

## Three-hour limit for on-street parking and surface lots returns to support downtown businesses

**March 10, 2021** — As lockdown restrictions slowly lift business is returning to downtown and with it the demand for parking.

With this in mind, the City will begin enforcing the three-hour time limit for on-street parking and surface lots starting Wednesday, March 17.

The move comes as the City continues to offer free parking at on-street spaces, lots and garages in support of local businesses. Ongoing free parking has seen some individuals who would typically park in garages downtown for extended periods moving to on-street spaces and surface lots, causing a reduction in turnover at these spaces and in turn reducing the amount of available parking for patrons accessing businesses.

“We’re not doing away with free parking, but there is a need for a bit tighter enforcement,” said Manager of Revenue Lisa Read, adding, “this will allow us to continue to ensure residents can easily access downtown businesses and services, while ensuring varying parking needs are met by the right resources.”

Those wishing to park for periods longer than three hours can still park free of charge at the Ontario Street and Carlisle Street Garages. Parking at on-street spaces, surface lots and garages will remain free until April 30, 2021.

Ahead of the reintroduction of time limits the City will undertake an education campaign to ensure downtown visitors are aware of the change.

The City will continue to enforce safety-related parking restrictions such as those for fire routes, accessible parking spaces and loading zones.

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