

Email from resident:

This is a plea for help for all the small businesses that have been severely affected by this virus. The government has put out a confusing set of restrictions, stay home but order takeout. What that has done to the restaurant business is made them feel that they need to stay open even though people are being told to stay home. We are open with reduced hours and are not busy.

I know I am not the first person to write a letter concerning the fall of small business.

Im co owner of The Ship's Galley Pub & Eatery in Shelburne. Along with my husband and my son , who is a trained chef , we have spent years building our business into what it was before March 2020. I will never forget the feeling of closing the business for the two weeks to flatten the curve. On that day I had a feeling it would be more than two weeks. I was so upset I couldnt even make a recording on the answering machine without crying. The past year has been so stressful. In small town rural NS locals keep restaurants going but tourism is the icing on the cake. Last year we had only a crumb coat of icing. As well as the reduced seating capacity and no Christmas parties it has been brutal. We have developed a reputation in our town and to have to close is a disappointment to more than just us. I know the government has helped alot but it isnt enough.

My fear is for more than just me. A closure of our restaurant will mean loss of jobs for our staff and the debt we still owe on the business will still need to be paid off.

What can be done to prevent my business and so many other business to not have to declare bankruptcy? We do not want to lose our house and everything else we own. What are our options? To sell nobody will be buying and to close the debt doesnt go away. Even my son is scared he will lose his house if we close the business. I know there is no simple cure for this business pandemic but we need help. I am writing this on behalf of many of my friends that are in the same situation. We have all worked so hard on our dreams and now we are living a nightmare. We need debt forgiveness or a miracle.

Please forward this on to whatever level of Government it needs to go to to make a difference. Thank you for your time and stay safe.

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