



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

Dear Members and Associates:

Virtual gatherings and meetings are well underway as we prepare for post pandemic recovery. This weeks meeting with Federal Minister Joly, Ministry of Economic Development and Official Languages brought about much discussion on proposed timelines, severely affected sectors and ‘if’ sustainment can be maintained until such times when sectors can freely do business. Will the money last? Can business last?... as the provincial government holds the key to unlocking the doors, business is anxious, and, yet, wisely cautious. Further in these discussions was the newly released Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program. The program is a four partner initiative between federal & provincial governments, the tenant and the landlord. Final agreement is in the hands of the landlord by negating part of the rent. One can imagine how this might fair out. No fault, no blame. We know, for the most part, the intent is to assist small business who are left to pay rent, yet have little to no income coming in. I am hearing of wonderful landlord/tenant relations in our community with each helping and holding up the other. I am also hearing of different circumstances elsewhere across Canada. Please let me know if you are unable to advantage of these arrangements through CERCA. It is not necessary to disclose other parties involved, however, governments won’t amend programs without example. Honestly, I hope not to hear from you, no news is good news.

My morning started with a Zoom meeting of the CK Economic Recovery Steering Committee on our tasks planned for the next few weeks, followed by an afternoon Zoom meeting with Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Statistics Canada on the results of the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions (and recommendations for further actions needed) and will end with a Zoom meeting with peers of Ontario as we support each other. I truly was zooming from meeting to meeting, all for good reason. That is how most days are spent, where it somewhat feels like the movie Groundhog Day, yet, with different faces, topics and, in end, all moving forward.

We started Member Spotlight this week also, (yes, through Zoom!), learning how members are coping and being creative in ‘doing business’. This week we profiled Peach Physiotherapy and asked Steven to ‘bonus’ by sharing stretches that will help you (and me) while sitting at a computer for expansive lengths of time, often, at makeshift desks. I encourage you to check it out on our FB. Thanks for sharing Steve, much appreciated!!

Although we aren’t hearing of many new announcements, I can attest the initiatives of the Chambers at local, provincial and federal levels are not complete, making continued recommendations to current programs as we voice for the many and diverse sectors of business. Unfortunately, there are holes yet to be filled, through money to be shared and money to be saved.

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](mailto:gail@chatham-kentchamber.ca)

Visit the *Canadian Business Resilience Network* at [CBRN.ca](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/chathamkentchamber) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/chathamkentchamber) for up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. Below, and other, resources area available at [www.chatham-kentchamber.ca](http://www.chatham-kentchamber.ca)

---

This Mother’s Day... Shop Members, Shop Local First.

*Their doors may be locked but they are Open for Business*



**THE GLASSHOUSE**  
Nursery & Garden Centre Ltd.

The Glasshouse Nursery & Garden Centre has gone online! [www.glasshousenursery.ca](http://www.glasshousenursery.ca)

If you cannot find what you are looking for give us a call 519-352-1127!  
We have all of your gardening products and gifts for Mom!

Zero-Contact Curb Side Pick Up and home delivery of our bulk landscape material available.



Syd Kemsley Florist is offering safe non contact porch delivery and curbside pick up for the week May 4th to May 9th Monday-Saturday 9-5 pm and Sunday May 10, 9-1 pm.

Our storefront is closed but you can place an order by phone 519-354-1300 or on our website [www.kemsleyflowers.com](http://www.kemsleyflowers.com).

We are also offering free delivery locally in Chatham (outside Chatham a delivery fee will be added).

We have lots to choose from: fresh arrangements, hand tied cut flowers, dish gardens ,outdoor patio pots.



One of the biggest realizations that we've had during this pandemic is how fierce women are.

This Mother's Day, The Purple Pansy is celebrating women!

Nurses, doctors, grocery store employees, truck drivers. Moms, wives, sisters, and fiancées.

All of you deserve to be recognized this mother's day for the incredible women you are.

Trust the professionals at The Purple Pansy to help you choose the perfect gift.

Open mother's day week with curbside preorder pick ups, and preorder porch deliveries.

Call to book your order early 519-354-5555.

