



COVID-19 - Updates from our Chamber and “Partners in Prosperity”

Dear Members and Associates:

I hope you are finding your way through the sea of financial programs for your business. No doubt, there are many and varied and, open for application. There are lessening of gaps, yet, not over. Governments at all levels are now pivoting forward focus on recovery strategies.

Chatham-Kent has established the Economic Recovery Task Force with sector Co-Chairs aligning their committees. Our Board Directors are fully participating on the varied committees, providing a voice for their sector and our members (and fellow business) in like fields. We are pleased to note the many Chamber members participating in a proactive and time sensitive manner, providing quick report delivery to Council on recommended sector supports.

The province has provided hints of stages of opening the doors of business, in a calculated and cautious steps. Wise, I believe.

Tonight, I will be in teleconference call with The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages. Our network meeting, organized by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, will also focus on the rebuilding of our economy as we gradually come out of the pandemic crisis. Our conversation will be on future initiatives that this government should be considering. Keep you posted, as I can.

I imagine many of us watched *Stronger Together* with great interest. The initiative has raised millions for Food Banks across Canada, kudos to all who have contributed. At a local level, on May 16th Chatham-Kent citizens will have the opportunity to pay it forward through our municipal food banks. Check may16miracle.com for details on how you can, easily, help fellow citizens who are in need.

This information, and that below, is for open to sharing, please pass it on.

Stay Safe, Distanced and Connected. Yours in Prosperity, *Gail Hundt* / President & CEO gail@chatham-kentchamber.ca

Visit the *Canadian Business Resilience Network* at CBRN.ca for the most up-to-date, relevant tools and links to aid you through this crisis and through to the path of success.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. Below, and other, resources area available at www.chatham-kentchamber.ca



Physically Distanced, Staying Connected

BYOB HAPPY HOUR

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Chamber Members Only
Please note this event has a maximum of 20 participants

Credentials will be provided after registering for the event

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Details Announced

The Government of Canada announced it has reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to provide rent relief for small businesses. The program will see tenants receive a 75% reduction in their rent payments for April, May and June.

The program is for small businesses, non-profits and charities that:

- Pay less than \$50,000 per month in rent.
- Have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70% drop versus pre-COVID-19 revenues.

The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50% of the eligible rent payments. The loans will be forgiven if the property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75% and agrees not to evict the tenant.

[More Information](#)

Step-By-Step Guide: Get Ready For CEWS Payments

The Canada Revenue Agency will be opening the application window for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) on April 27, with payments beginning on May 5.

To make sure you're ready to apply and receive payments, please complete these steps today.

[CEWS Application Guide](#)

Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund Announced

On April 25, the Government of Canada announced the creation of a \$62.5 million fund to help businesses:

- access short-term financing to pay for maintenance and inventory costs;
- add storage capacity for unsold product;
- comply with new health and safety measures for workers;
- support new manufacturing/automated technologies to improve productivity and quality of finished seafood products; and,
- adapt products to respond to changing requirements and new market demands.

The Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund will be delivered through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, and Western Economic Diversification Canada. Details on when and how to apply have not been released.

Update from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

The Government of Ontario announced:

- [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#), which outlines the criteria Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will use to advise the government on the loosening of emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces.
- The framework also provides details of an outreach strategy, led by the Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee, to help inform the restart of the provincial economy.
- A gradual approach will be followed to reopen the economy to ensure there are appropriate measures in place for workplaces to open safely. No dates have been provided for any of these stages. [Learn more.](#)

[Read the OCC's response here](#)

[The Government of Canada announced:](#)

- The Federal Government has reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)** for small businesses.
- The Ontario government is partnering with the federal government to provide urgent relief for small businesses and landlords affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The province is committing \$241 million through the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA). This will help ensure businesses are ready to reopen once emergency measures are lifted. [Learn more.](#)
- This program will **lower rent by 75% for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19.**

[Read the OCC's response here.](#)

PROGRAM DETAILS

- The program will provide forgivable loans to **qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50%** of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during **April, May, and June.**
- The loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to **reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75%** for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. **The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25% of the rent.**

ELIGIBILITY

- Businesses **paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations**
- Businesses who have experienced at least a **70% drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues.** This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.
- Support for larger businesses will be announced in the coming days.

TIMELINE

- The **CECRA is expected to be operational by mid-May**, with commercial property owners lowering the rents of their small business tenant's payable for the months of April and May, retroactively, and for June.

Further details on CECRA to come.

Update from the Federal Government

The Prime Minister [announced](#) \$62.5 million of new assistance to the fish and seafood processing sector. This new Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund will help businesses:

- access short-term financing to pay for maintenance and inventory costs;
- add storage capacity for unsold product;
- comply with new health and safety measures for workers;
- support new manufacturing/automated technologies to improve productivity and quality of finished seafood products; and
- adapt products to respond to changing requirements and new market demands.

