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May 30, 2020

My wife and I own a tourist camp in northern Ontario. Our camp is in its' 115th year of operation, and we have owned it for the past 30 years. Due to Covid-19, 2020 will be our worst season ever. We agree with many of the actions that both our provincial and federal governments have taken to try and contain the virus and protect everyone's health. However, the impact on both our business and our personal finances is extreme.

We take most of our reservations for the summer during the winter months, but as the seriousness of the pandemic became apparent, people stopped making reservations. This alone would have resulted in a very poor season for us.

The Canada-U.S. border has been closed for many weeks now, and there is no potential date being given as to when it may reopen. Approximately 75% of our income comes from American guests, and we have already had to cancel many of their reservations.

The Ontario government closed many businesses that were/are not considered essential. This has resulted in our having to cancel many reservations from Ontario residents. No date is being given as to when we might be able to reopen, and this uncertainty has resulted in other reservations being canceled.

On April 28th, we contacted the MNRF office in Timmins regarding fees that we pay each year for a land use permit, bait fish area, and bear management areas. These fees total thousands of dollars each year, and we wanted to know if we would have to pay them in whole or part since the Ontario government is not letting us open. We are still waiting to find out if we will have to pay these fees.

Many businesses in Ontario are now being allowed to reopen, often with procedures in place to protect both employees and the public. In our case, we are not allowed to be open even though our guests would have less chance of exposure than they would with the majority of businesses that are allowed to be open. We have five cottages, each with its' own bathroom and kitchen. Guests either bring their own boats or are assigned one of ours. Guests from different groups do not need to be near any other guests while in camp, and then they are well away from all other people out on the lake. When and if we are allowed to open, we have several procedures in place to protect ourselves and our guests. We are keeping our store/office door locked and guests will need to ring a doorbell before being allowed in, and then there will be a maximum of two guests allowed in our store at a time. We have a plexiglass screen over our store counter for protection as guests arrive and check in. Everyone, both guests and ourselves, will be required to use hand sanitizer, and use masks while in our store. After each group finishes checking in and leaves the store, disinfecting and sanitizing will be done before another group is allowed to enter. We will also have an outdoor area set up to provide bait to our guests so they will not need to enter the store. We will ensure at least 24-48 hours between the time groups leave cottages and other groups enter them, and during that time disinfectants and sanitizers will be used wherever possible. We also have a

couple of air purifiers that kill viruses, and will be using them in all cottages after groups leave.

Our camp along with many other tourist camps is quite isolated. Guests must bring their groceries along with other supplies with them. Otherwise they would have a round trip of several hours to travel to stores. This means that our guests, and the guests of many camps have very little or no need to interact with other local businesses or residents.

My wife and I run our camp by ourselves, and like many small tourist camps, have no employees. The only income we have is what our camp brings in. Even if we were allowed to open today, we are looking at losing over 80% of our income this year, but expect very little reduction in expenses.

The above is for your consideration.

*Alan Craigie
Bay Wolf Camp
Shining Tree, Ontario*