[www.purplepansy.ca](http://www.purplepansy.ca)

instagram: thepurplepansy

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Purple-Pansy-flower-boutique-125634247535/>



Physically Distanced, Staying Connected

***BYOB HAPPY HOUR***

*Every Wednesday*

Next one: Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 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](#)

---

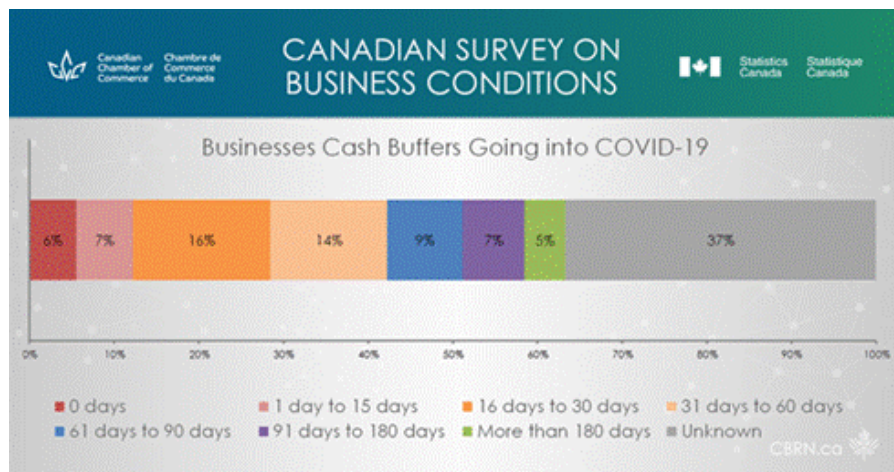
## Support for your business

Find COVID-19 support and other programs and services [here](#)



---

### Canadian Survey on Business Conditions: Results Are In Shows Economic Clock is Ticking



**Thank you to all business owners** for taking the time to participate in the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions! Results will help governments and chambers of commerce across Canada create strategies and mechanisms to foster business continuity during and after COVID-19

[Learn More](#)

---

## Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

### Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Portal

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is administering the CECRA program on behalf of the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories. CMHC now has a portal online for the program; however, applications are still unavailable. [Access the CMHC portal](#)

### Five Keys To Reopening The Economy

Businesses want to ramp up economic activity quickly and safely in a way that allows Canadians to get back to work while protecting employees, customers and the general public. As they implement public health measures, businesses will need time to procure personal protective equipment and change how they operate. Policymakers need to develop clear, predictable measures that are coherent domestically and aligned internationally where possible, and that minimize unintended consequences. Doing so will give Canadians the confidence to return to their workplaces and patronize businesses in their communities. [Read More](#)

### First Ministers Statement On Restarting The Economy

Canada's First Ministers released a joint statement. It includes a set of common principles for restarting the economy and acknowledges the need for a gradual approach that prioritizes public health and allowing for differences between provinces. [Read The Statement](#)

### Quebec & Ontario Release Plans For Reopening

On Monday, both the provinces of Quebec and Ontario released their plans for reopening their economies in the coming weeks and months. Both cautioned that a return to normalcy is, however, still a long-term objective.

[Read Quebec's Plan](#)

[Read Ontario's Plan](#)

### Reopening Canada's Economy: We Need To Hear From You

What issues will impact your company or sector as Canada begins to re-open? What kind of public health guidance will you require from governments? Your insights and needs will inform our discussions with governments as Canada re-opens the economy over the coming months. [Share Your Thoughts](#)

### 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](#)

---

## 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](#)

---

## Update from the Federal Government

On Friday, the Government of Canada announced additional details on the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance](#) (CECRA) for small businesses, which will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been most affected by COVID-19.

Today, more details on the program are now available [from CMHC](#).

CECRA will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May and June. In this way, CECRA will provide relief for small businesses paying less than \$50,000 per month in gross rent that have either been forced to close

due to the pandemic or have had their revenues severely impacted by at least 70 per cent. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will administer the program on behalf the Government of Canada and our provincial and territorial partners.

---

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

**M&A strategies, succession planning and preparing for recover**  
**Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

A live interactive discussion to help you understand how businesses are thinking about their M&A strategies, succession and planning for the eventual rebound as we emerge from lock-down and deploy cash in an era of ultra-low interest rates. **[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.



