

May 7, 2021

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
615 Hardy Street
North Bay ON P1B 8S2
office@fonom.org

Dear FONOM:

Re: Golf Industry in Northern Ontario – Support for a Safe Re-opening in Ontario.

This letter is a request for FONOM to support the Northern Golf Association's efforts to remove the current restriction on golf in Northern Ontario because of the province-wide, stay-at-home order in place to address Covid-19. We believe the restrictions should be removed because we believe we have proven that golf is a safe activity during this pandemic. More importantly, the very survival of an industry that contributes greatly to the health and the economy of Northern Ontario may be at stake if golf courses remain shuttered.

For your information, The Northern Golf Association (NGA) is a non-profit organization whose members belong to golf courses located as far south as Katrine on Highway 11, Parry Sound on Highway 69, west on Highway 17 to Sault Ste Marie and north to Wawa, east to Mattawa and north along Highway 11 to Hearst. The NGA represents 30 golf courses within many of your jurisdictions that are currently shut down and unable to generate revenue because of the province-wide, stay-at-home order.

Many of our member clubs are small, board-run facilities that are often operated by volunteers; to survive financially, these courses require consistent participation during the season. In addition, golf courses in Northern Ontario employ hundreds of full-time, part-time and seasonal staff, and are significant contributors to many of your local economies. Our member courses are professionally managed and have adopted modern safety protocols to meet the challenge of Covid-19 since the pandemic began in early 2020.

Golf is a significant recreational activity that contributes to the mental and physical health of many people. Last season, over 20 million rounds of golf were played in Canada without a single outbreak of Covid-19 recorded, proving that golf is a safe physical outlet for people of all ages and socio-economic groups. In 2020, The National Allied Golf Association (We are Golf) worked hand-in-hand with the Province of Ontario to develop and implement protocols to keep everyone safe. Based on overall participation, golf has remained the number one recreational activity in this country. A recent study confirmed that the Canadian golf industry generated \$18.2B in economic benefits across our nation in 2019.

Daily Covid-19 case counts are now in the single digits among many Northern Ontario health units, with seven-day rolling averages now falling. With vaccination levels at record highs across the entire province, safe, outdoor recreation must be part of the solution to the challenge of Covid-19. We know that our game is safe -- the industry proved that last season. Many in the scientific community agree and advocate for golf to reopen. We strongly implore the provincial government to lift the ban on many outdoor activities including golf. At this time, we look to FONOM and its members for their support of the golf industry in Northern Ontario.

We appreciate your consideration and your continuous advocacy for the 110 cities, towns and municipalities in Northern Ontario. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me without hesitation. We look forward to speaking with you concerning this matter.

Warmest Regards,



Archie Berube

President, Northern Golf Association

info@golfnga.com

cc: Northern Golf Association Member Clubs
Mike Kelly, Executive Director, Golf Ontario
Ryan Logan, Director, Membership, Golf Canada



www.facebook.com/golfnga



@Golfnga



@Golfnga

