To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 10, 2023 City Council meeting on item 2023.MM6.1, Supporting Small Businesses: Calling on the Federal Government to Forgive a Portion of the Canada Emergency Business Account Loans - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Alejandra Bravo

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

As a small business owner concerned by a somewhat uncertain economic and consumer future of the next year(s), some flexibility in the CEBA loan forgiveness + repayment plan is more than necessary. The repayment deadline will not be reachable for us due to slower-than-hoped recovery from COVID affected sales as well as challenging cost of living in our city, and as such the added interest on the entire debt will be a large and challenging added expense. A repayment plan with more flexibility could help solve this for many struggling business who risk of closing or, at the very least, unable to grow.

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Our retail store is open for service at reduced hours, and we are also available for by-appointment visits.

Current Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12:00-5:00pm Sunday 12:00-4:00pm <u>https://caskmusic.ca/pages/hours-location</u>

Additional availability by appointment - https://caskmusic.ca/pages/book-appointment