



Representing Business. Celebrating Business People. Since 1905

---

Chad Curtis  
Clerk  
County of Prince Edward  
332 Main Street  
Picton, ON K0K2T0

**Re: Recommendations for the Mobile Canteen, Food Truck and Refreshment Vehicle By-Law 1778-2006**

Dear Clerk,

On behalf of the Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce and our 285 members, thank you for your leadership of the first comprehensive review and update of the County by-laws and policies since amalgamation in 1998.

The Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce undertook an initial review of the Mobile Canteen, Food Truck and Refreshment Vehicle By-Law 1778-2006 with leadership from its Advocacy Committee in the fall of 2019. As the global pandemic took hold in 2020, the process that had been initiated was paused. It was activated again in early 2021, with input from PEC Chamber members, community businesses, and food truck operators. The review provided recommendations and identified opportunities to modernize the by-law, minimize general risk for the business community, and help operational functions of the mobile food industry.

Principles for a fair and equitable Mobile Canteen, Food Truck and Refreshment Vehicle By-Law include:

- **Modernize the regulatory definitions, regulations, and licensing to reflect how food is prepared.** Not all food trucks, mobile canteens and refreshment vehicles present the same amount of risk associated with the current definitions. Businesses would like to see the way in which they operate (hood vent, non-hood vent and self-propelled) reflected in the by-law definitions, licensing, and regulations. For example, smoked meat and barbeque is transported and prepared inside a food truck but cooked outside the truck. Currently the licensing leads to unfair costs for different types of mobile food operators.
- **A clear and transparent roadmap to licensing.** Vehicles that operate within the limits of the County must hold a valid license, however vehicles that come into the County for sanctioned functions, special events, farmers markets, festivals and fairs, etc. do not. This is unfair and unjustified. Furthermore, permanent County food truck operators sometimes pay twice (example rent to a vendor) to operate in the County while visiting operators sometimes do not pay at all, nor adhere to the same inspections and bylaws. There should be an even playing field for all operators (license requirements and fees), regardless of their provenance.
- **Review the limitations of zones in which a food truck can be situated.** Food trucks, mobile canteens and refreshment vehicles offer the various regions of the County the ability to build community, accessibility, diversity, economic development, and employment opportunities. Core commercial zones in the County are well served by a variety of bricks and mortar food-based businesses. Consideration of infrastructure impacts, ranging from parking, garbage/sanitization, traffic congestion, and crowding in these zones could adversely affect the existing food-based businesses. However, these considerations should not restrict the opportunity for economic development in underserved areas. For example, providing options for residents and tourists during peak times when restaurants are at capacity as well as provide late-night eating options during festivals and celebrations in the County. Food trucks are



Representing Business. Celebrating Business People. Since 1905


---

a cost-effective way for culinary entrepreneurs to launch their business and test the market. Additionally, they also allow small communities and other business operations the ability to expand services or grow and strengthen their businesses. Their mobility can also be a positive attribute in that a small operator can and should be allowed to move their rig to serve different locations/events around the County (or a least be offered the choice of obtaining a one-location versus a variable location license). Food truck location hosts or landlords should also have the ability to convene pop-up food fairs, where more / several mobile food vendors could participate in food festivals or events.

- **Environmentally conscious service regulations.** In 2019, Council declared a climate emergency whereas the municipality and the people have a duty to protect the land, resources, and environment. We recommend the addition of a green or sustainable regulatory inclusion that addresses single use plastics in favour of biodegradable or compostable dinnerware and grey water washing. We also suggest the possibility of a license rebate to act as an incentive for operators to supply their own power through alternative means such as solar energy or other.

As business and community leaders we stand ready to work with you to ensure a modern and sustainable by-law. We would be happy to discuss this issue further and look forward to continuing to work with you and the municipality on solutions that support the health of business and our economy.

Sincerely,



Lesley Lavender  
*Executive Director*  
*Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce*

CC:

Todd Davis, Director of Community Services, Programs and Initiatives

Emily Cowan, Community Programs Supervisor

Kim Koster, Programs Advisor

Mayor Steve Ferguson

Marcia Wallace, CAO

Councillor Jamie Forrester, PEC Chamber Board of Directors Council Ex Officio

Duarte Da Silva, PEC Chamber Board President

Ely T, PEC Chamber Board of Directors, Advocacy Committee Chair