THE ROAD AHEAD - There has been a lot of interest in what restarting the economy and the path to recovery will look like. Today, the Prime Minister spoke about how our government is working together with Canada's chief medical officers to establish principles and guidelines for all Canadians. While the realities of each province and territory is unique, we must be coordinated as a country. That is why we have been [in close contact with the provinces and territories](#) to discuss the conditions necessary to safely restart the Canadian economy. We must get this next phase right, or we risk losing all the progress we've made so far.

THE PAST WEEK IN REVIEW:

Tuesday

We [announced](#) an investment of \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians – who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 – through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need. Also on this day, we launched the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy calculator](#) to support employers as they prepare to apply for the CEWS on Monday, April 27th.

Wednesday

The Prime Minister [announced](#) an investment of \$9 billion to support post-secondary students and recent graduates to help them through this crisis and play a central role in ensuring Canada emerges from these challenges stronger than ever. We are:

- Creating the new Canada Emergency Student Benefit (\$1,250 to \$1,750 per month) to help students and recent grads not covered by CERB.
- Creating the new Canada Student Service Grant to help students serve their communities through national service.
- Doubling the Canada Students Grants Program
- Broadening the eligibility for Student Financial Assistance
- Enhancing the Canada Student Loans Program
- Increasing support for Indigenous students

Also on this day, we reached a milestone on our efforts to bring Canadians home. Thanks to the hard work Global Affairs employees and Canadian missions around the world, we have helped [bring back about 20,000 Canadians who were stranded](#) around the world because to pandemic travel restrictions. This hard work continues so that Canadians can be brought home safely.

On Wednesday, Canada and 23 WTO members signed onto a [joint statement](#) to reinforce our cooperation on open trade in agricultural and agri-food products – ensuring people in Canada and around the world can access the food and agricultural products they need. We will continue to work with our international partners to keep trade flowing and predictable, and essential supply chains open.

Thursday

Researchers and scientists in Canada and around the world are working hard to better understand the virus, and its impacts on people and communities. We need long-term solutions to the virus. That's why the Prime Minister announced more than [\\$1 billion in support of a national medical and research strategy](#) to address COVID-19, that includes vaccine development, the production of treatments, and the tracking and testing of the virus. This new funding builds on the previously announced \$275 million for COVID-19 research and medical countermeasures.

Friday

Yesterday, Minister Ng joined Minister Morneau to [announce](#) that the federal government had reached an agreement with all provinces and territories to implement the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. This program will lower rent by 75% for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. As well, Minister Bibeau [announced](#) investments to help Canadian businesses in the agri-food sector expanding online, providing more opportunities for producers to grow their business and offer more good food choices for Canadian families who are shopping from home during the COVID-19 outbreak.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Colleges And Institutes Canada Webinar For SMEs - Wednesday, April 29th

SMEs interested in knowing more about the innovation and research supports available through local colleges [REGISTER NOW](#)

What To Feel when stressors collide

Wednesday, April 29th 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Canadian Business Resilience Network presents What To Feel stressors collide. Mary Ann Baynton, Director of Collaboration and Strategy from Workplace Strategies for Mental Health (compliments of Canada Life), will discuss building resilience when stressors are high. [REGISTER NOW](#)

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

[Cross Border Transportation During COVID-19](#) **WATCH NOW:** <https://bit.ly/2zqtH8T>

You can find a full list of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce webinars [here](#)

Through our relations and affiliations with the Ontario Chamber and Canadian Chambers of Commerce, you are invited to participate in the webinars that they have organized, and we recommend you participate in to help guide you through relief programs and availabilities.



50%

Great news! The discount for the Chamber UPS Canada shipping program has increased to

Make the most out of your Chamber membership and take advantage of some of the most competitive rates available on shipping services with the UPS Members Benefit Program. We're excited to share this opportunity with you and enhance our members' savings through UPS*. Visit www.membersbenefitprogram.com/CKChamber or call 1-800-MEMBERS (1-800-636-2377), M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST. and see how you'll save!



As a member of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce you can SAVE MONEY with these GREAT Value Added Programs offered by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Shipping Discounts ~ Insurance Plans ~ Employee Benefit Plans ~ Gas Discounts & Great Rates for Visa/Mastercard



Check out these Value Added Programs TODAY [click the logos for more information!](#)

Chamber Members!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR BUSINESS IS UP TO!

We want to continue to support our Chamber members during this time and encourage our community to shop local where they can.

Please send us your promotions, updates or special offers and we will happily share them on our Social Media.

This offer is only available for our Chamber members.

Resources:

Local

[Public Health Information on COVID-19](#)

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Community Futures CK](#)

[Business Credit Availability Program](#)

Provincial & Federal

[Canadian Business Resilience Network](#)

[Government of Canada Support for Small Businesses](#)

[Wage subsidy for Businesses](#)

[Chamber Plan Ontario](#)

[Canada's COVID-10 Economic Response Plan](#)

[Ontario Chamber of Commerce – COVID-19 Preparedness Toolkit](#)

[Canadian Chamber of Commerce – Pandemic Preparedness Guide for Business](#)
