

Background:

Bear's Eatery & Pie Factory is a small 45 seat restaurant located in Kimberley, B.C. We have been operating as a classic diner since February 12, 2011. Just over 10 years. My husband Barry "Bear" Pearce & I, Janet "JJ" Johanson are owner operators. Over our 10 years in business, we have had up to 4 part time employees, plus ourselves at one time. On March 21, 2020, we laid off our employees due to COVID. Bear & I kept the restaurant running ourselves and moving our product take out.

Primary Customers: Kimberley is resort town with skiing in the winter and world class golfing in the summer. Almost every weekend throughout the year there is a festival going on. Be it Flannelfest in February or Julyfest in July. Our customers come from all over the area and the world! We have served people all the way from Dubai and Ireland. We also have an extraordinarily strong community base. Bear's Eatery & Pie Factory is a classic diner and our customers ranged from young adults and families to seniors.

Revenue Base: Our year ends are on August 31. In 2019 our revenue was 150,483. In 2020 our revenue dropped to \$132,849. From September 2020 to today April 7, 2021 our revenue is only \$50,617 putting us on track to come in under \$100,000 this year. A drop of over 35% since the start of COVID.

Tourism Supply Chain: With travel restrictions in place and government bodies strongly encouraging people not to travel to BC, it has affected our community and our restaurant dramatically. We have had to totally reinvent ourselves, doing more frozen take n' bake options, on-line ordering and Farmer's Markets through the summer. Hoping to just survive.

Government Decisions: Obviously, these government shutdowns have affected so many restaurants along with many other small businesses. Our revenue is way down, however, ALL the bills still come in at 100%. We still must have our bi-annual inspections, hood cleaning, licenses, insurance etc. PLUS the expense to flip to take out from dine in is huge. Containers, packaged condiments etc. Not to mention plexy glass partitions, sanitization expenses. They just expect an industry already with very slim profit margins to pick up the tab AND continue to pay the bills. If they want to help, help with some bill payment relief. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THIS INDUSTRY HAS BEEN TARGETED.

Show me the proof that restaurants are the main cause of COVID transmissions. From what I've seen, small business are much better equipped to handle the sanitization of their establishment better then the big box stores.

Community Contribution: This location has been a restaurant in Kimberley for 53 years. Bear's Eatery has been a part of the Kimberley community since 2011. We have sponsored many local charities, service clubs as well as our local Dynamiter hockey team. We cater to our special needs and we offer home cooked meals that many of our seniors depend on. We pay our taxes, just like everyone else. We have put everything we have into our business. It would be heartbreaking to lose it all due to NO FAULT of our own.

Personal Implications: COVID has taken its toll on many people, including our customers. We have been stressed to the nines worrying that this could be the end of us. Even though we own our building, we would be hard pressed to sell a restaurant for its full value during these times. The shutdowns have also affected market value for restaurants. We may all be in the same storm, but our boats are quite different. Government officials are on a cruise ships and we're on dinghy's with holes. Trying very hard to stay positive, but we are now in our early 60's and feeling very scared that our retirement will be nonexistent. Feeling very, very scared.

