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Pandemic-driven outdoor boom will continue

5 Americans' interest in outdoor activities blossomed this year as consumers sought health-conscious ways to spend the time during the coronavirus pandemic. Boat, RV and camping-related sales, like car sales, have surged, despite the pandemic-induced recession, and it has led to higher sales in outdoor attire and other equipment for retailers like L.L.Bean. "We feel like this is not a trend, this is a
10 connection back to nature," he said. "It's an understanding of, you know, the physical and mental benefits of being outside, and we think that that will continue into 2021."
With a global health crisis disrupting the year, 2020 has been "unprecedented" for retail, said Smith, who noted that consumers were looking for both outdoor connections as well as indoor comfort during the spring and summer months. By
15 September, winter was on people's mind as customers began buying up cross
However, brick-and-mortar will still play an important role, especially post-pandemic when consumers will be ready to get out the house, travel and shop in person again, an opportunity to touch and feel the products they are buying, Smith said. "As customers change, the best retailers need to change with them," he said.

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CNBC November 25, 2020

Document 2

Small retailers push back

- 25 Small businesses in Toronto and Peel Region say it's not fair that they should be closed for in-person shopping while big-box stores can sell all manner of goods — from clothing to books to tech gadgets — if they happen to also sell essential products such as groceries. Retailers considered non-essential in Ontario's COVID-19 hotspots were forced to shut their doors Monday to comply with public health
- 30 directives, just as the already beleaguered sector enters the holiday season, its most critical period for sales. Kelly says his organization wants the government to adopt "a small-business-first retail strategy" that allows no more than six people in a business at any given time — three customers and three staff members. "We think that would provide lots of room for physical distancing, take some of the pressure off the big-box
- 35 guys that are seeing huge, huge crowds and long lineups ... while allowing that small firms can eke out a bit of a living."

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