



Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing you from the Picton Golf & Country Club. This club is a not-for-profit golf club, founded in 1907, in beautiful Prince Edward County.

As the third wave of COVID-19 washes over Ontario we understand and share your frustrations that Ontarians have not been able to stem the virus and its variants. We recognize that tough decisions are required to get us through this epidemic and back to a healthy and safe Ontario.

Golf is a sport that is played outdoors, inherently in a physically distanced fashion. It is recognized in the medical community as being good for one's physical health, and just importantly, for mental health as well. Further, health experts agree that the outdoor COVID-19 transmission is extremely rare (*Dr. Isaac Bogoch, University of Toronto*).

Picton Golf Club, as a Golf Canada facility, fully supports, promotes and adheres to all recommendations and guidelines of provincial and federal governments, and regional public health authorities to stop the community spread of the virus. We are proactive with our Safe Play Measures and other initiatives that allow for the safe enjoyment of golf in controlled environment while minimizing the risks of virus transmission.

Further, we have followed Ontario Ministry of Labour guidelines in implementing a Safety Plan, which details protocols to keep our employees safe during interactions with golfers and each other, and to allow them to securely carry out their employment responsibilities. These protocols include physical distancing, the use of face coverings, installation and use of screens and POS barriers between staff and golfers, contact-less payment options, and rigorous disinfectant procedures for all surfaces, equipment and facilities.

Your Government's decision to close golf courses is not consistent with, and flies in the face of, science and epidemiology. It also hurts the many seasonal workers employed in the industry.

We strongly urge you to "take a mulligan" and reverse the decision to close Golf Courses through May 20, 2021.

Respectfully,

Board of Directors, Picton Golf & Country Club

David Franks, President
Judi Edwards, Secretary
Rusty Gilchrist, Director
Vicki Vachon, Director
Deb Rankin, Director

Robert Sweet, Vice-President
Brian Ramsay, Treasurer
Al Bigg, Director
John Howard, Director

*The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence
– it is to act with yesterday's logic. Peter Drucker*

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