

The City is committed to supporting businesses through this challenging time.

### RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) SUMMER PATIO PERMITS

The 2021 ROW Summer Patio Permit program will run from April 1 to October 31, 2021. Council has waived the monthly rates for ROW patios for 2021. A \$68 permit fee is required for all ROW Summer Patio permit applications. A summer ROW patio permit must be obtained before constructing the patio.

### PATIOS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Council has recently extended the temporary private patio program to January 1, 2022, to align with the [Alcohol and Gaming Commission's \(AGCO\)](#) temporary extension for liquor licensing.

If you already have established a temporary private patio through this program and wish to extend it up to January 1, 2022, you do not have to register again with the City.

### BEING COVID WISE

Being [COVID Wise](#) is how we will be able to resume economic and social activities while COVID-19 is still in our community. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Guidance for the Restaurants and Food Establishments](#) sector to help meet current regulations and adapt your workplace to be COVID Wise. As a workplace and business, being COVID Wise will help keep both customers and employees safer during the COVID-19 pandemic including continued diligence with the minimum 2-metre physical distancing with the layout of your patio.

### PATIO CLOSING TIMES

ROW Patio closing times need to adhere to all requirements under the [Province's COVID Response Framework](#). As part of the 2021 Patio Innovation Program approved all ROW patios are permitted to operate until 2:00 AM, once the Province's COVID Response Framework permits later closing times.

### NOISE

Regardless of the patio closing times, no music is permitted to be played on the patio after 11:00 pm. This includes outdoor audio speakers, live music on the patio or indoor speakers or indoor live music emitting from inside the establishment onto the patio.

### BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Noise is a common complaint from residents who live nearby. Please be a good neighbour and ensure the noise on the patio does not disturb neighbouring residents.

Many patio operators proactively reach out to their neighbours to provide to establish a point of contact so that if there are any issues that arise with the operation of the patio, neighbours are able to contact patio operators directly for a resolution.

### ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (AODA)

All patios must meet all Accessibility Standards under the [Accessibility for Ontarians Disability Act, 2005](#), which includes a minimum of 2-metre clearways and all patios must be accessible.

### CAFÉ SEATING

Café Seating areas are now allowed to operate until 2:00 am. The number of tables permitted will be determined by an establishment's frontage while ensuring the 2- metre clearway. Café seating can be extended in front of a neighbouring property with the appropriate permissions, please contact [ROWpatio@ottawa.ca](mailto:ROWpatio@ottawa.ca) for more information.

*Continued on page 2.*

### DESIGN GUIDELINES

Establishments are encouraged to beautify their patios with materials such as planters, railings and decorative material to make the patio more visually pleasing.

Fencing design, materials and colours should be of high-quality finish and compatible with the streetscape.

Lighting can be used to identify the entrance of the patio and help to ensure safety of patrons and staff. Lighting design should coordinate with patio furnishings and the streetscape design.

Planters can be used to delineate the patio boundaries as well as provide shade and screening of the patio. Planters should be integral with the fence and deck structures and be easily removable.

All patio design features must not interfere with the minimum 2-metre pedestrian clearways.

### COVERED PATIOS – TENTS AND OTHER TYPES OF STRUCTURES

Building Code Services, Ottawa Public Health and Fire Services have jointly advised that at least 50% of any structure (i.e. walls) must be open while the patio is in operation, regardless of the weather or type of heating source.

Anyone wishing to install some form of covered structure needs to review the requirements as per Building Code Services and ensure that all requirements have been met. Building Code Services will continue to expedite permit approvals for [tents](#), [patios](#), [awnings and canopies](#) within 5 business days. Please contact Building Code Services directly for any inquiries at [buildingpermits@ottawa.ca](mailto:buildingpermits@ottawa.ca).

### HEATING OF PATIOS AND BLANKETS

Ottawa Fire Services recommends that all heaters are approved for use in Canada and installed and operated as per the manufacturer's instructions including proper ventilation and maintaining recommended clearances to combustibles and customers. TSSA has prepared a [fact sheet](#) regarding heaters on outdoor patios.

All appropriate portable extinguishers are required to be on location. The type and size of portable extinguishers is relative to the size of patio and number of heaters in use. Patio Operators must also adhere to all requirements of the Ontario Fire Code.

For any inquiries related to fire pits, open-air fires or specific questions related to heating patios, please contact Ottawa Fire Services directly at [FirePrevention@ottawa.ca](mailto:FirePrevention@ottawa.ca).

### USE OF BLANKETS

Questions have been raised about the safety of blankets for customers on patios on those cool spring and summer evenings. Please be advised that Ottawa Public Health has recommended that either customers bring their own blankets or if blankets are provided, that they are laundered in between uses. It is also important to ensure that combustibles, such as blankets, are kept away from any heating sources.