

The CaféTO program was launched in June and designed as a quick-start program to help get local restaurants back in business while respecting public health guidelines. Today, the program supports more than 780 restaurants in 62 BIAs and more than 90 restaurants outside of BIAs. This includes more than 400 curb lane closures totaling more than 9,000 metres of café space. Thanks to all those who have supported CaféTO and our local restaurant community.



CaféTO Survey

Tell us about your experience with the CaféTO program! Your responses will help inform recommendations to City Council on the potential future of the program, beyond this year. We want your input on things such as process improvements, fee structures and other supports that may be required.

[Please click here for the CaféTO Survey](#)



Portable Heating Units

Portable heating devices, including fire fueled appliances like propane patio heaters, will be allowed on all outdoor patio types in Toronto, including sidewalks and curb lane cafés. Toronto Fire Services have provided a set of safe operation guidelines on **Page 2** of this update. It is critically important that everyone read, understand and follow all safety requirements for any devices used.

Your portable heating appliance must:

- Be certified by CSA/ULC
- Meet the requirements of TSSA Act 2000
- Be designed for outdoor use only
- Have an anti-tilt feature that automatically shuts off the heater
- Be free-standing, with a minimum height of 160 cm (65inches)
- Table top heating appliances **are not** permitted



The CaféTO program ends in late fall, pending any possible forecasted snowfall. More information will be provided in early 2021 about what to expect next year.



Preparing your Café for Cooler Weather

With colder weather approaching, you may wish to opt out of your CaféTO curb lane closure area. Please email cafeto@toronto.ca when you are ready to close your café and we will schedule a removal date with you.

Please keep the following in mind as the weather changes:

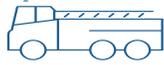
- Take extra caution as the amount of daylight is reduced
- Forecasted snowfall may result in the removal of CaféTO patios



Tents and Enclosures

- Tents and other similar structures are not permitted in curb lane closure areas to ensure full visibility for all road users
- Toronto Public Health Guidelines indicate that a roof, canopy, tent, awning is permitted for outdoor dining but at least two full sides of the outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked in any way. More details are available [here](#)
- A reminder that, for public safety and accessibility reasons, nothing may be drilled or affixed to the sidewalk or roadway
- Do not operate a fueled heating appliance in any enclosed or partially enclosed area

General Safety Requirements



Toronto Fire Services Guidelines for the Safe Use of Heaters on Outdoor Patios

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the safe installation, operation and maintenance of portable outdoor patio heating units. Follow all manufacturer guidelines for assembly, installation and maintenance of the appliance. Seek the assistance of a qualified professional if required.



Installation Requirements

✓ **DO** install your portable heating appliance:

- On a non-combustible solid surface (i.e. not on grass or uneven sidewalk)
- Out of the wind. Wind negatively impacts efficiency and can create a hazard if the unit is blown over
- With a minimum of 1 metre (3 ft) clearance from the base of the unit to any combustible material

X DO NOT install your portable heating appliance:

- Under fire escapes
- Within a means of egress or adjacent to an exit
- Underneath a combustible structure (i.e. canopies, awnings, tents, wood framework)
- Adjacent to or otherwise obstructing firefighting equipment like fire hydrants or Siamese connections
- Near or attached to trees, utilities or other street elements



Keep the pedestrian clearway free of power cables and cords at all times.



Fueled Heating Appliances

If you choose to use a propane or other fire fueled heating appliance, please ensure you closely follow these specific safety guidelines:

- Do not store the unit indoors
- Keep a maximum of one (1) day's supply of propane on site
- The maximum allowable propane tank size is a single 20 lb tank (approximately 10 hours of operation)
- Do not move portable heater while the flame is open. Ensure the gas supply is properly shut off and the unit is cool before relocating
- Follow all manufacturer safety requirements for the safe transportation, operation and storage of fuel
- Each propane tank used must meet these [requirements](#)

All questions regarding these guidelines
can be directed to Toronto Fire Services at
TFS-Events@toronto.ca