



Hello Peter Tabuns, (MPP Toronto-Danforth),

My name is Jalynn Bosley. I own a small outdoor education business, based out of your constituency in Toronto called ALIVE Outdoors. We work with schools throughout Ontario, and a few international schools. Our mission is "To use experiential education to empower participants to recognize and embrace their inner potential, helping people build enriching and respectful relationships with themselves, others and nature."

I used to be a teacher with the Toronto District School Board, and 20 years ago I started ALIVE Outdoors from scratch. We now are fortunate to work with over 5500 students a year. It feels like purposeful work, and using the beautiful Canadian landscape as our classroom is a gift. The people that work with me are all passionate educators who have chosen to live a lifestyle where money is not their primary focus. Living with intention and engaging young people is the driving force behind the work we all do.

I have no doubt that you are hearing from countless small business owners regarding the devastation Covid-19 has caused, and yet many of those business are able to start the journey to getting back on their feet. Camps and outdoor education businesses have no way of recovering at this time. We are all treading water to survive, and soon, many camps and companies like mine will drown. Summer camps have lost out on their ability to make any money at all this year, and my company has no way of recovering until we are able to bring students together again. Many of us will not survive if we do not get some government support.

Young people are going to need the wilderness to heal. We are living at a time where we must help students connect to themselves, their peers and nature. We have all been forced to be in front of screens, but this cannot last. Young people need to hold a paddle rather than their phone. They need to be amidst the trees, working with empowering role models. They need to see the stars. They need to learn to have authentic conversations in person, without the endless distractions in the city. If we don't help to create enriching experiences for young people in nature, then they will never have the reason to care for it and fight for it when they are older and in leadership positions.

The Ontario Camp Association, of which I am a member, has sent letters to several Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Finance. I would be very appreciative if you could bring our concerns to the immediate attention of your caucus colleagues and to the government as time is of the essence. Thank you in advance for your support. The future of young people depends on it!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jalynn Bosley'.

www.aliveoutdoors.com

jal@aliveoutdoors.com

416.429.8082