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The Honourable **NAME OF THE MP**
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear **NAME OF THE MP**,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and all professional DJs nationwide.

COVID-19 has completely shut down the wedding and entertainment industry. Based on the assessment criteria that is outlined by the Public Health Agency of Canada, weddings and entertainment events such as festivals and fundraisers are some of the highest risk public gatherings because of the high likelihood of close contact between individuals, as well as the number of guests who travel in order to attend. There are a number of medical experts who have spoken publicly about the likelihood that large gatherings (mostly spoken of as events with more than 50 people) will be restricted until a vaccine is ready for distribution, and that it is at least a year away. The average size of a wedding in Canada is 129 guests, which automatically excludes weddings from even eased restrictions on public gatherings.

 If weddings are not able to happen in 2020, most wedding vendors will have no business income for the entire year. This situation also impacts business income in 2021. Two thirds of the 160,000+ weddings in Canada happen between June and September, with August being the most popular month to get married. Wedding season in Canada is typically considered to run from April to October, with the majority of weddings taking place on Saturdays. Our “inventory” of available dates to accommodate couples who are rescheduling their 2020 dates to 2021 severely limits our ability to book new events in 2021 that would become our source of income for that year, and that assumes that businesses have enough resources to be able to stay afloat for an entire year with no income.

The current Emergency Financial Options offered by the government for businesses consist of a repayable loan for business owners, and partial financial support for their employees. A loan that is repayable at the end of 2022 is risky for businesses who may have to plan for a year or more of operations where they will earn no income. Some of our members may qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which offers $2000 every four weeks for up to 16 weeks. Most of our members will not be able to go back to work after the 16 week period expires due to necessary restrictions on the size of public gatherings, or because all of the weddings booked this year have either canceled their event, or moved it to 2021. Most of our members are small business owners who do not qualify for Employment Insurance and will be left with no source of income once the 16 weeks expire.

On behalf of myself and all professional DJs nationwide, we ask that the Federal Government extend the CERB benefits for people who will be unable to operate and earn income during the 2020 wedding season and possibly beyond due to COVID-19 and the necessary restrictions that the government has put in place to protect the health and safety of all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

***YOUR-NAME-HERE***

**Owner**

***DJ-COMPANY-NAME-HERE***