

Motion requesting that the gouvernement du Québec limit the fees charged to restaurants by delivery service companies

Whereas at this moment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Montreal is still a “red zone” as defined by the Government of Québec, thus requiring that dining rooms and bars remain closed;

Whereas in 2018, the accommodation and food services sector employed 75,000 people in the Montréal Urban Agglomeration and more than 80% of these jobs were related to restaurant and bar services;

Whereas, since March 2020, restaurant services is one of the sectors most affected by pandemic-related restrictions;

Whereas Restaurants Canada evaluates the number of restaurants permanently closed in 2020 at 10,000 and estimates that 40% of restaurants will probably not survive until March 2021;

Whereas Montreal is recognized for its gastronomic excellence and frequently ranks among the best in North America and even world-wide;

Whereas restaurants can currently only provide delivery and takeout orders;

Whereas, the gouvernement du Québec announced on January 6 that, due to the curfew, restaurants may take orders for delivery only after 8 p.m. between January 11 and February 8 2021;

Whereas a large number of restaurants did not offer delivery service before the pandemic and now use delivery services offered by third-party companies, particularly delivery apps or “platforms”;

Whereas these delivery companies charge service fees to restaurants of up to 30% of the sale price;

Whereas this business model disadvantages independent restaurants in particular, given that some major chains have the power to negotiate a reduction in these delivery service fees;

Whereas, according to the *Journal de Montreal*, using a delivery app for certain meals may raise the customer's cost up to 60% without benefiting the restaurant;

Whereas a growing number of American cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington, have limited the fees charged to restaurants by delivery services to a maximum of 15%;

Whereas the province of Ontario, in response to a City of Toronto municipal council motion, has temporarily limited delivery costs to 15% in areas where dining rooms are closed;

Whereas many Montreal restaurant owners and associations have already expressed a desire to see the Québec government limit these costs;

Whereas, according to various studies, the salary of a third-party delivery person is close to the minimum wage, and Ontario has prohibited these services from reducing commissions paid to these persons to compensate for the decrease in delivery fees;

It is proposed by **Lionel Perez**, City Councillor for the Darlington district;

Seconded by **Aref Salem**, City Councillor for the Norman-McLaren district;

That the City of Montréal ask the gouvernement du Québec to limit the fees charged to restaurateurs by third-party delivery services to 15% until the pandemic ends;

That in doing this, the gouvernement du Québec make sure that it prohibits delivery companies compensating for this loss of income by decreasing the remuneration of their delivery persons or other employees.