



March 23, 2020

By email

The Honourable Francois Legault

Premier Ministre du Quebec

RE: Inclusion of our service providers in the list of essential services

I am contacting you on behalf of the Canadian Automatic Merchandising Association (CAMA), a national not-for-profit association representing the National interests of the unattended retailers of food and beverage.

We are requesting the sector be considered an essential service provider and allowed to operate despite the government shutdowns imposed to assist in the prevention of spread of COVID-19. Specifically, we are asking you to include in your announcement an exception for "unattended retail of food and beverage and the supply of office coffee services that are required to support the running of other essential services".

As communities around the world are requiring physical distancing, our teams—much like grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential services—have a unique role in getting customers the critical items they need and this is especially vital for the elderly, people with underlying health issues, and those sick or quarantined.

We are aware of public health orders that have been issued by various governmental agencies requiring residents to limit non-essential travel and shelter at their place of residence. It appears that shortly you will be clarifying that these orders will include exceptions for businesses that are "essential," "critical," "life-supporting," or similarly necessary for communities despite the travel limitations. These exceptions also generally include the companies necessary to support those essential businesses, such as construction contractors and other vendors supporting businesses like our fulfillment services.

Our members have been asked by their customers to continue delivering critical supplies directly to the workplaces and hospitals of people who need them. We need your support to ensure that they are approved to do so.

We understand that similar inclusions were made in the list of essential services provided by the US Department of Homeland Security published on March 19.

CAMA is committed to working with the government on the management of this pandemic. Please contact Marie Saint-Ivany [saint-ivany@vending-cama.com](mailto:saint-ivany@vending-cama.com) should you have any questions or wish to arrange a phone meeting.

We appreciate your continued support and partnership.

Chris Stegehuis

President