---

## Chatham-Kent Job Board Helps You Find Employees

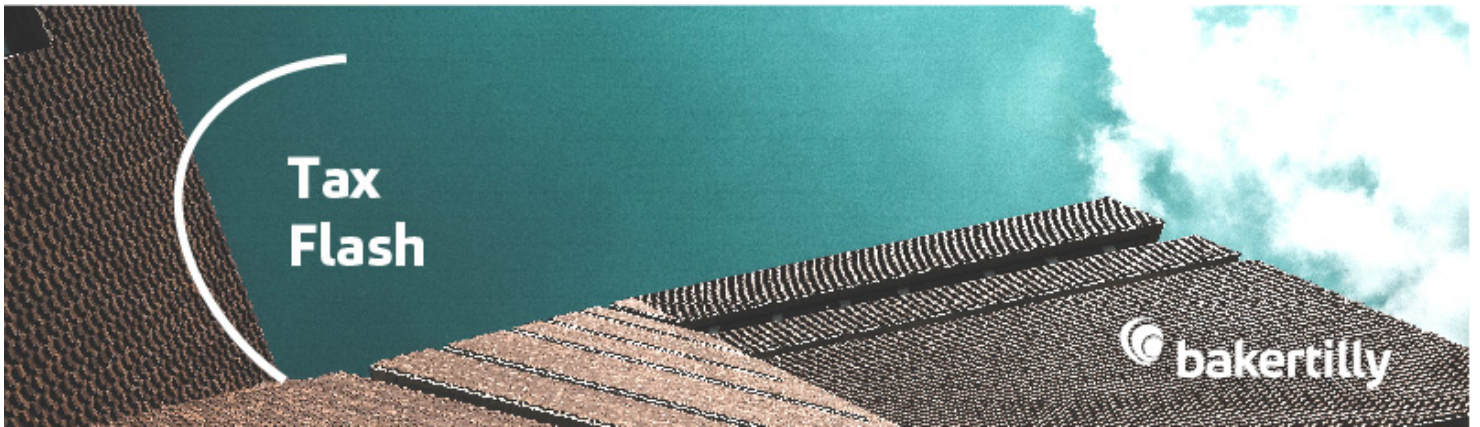
Access to workforce is essential to every business. We have heard from essential businesses across industries such as health, agriculture, manufacturing, service delivery, finance, and many more that are actively seeing new employees for both part-time and full-time roles. We have also heard from businesses who are preparing for when restrictions are lifted that they will need access to employees as well.

To help address this need, you can post positions on the Chatham-Kent Community Job Board. This free tool has been available for several years and has been updated to make it easier for both people to find jobs and for employers to list them.

- [Post Jobs Now](#)
- [View Job Board](#)

If you need help posting a job, contact the Employment Resource Advisors at the Chatham-Kent Employment Resource Centre at 519-436-1123. The advisors are available to assist businesses with posting job opportunities.

---



## Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – Subsidize up to 100% of payroll costs

*John F. Oahey, CPA, CA, TEP, is national director of Tax Services at Baker Tilly Canada*

Today is application day for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), and in certain circumstances, you can get up to 100 per cent subsidy of your payroll costs.

[Read more](#)

Canada Revenue Agency  
[canada.ca/taxes](https://canada.ca/taxes)

### Important information related to SR&ED tax incentives during the COVID-19 crisis

We recognize the vital role that the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program plays in supporting Canadian businesses. We are doing everything we can to ensure that businesses receive their credits as soon as possible during these difficult times, and that innovation and creativity are fully supported when they are most needed.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)'s Business Continuity Plan has been adjusted to include priority activities that support the economic well-being of Canadians. This includes programs like SR&ED.

Here are some measure the CRA is implementing:

- Most refundable claims will be processed as soon as possible with minimal burden on the claimants, injecting funding into businesses that need it now to help manage the adverse financial implications of the pandemic. Claims accepted at this time may be subject to review/audit at a future date to ensure eligibility.
- The CRA is prioritizing objections inventory related to critical programs, including SR&ED claims.

- We will generally not contact small or medium businesses to initiate any SR&ED claim reviews. This pause is reflective of the CRA's efforts to mitigate health risks and minimize the burden on businesses, while concentrating on prioritizing the delivery of benefits to Canadians during this challenging time.
- Any taxpayer under audit who wishes or needs their SR&ED claim review to proceed may work with their auditor remotely by telephone and through [My Business Account](#) to advance the file as much as possible under the current circumstances.
- If you have questions about the status of your SR&ED claim, we continue to be available to help and answer questions; please contact the SR&ED Program in the tax services office that serves your area. For contact information, go to [canada.ca/taxes-sred](https://canada.ca/taxes-sred).
- Should you have questions on other topics such as filing and payment deadlines and proactive relief measures, the CRA's liaison officers will be available exclusively by phone to provide the key information that small businesses and self-employed individuals need most urgently. Business owners and self-employed individuals can fill out the [Liaison Officer Service request form](#) to have a liaison officer contact them by phone.

## For more information

We thank you all for your patience as we navigate through this situation together. To learn more about how the CRA is helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, go to [Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19](#).

For general information on the SR&ED Program, go to [canada.ca/taxes-sred](https://canada.ca/taxes-sred).

---



**Great news! The discount for the Chamber UPS Canada shipping program has increased to 50%**

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](http://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!

---

## Resources:

### Local

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

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Community Futures CK](#)

[Business Credit Availability Program](#)

### Provincial & Federal

[Support For Your Business](#)

[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](#)

