



CALL TO ACTION!

Dear Members of the KMBIA,

The City of Toronto is reviewing new possible fees for Sidewalk Cafés & Marketing Displays. ML&S is recommending a new **much higher fee** structure which I will detail below. I write to you today because there will be a meeting at City Hall on Monday to present this to merchants and discuss its effects. I would urge you to show up and voice your opinion re: these proposed high increases.

Toronto City Hall (100 Queen St. West)

2 - 4pm

Monday, January 30th

Committee Room 1, Second floor

In the spreadsheet below, the current cost was established in 1994. With the assistance of the Bank of Canada using numbers from Statistics Canada, I have established that inflation has risen at an annual average rate of 1.82% which equals an increase of 48.78% over the past 22 years. It is also important to note that these fees are annual **per square meter (\$/m²)**.

	Cafe Permit Current	Cafe Permit Indexed to Inflation	Cafe Permit (Alcohol) Proposed	Cafe Permit (No Alcohol) Proposed	Marketing Permit Current	Marketing Permit Indexed to Inflation	Marketing Permit Proposed
\$ Cost	78.71	117.11	296.01	272.33	89.51	133.18	234.44
% Change		48.78%	376.07%	345.99%		48.78%	261.91%

Please note the much higher fees as compared to indexed to inflation. Also note that ML&S is proposing to phase these new fees in over a period of 5 years (but immediately for new businesses).

So, let's say you have a 10m² patio... that means:

	Current Annual Cost	Proposed Annual Cost
AGCO Patio	\$787.10	\$2,960.10
non-AGCO Patio	\$787.10	\$2,729.30
Boulevard Marketing	\$895.10	\$2,344.40



This proposal appears to me to be a revenue grab plain and simple. It is my hope that you agree and will show up to next Monday's meeting to voice your consternation.

Do note that we do have an opportunity to affect change to these proposed fee increases and NOW is the time for us to do something about it.

I also plan to write a letter to our City Councillor once enough of you have agreed with me (instructed me) that these proposed fee increases are too much for small independent businesses to absorb. I view them as an assault not only on our businesses but also on the streetscape of our neighbourhood. We should not be raising the cost of living for Torontonians proportionally to the increase in real estate speculation by international investors who do not live and work here.

I have made an effort to condense information down a short communicable length, but there are of course more details. I would be happy to email you some documents provided by the City. There are also new guidelines coming for patios and sidewalk navigability. Please email me to request materials: patrick@kensingtonmarketbia.com

What we can support: 1. The current proposal will allow minuscule patios for free "as of right". 2. The Mayor has recently indicated that he will seek remove a tax break for vacant stores that will yield the City an estimated \$22 Million annually. I propose that we support this motion seeing that we do not want vacant store fronts.

I sincerely hope that a decent number of you will be able to make it to Monday's meeting at City Hall with me and make clear that increases of this level are not acceptable for our community.

With thanks and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Morrison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Morrison
Coordinator, Kensington Market BIA
416-323-1924