



April 9, 2021

His Worship Gordon Krantz  
Mayor, Town of Milton  
Milton Town Hall,  
150 Mary Street,  
Milton ON L9T 6Z5

Dear Mayor Krantz,

**Re: Racing during a Lockdown/Shutdown Situation**

On behalf of Woodbine Mohawk Park and the thousands of families in horse racing in the Halton Region, thank you for your ongoing support of our industry over the years.

At Woodbine Entertainment, we continue to be very supportive of the Government of Ontario's efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 in our province. The health and safety and wellbeing of our employees, horse people and communities will always be of the highest priority for us.

Yesterday, in response to the Government of Ontario's declaration of a Provincial State of Emergency and province-wide 28-day stay-at-home order, we made the decision to stop training at Woodbine Mohawk Park where live racing has been suspended since April 3, the first day of the 'emergency brake' shutdown. We also announced the postponement of our Thoroughbred season at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto.

This is now the third time that racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park has been suspended since the pandemic started in Ontario just over a year ago. As a result, we are seeing a significant number of trainers taking their horses to the United States where there are plenty of racing opportunities.

This is a very serious situation that has the potential to cause irreparable long-term damage to our business and the horse racing industry in the GTA which supports approximately 10,000 jobs and generates more than \$650,000,000 in GDP and nearly \$250,000,000 in tax revenue on an annual basis.

In addition to the economic importance of Woodbine Mohawk Park to the GTA and Halton Region, Woodbine Entertainment supports the entire horse racing industry in the province that supports more than 30,000 jobs, many of which are in rural Ontario. Further, Woodbine



Mohawk Park is arguably the number one Standardbred racetrack in North America which is critical to the ecosystem of harness racing and Standardbred breeding across the continent.

This is why it is vitally important to our industry and the thousands of families in Ontario who rely on horse racing as a way of life to be permitted to safely operate live racing, even in a 'Grey' Lockdown situation, once the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Over the past several weeks, we have had very positive conversations with the Premier's Office and last week we met with Halton Region about our request to be permitted to safely operate live racing during a lockdown situation. These discussions included a detailed explanation of our commitment to safety, stringent COVID-19 Prevention Protocols, and the success we have had in limiting any spread of the virus on our properties. Since we resumed racing at Woodbine Mohawk Park in June of 2020, we have safely operated more than 2,600 races without a single case of on-site transmission of the virus. (For your reference, I have attached the document we shared with Halton Region that includes an overview of our operations and protocols).

These discussions have led to receiving high-level support from the provincial government and local health authorities and it appears that there is an understanding of the severity of the situation, and most importantly, that horse racing is an outdoor sport that is proven safe. However, we are now at a critical time where we need to take action to ensure we are permitted to safely operate live horse racing (without spectators) as soon as the stay-at-home order is lifted.

We would be happy to further discuss this situation with you at your convenience. Any support you might be able to provide us would be greatly appreciated by Woodbine Mohawk Park and the thousands of people eager to get back to racing safely and earning a living for their families.

Sincerely,

**WOODBINE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP**

Jim Lawson  
CEO