

To the Committee on the Coronavirus,

My husband and I own a small group training gym near the heart of the Alberta Arts District. We are a small but incredibly tight community of 80-100 people committed in the pursuit of wellness. While our members mostly meet daily to workout together, our interactions spill outside the gym in the form of bbqs, play dates, and birthday parties.

Two months ago, my husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor and needed immediate surgery. These members of ours banded together and cooked meals for us, drove our kids to/from school, and helped us keep the gym open. We are indebted to their devotion in a way we can never repay.

Since the escalation of the pandemic, we made the difficult but responsible choice to close our doors in our efforts to flatten the curve. Many of our members are in the healthcare front lines and it's our duty to do our part to alleviate their burdens.

However, in the weeks leading up to the escalation, we had not brought in new members to account for the typical attrition due to jobs changing/moving. People were rightfully uncertain of what was to come. This month we will have to dip into savings to make rent. And that is only possible if we defer our own income to do so.

We are but one of many small business that will suffer from this. One thing we have learned from this pandemic is that health and wellness is paramount to help increase rates of survival after infection. We hope to be able to continue helping our community in their wellness goals.

Please consider any measures that will help small businesses get through this.

Respectfully,

Ruth Rodgers
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