

March 27, 2023

To: Mayor and Council  
City of Kelowna

Via email: Chris Babcock, Event Development Supervisor [cbabcock@kelowna.ca](mailto:cbabcock@kelowna.ca)

**Re: Meet me on Bernard & Patio Extension Program Support**

To Whom it may concern,

As the Central Okanagan's leading destination organization, we know that a successful and attractive travel destination needs to offer a wide variety of attractions, events, and business offerings to residents and visitors. Having participated in the Meet Me on Bernard Program in 2021 and 2022 we have witnessed the direct impact that this program has had in creating a vibrant activation driving economic benefit, increased quality of life, and an additional active transportation corridor in Kelowna's downtown.

Tourism Kelowna supports the City Staff recommendation to approve an earlier opening date of the May long weekend for the 200 block of the Meet me on Bernard program, as well as an earlier opening date of May long weekend for patio extensions utilizing only parking stalls for businesses wishing to participate on the 300, 400, and 500 blocks of Bernard Avenue.

Following consultation of businesses on these blocks, and surveying residents and visitors in previous years, we believe these initiatives will enhance the Kelowna experience for visitors to our city and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Sincerely,

*Chris Lewis*

Chris Lewis  
Director of Destination Development