

Support local business this holiday season



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OLD KILDONAN CITY
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Our area and city are home to so many local businesses. These stores and services support economic growth, provide employment opportunities, and make our experiences more vibrant and unique.

This year has been challenging for all of us, amidst health concerns, anxiety, being unable to see loved ones, financial uncertainty, and more. For local shops, there has also been the layer of stress of financially surviving through this pandemic. The necessary and important restrictions implemented to curtail the spread of COVID-19 have had significant impacts on local businesses.

This December, our celebrations and reflections will be very different from past years. In this holiday season, I'd like to encourage all of you to consider purchasing local gifts and foods, if you're financially able to do so. This supports our city's economic recovery, offers meaningful and unique gifts to those we care for.

There's been government support for small businesses, and we all know community support is often what makes or breaks a business. This is why it's been so inspiring to see Winnipeggers rising up to support local. In particular, Obby Khan and Ali Esmail recently launched goodlocal.ca, a website that helps make it easier and more convenient to



Supplied photo

Coun. Devi Sharma (Old Kildonan) (right) picks up a bouquet outside Petals Flowers & Gifts from owner Sabyna Sawka.

buy from local companies. The overwhelming demand they've seen is testament to our city's incredible community spirit.

There are also many other ways to support local businesses. Sharing and engaging with social media hashtags and accounts that promote local businesses can help elevate them to a larger platform and broader reach. I am always proud of the support Winnipeggers show towards small businesses, especially now during these economically challenging

times. Winnipeggers always come together to support one another. That is our way.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or want to share about a local business you're supporting, you can reach me by email at devi@winnipeg.ca or phone at 204-986-5264.

From my family to yours, we wish you peace, health and happiness throughout the coming new year.

Happy holidays.