

March 25th, 2019

OPEN LETTER

DURHAM REGION POLITICIANS | CALL TO ACTION

RE: Restructuring of cGaming Bingo in Durham Region

On behalf of Epilepsy Durham Region, I would like to ask for your help to ensure that local not-for-profit agencies like Epilepsy Durham Region will not be excluded from the critical funding which is raised through the Red Barn Auditorium Bingo Hall restructuring process.

The Red Barn Auditorium along-side the Red Barn Charity Association have been addressing the needs of our community in Durham Region for the more than 40 years. I am writing to you today to raise serious concerns with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's (OLG) restructuring. I hope you can help us navigate the best possible solution so we can continue to offer our services not only for Epilepsy Durham Region, but for the hundreds of charities in Durham which will be impacted by the loss of revenue.

Some background information: Restructuring cGaming Model:

According to the Charitable Gaming and Bingo Innovation Association (CGBIA) in the launch of the new cGaming model, the OLG has exclusively offered bingo modernization to 37 bingo halls province wide. However, in Durham Region, charities who have raised funds to support local program and services have been excluded from this modernization as well as an additional 10 Class A licensed bingo halls across the province and their 500 licensed charities. This effectively has created a perception of an unfair playing field for The Red Barn Auditorium. Our concerns include the following:

Application Process: It appears that 10 bingo halls in Ontario who have expressed interest in participating in cGaming have been isolated from this new model including the Red Barn Bingo Hall.

Lost Revenue Impact for Epilepsy Durham Region and local charities: Epilepsy Durham Region does not receive government nor United Way funding to support local programs and services to the 32,000 individuals who sought our help in 2018. Revenue from in-house fundraising initiatives, private donations and bingo sessions are critical to ensuring programs and services are preserved.

Reduced revenue for provincial and local government: The reduction of local bingo facilities may impact a revenue source for both the provincial and local governments through licencing fees. We are working collectively with Charitable Gaming and Bingo Innovation Association (CGBIA) and the Charitable Gaming Federation of Ontario (CGFO) on this important issue and ask that you reach out to our MPPs and ask for their support in reversing the application process.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request for help.

Regards,



Dianne McKenzie, CEO | Epilepsy Durham Region