in Kew Gardens
- Niagara Region Handmade Market winery events
- Windsor Art in the Park at Historic Willstead Manor
- Ottawa Originals Spring art and craft show
- Cottage Country owners globally at Muskoka Summer show, Haliburton Village Art & Craft Festival
- Kingston Canada Day Artfest Festival
- CNE/The EX, Arts Crafts and Hobbies Pavilion

Our business relies 100% on events, which have been cancelled, understandably so, for safety.

All indications are that they will be the last to re-open, understandably so.

We relied on the tourism sector (along with locals), specifically in the “support Canadian Hand-made movement” at the above cancelled Ontario arts and craft events (and other events).

This model supported our thriving artisanal home-based-business successfully for 25 years, where we as good Canadian citizens, contributed to the economy by:

- Paying our taxes – business/personal
- Supporting domestic suppliers
- Covering all our bills – mortgage, car, utilities, suppliers etc

While our “support Canadian Handmade” events are cancelled, our business has no other outlet for sales (shipping not feasible for our fragile artisanal work).

Thus, this year, we have zero sales so far, while all events are cancelled.

Events are our livelihood.

But events may perhaps not be safe until a vaccine is available, we understand that.

In our 25 year business history, we have never relied on government for help, however at this time, we need to cover the costs of basic survival (food, shelter, utilities, etc.), and are grateful for the brief 4 month CERB aid, but will need help continuing during cancelled events, until it is safe and feasible for our Canadian handmade business to operate at events.

Thank you for considering the impact of Covid-19 to our sector with respect to the void of tourism (and local support).