



OPINION

Take it or leave it

One year in, why is there still price gouging?, asks Arlene Spencer

By [Arlene Spencer](#) Peterborough This Week

Friday, April 23, 2021

When the COVID-19 pandemic found its way into our country, reports of shortages, hoarding and price increases became apparent.

Masks, hand sanitizer, toilet paper and household cleaners skyrocketed, leaving consumers scrambling to stock up. Retailer pricing behaviour has many factors which include shortages, delivery delays and third-party pricing. But now, a year after the beginning of Covid, are these extensive prices still warranted?

During an emergency people are scared, nervous and in need of normalcy. Price gouging has become the ugly imposter on our vulnerability. We see large corporations getting rich by using this predicament placing the squeeze on consumers.

One month ago we bought some lumber. Not to pick on the lumber industry but a piece of 2x4x8 spruce cost us \$8.03 per piece. This past weekend we purchased more of the same plank and were charged \$9.65 per board. A piece of regular ½" standard plywood cost \$65.99 per sheet. Where is the justification in that when it is apparent that lumber yards are full of material?

A piece of meat that was \$10 has been raised to \$14, take-out menu prices are increasing. As consumers we are the ones who are offsetting loss of revenue. During this pandemic the only thing that hasn't increased are people's wages, where does it end? Will these prices ever go back down?

Headlines newsletter

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

As we navigate through this difficult economic time the debate of whether or not price gouging is justified due to supply and demand still remains. At the beginning of the pandemic our government assured us that there would be no price gouging, we all know where that went as we watch the ripple dwindle down on every level of business. I worry if our economy has the economic strength to grow as prices continue to escalate.

This phenomenon is not new. Evident during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918-1920, during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the turn of the century in 2000, price gouging has always been the undesirable catalyst creating consumer hysteria.

Until we can dispose of this pandemic we will remain the victims of consumer gouging and will just have to take it or leave it.

Arlene Spencer is a wife, mother of three grown boys, and a special education educator who has a passion for life. She can be reached at arlenezed@gmail.com.

Tags: [Columns](#), [Opinion](#)

REPORT AN
ERROR

JOURNALISTI
C STANDARDS

ABOUT US

You might be interested in



OPINION

40% is a failing grade

Justin Trudeau's pledge to only cut emissions by 40% by 2030 just doesn't cut it. His announcement at the Global Climate Summit hosted by President Joe Biden on April 22nd was an embarrassment to Canadians who are serious about addressing the clima

2 hours ago

OPINION

Readers continue to react to Peterborough mayor's Tweet, Saturday's anti-lockdown rally

Apr 28, 2021

