

Amanda Graham

Subject: Feedback Harrison Proposed Business License and Fee Bylaw Amendments

From: Jason Kim <jasvan08@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 6:45 PM

To: Mark Schweinbenz <mschweinbenz@harrisonhotsprings.ca>

Subject: Re:Feedback Harrison Proposed Business License and Fee Bylaw Amendments

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Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Food Truck Allowance

Dear Mark

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed bylaw.

I understand the Village's need to periodically update fees to reflect rising costs. These adjustments are reasonable to a certain extent, given the current increases in supply and labor costs.

However, I have serious concerns about the proposed change to **allow food trucks or mobile vendors during special events or one-day occasions**.

As you know, Harrison Hot Springs is a seasonal tourist destination, and for many of us, the **summer months and special events** are the only time we can generate enough revenue to sustain our businesses through the rest of the year. Allowing outside food trucks during these critical periods would directly reduce sales for local restaurants that already pay rent, taxes, and year-round operating expenses while contributing to the local economy.

While I understand the intention to create more options and vibrancy during community events, I believe it's important to ensure that any new policies do not come at the expense of the existing businesses that form the foundation of our local economy.

I kindly ask that the Village **reconsider or carefully review this proposed allowance** to make sure it truly supports local businesses and maintains a fair environment for those who operate year-round.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued efforts to represent the interests of the local business community in Harrison Hot Springs.

Warm regards,
Jason&John
Village Pizzeria
Harrison Hot Springs

November 17th, 2025

Mayor and Council
Village of Harrison Hot Springs
495 Hot Springs Road
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

Re: Community and Business Feedback on Proposed Business Licence and Fee Bylaw Amendments

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the local business community and our respective memberships, the Harrison-Agassiz Chamber of Commerce respectfully submit this consolidated feedback regarding the proposed Business Licence and Miscellaneous Fee Bylaw Amendments, including the proposed changes related to Mobile Vending and Food Trucks.

We appreciate the Village's effort to modernize its bylaws and clarify processes. After gathering feedback from members and stakeholders, several themes emerged that we believe are important for Council to consider.

1. Business License Fee Increases

Many local businesses have expressed concern about the proposed increases in business licence and administrative fees. Businesses are already navigating significant cost pressures—including inflation, rising wages, insurance, utilities, and overall cost of living—while contending with a short seasonal economic window.

The Chamber does not support increases to business licence or administrative fees currently. Supporting small business stability must remain a priority, particularly in a tourism-driven community where many operators rely heavily on revenue earned during peak months to sustain year-round operations.

2. Reduction to False Fire Alarm Penalties

We also heard strong opposition to the proposed reduction of false fire alarm penalties. The Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department is already stretched thin, and false alarms place unnecessary, preventable strain on emergency services.

Maintaining higher penalties encourages property owners and businesses to remain diligent with safety systems and maintenance. The Chamber does not support reducing false fire alarm penalties.

3. Mobile Vending & Food Trucks (Section 3)

We acknowledge the Village's clarification that the proposed bylaw does not fully lift the prohibition on mobile vending. Instead, it would allow limited participation by food trucks only on private property for one-day events, or participation under a Village-approved event or permit, with additional direction expected through updates to the Use of Public and Municipal Property Policy.

While we appreciate the controlled, permit-based approach, the Chamber received substantial concern from local brick-and-mortar businesses—particularly those in food and beverage.

Key Concerns Raised:

- Unfair competitive advantage due to lower overhead and no contribution to local taxes that support tourism and municipal services.
- Direct competition during the short seasonal window when local businesses rely on peak revenue.
- Parking pressures and potential displacement of customers.
- Uncertainty caused by vague references to "other bylaws or policies."
- A lack of meaningful consultation with those most affected.

Some respondents expressed conditional support for food trucks only when events are short-term, carefully managed, clearly defined, and do not place mobile vendors adjacent to direct competitors. Some also suggested the alternative of creating a food-truck licence category available exclusively to existing local business license holders.

Chamber Position on Section 3:

Based on concerns and the need for further policy clarity, the Chamber cannot support Section 3 at this time. We request more information, impact analysis, and direct consultation before changes proceed.

4. Recommendations Moving Forward

We respectfully recommend that Council:

- Reconsider business license and administrative fee increase.

- Maintain current false fire alarm penalties.
- Pause changes related to mobile vending until detailed policy and consultation occur.
- Establish clear definitions for “event,” “special event,” and participation criteria.
- Prioritize protection and sustainability of local brick-and-mortar businesses.

Closing Statement

We appreciate the Village’s proactive approach in seeking community feedback. The Chamber looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure that bylaw amendments support local businesses and contribute to long-term economic sustainability for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leanna Kemp

Chief Executive Officer

Harrison Agassiz Chamber of Commerce

Stephanie Gallamore

Vice President

Harrison-Agassiz Chamber of Commerce