

PRESS RELEASE

To the attention of the director of information
Montreal, January 20th, 2022

THE OWNERS OF BARS AND RESTO-BARS STILL IMMERSSED IN AN ABSOLUTE VOID

The vast majority of bar and restaurant owners in Quebec had their eyes riveted to their screens to listen to today's conference by the Prime minister of Québec on the Covid-19, including the respective presidents of the Union des Tenanciers de bars du Québec ("UTBQ") and of the Corporation des Propriétaires de Bars, Brasseries et Tavernes du Québec ("CPBBTQ"), Mr. Peter Sergakis and Mr. Renaud Poulin.

Once again, the UTBQ and the CPBBTQ are deeply disappointed, and even offended, by the comments made today by Mr. Legault while the morale of their members is at its lowest.

Indeed, the industry remains in total darkness as there was no indication given whatsoever regarding when the activities of the sector could resume, leaving it once again, without any predictability in the short or medium term.

What is worst, is this silence that comes on the same day that the Ontario government announced that their restaurants and bars will be allowed to reopen in less than 10 days, (starting on January 31st). Even though, the two provinces presently have similar epidemiological situations.

By stubbornly wanting to compel, control and restrict our members and their business activities, it appears that more and more restaurateurs and tenants tend to want to rebel against all the sanitary measures, as demonstrated by the multiplication of civil disobedience announcements, which is hardly more promising, quite the contrary!

Yet, almost the entire industry has complied with all the demands of the Legault government for almost 2 years. The industry has demonstrated that it is able to operate in the safest manner and that it was the source of almost zero outbreaks.

Thus, the UTBQ and the CPBBTQ consider that their members should be able to reopen their businesses without delay, considering that the peak of the 5th wave was reached in terms of hospitalizations number. There is no reason to let the owners of bars and restaurants be closed any longer, with the disastrous economic consequences that ensue, while depriving their employees of their livelihood, these businesses would not generate any kind of resurgence of the pandemic by being open. As several experts have said, we will have to learn to live with this virus, we might as well stop the hemorrhage now and allow the whole Quebec economy to function, including our members, the neglected ones of the Legault government!

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Information : Peter Sergakis, president of the Union des Tenanciers de Bars du Québec: (514) 867-9088; and Renaud Poulin, president of the Corporation des Propriétaires de Bars, Brasseries et Tavernes du Québec (514) 928-4757