



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

Dear Members and Associates:

Some ‘doors’ opened today. Not in the true sense, yet, applications for the Canada Emergency Business Account financial support opened today through the major financial institutions. Qualification criteria is outlined by the Government of Canada at : <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/additional-support-for-canadian-businesses-from-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>  
From what I am hearing, the banks have probably already reached out to you. If they haven’t, be proactive and make the contact.

Another session has been organized on *Understanding and Accessing BCAP Programs and Capital Loans* for Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open, with details below. Co-ordinated by our Indispensable Partner of Business, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the session is supported by experts in the finance sector and open for your participation.

In our Canadian Chamber Network meeting of today, together with Canada Revenue Agency senior management, much discussion was held around eligibilities and access of relief programs, exceptions, timelines, and any further changes Parliament may still consider. Clearly, the message was that the government “has a goal is to get money into the hands of business and support the continuity of business”. Your voice is still needed..... The deadline for [Canadian Survey on Business Conditions \(CSBC\)](#) has been extended to Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> to provide your input to help government tailor programs and practices in support of business.

It is reassuring to note the many, many people, businesses and organizations working together to beat this horrid pandemic and maintain the Canadian economy, health and well-being. From our front line workers through to the young child posting coloured hearts in windows “THANK YOU” for your dedication and support, the days ahead seem to be brighter.

I hope you all take time this weekend to make Easter memories. Consider a distanced dinner together via Facetime, Zoom, Skype or, simply, a telephone conversation or, possibly a ‘porch drop’ dinner to family and friends. In these times of physical distancing, it is important to reach out and connect. Be creative, have fun, stay distanced.

Happy Easter. 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](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. Below, and other, resources area available at [www.chatham-kentchamber.ca](http://www.chatham-kentchamber.ca)

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#### **APRIL 14: UNDERSTANDING AND ACCESSING BCAP PROGRAMS AND CAPITAL LOANS DURING COVID-19**

- Join us on **Tuesday, April 14** from **12:00 pm to 1:15 pm** for a discussion on understanding and accessing the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) and capital loans during COVID-19.
  - On March 13, 2020, the Government announced the BCAP to help Canadian businesses obtain financing during the current period of significant uncertainty. The BCAP will support access to financing for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions. [Learn more.](#)
- During this event you will get to hear from three experts from some of Canada's top institutions: Meridian, MNP and RBC, as they share the most up-to-date information on accessing the BCAP programs and capital loans.
- **Featured panelists:**
  - Don Ludlow, Regional Vice President, Business Financial Services, RBC
  - Jason Teal, Vice President, Business Banking, Meridian
  - Dan Porter, Senior Vice President and Director Corporate Finance, MNP
- [Click here to register!](#) Businesses of all industries and sizes are encouraged to attend.



#### **CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY UPDATE**

- This afternoon, Prime Minister Trudeau proposed refined criteria for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. [See the announcement.](#)
- For March, the 30 per cent revenue benchmark has been reduced to 15 per cent, recognizing that many businesses experienced effects of the crisis partway through the month. Businesses will still be required to demonstrate 30 per cent decrease in revenue for April and May.
- Businesses can compare their revenue of March, April and May 2020 to that of the same month of 2019, or to an average of their revenue earned in January and February 2020.
- Employers will be allowed to measure revenues either on the basis of accrual accounting (as they are earned) or cash accounting (as they are received). Special rules will be provided for corporate groups, non-arm's length entities and joint ventures.
- Registered charities and non-profit organizations can choose to include or exclude government funding when calculating revenues.

- [Visit our FAQ for more on what this means for your business.](#)
- **OCC Response:** [Read the OCC's response to the Government of Canada's amendments to the federal emergency wage subsidy.](#)

## COVID-19 WORKING GROUP

- We have also launched the COVID-19 Working Group. We will be working with members from all sectors to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, support government and the health care system, and plan our recovery. See the announcement on social: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#).

### Watch Now: OCC and Fragomen Webinar

This afternoon, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and [Fragomen](#) hosted a webinar on immigration and mobility impacts. We were joined by two immigration managers from Fragomen's Toronto office who provided the most up-to-date immigration-related intelligence and compliance guidance.

[Click here](#) to watch and access the presentation deck [here](#). We encourage you to share on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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Deadline has been extended to Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>...

## Canadian Survey of Business Conditions

### Canadian Survey On Business Conditions

We've partnered up with Statistics Canada to launch the [Canadian Survey on Business Conditions](#). This comprehensive survey will measure the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian businesses and help the Government of Canada devise strategies and mechanisms to foster the survival and continuity of businesses in Canada.

The survey will examine:

- Changes that businesses have made to adapt to the ongoing situation.
- Challenges businesses continue to face and challenges they expect to face as the recovery begins.
- Trends within the business community

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



We learned of several important changes to the wage subsidy program that will help more businesses access funding:

- A business will now be able to compare its revenue to the same month last year OR an average of January and February 2020. This will help new and growing firms who may not have qualified based on a comparison to the same month in 2019.
- A business needs only to demonstrate a 15% reduction in gross revenues for March. A 30% reduction will still be required to receive the subsidy in April and May.
- The program will now allow businesses to use either accrual or cash accounting methods.
- Employer paid Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) and Quebec Parental Insurance Plan premiums will be reimbursed.
- Registered charities and not-for-profit organizations are eligible employers to apply for the wage subsidy. They also have the choice of whether or not to include government funding in their revenue calculations.
- Businesses can start applying for interest-free loans on April 9. Applications are available through local financial institutions.

While these are positive changes, the Canadian Chamber continues to focus on the importance of getting funds to businesses in days, not weeks.

## The Business Of Business

The Hon. Perrin Beatty, our President and CEO, has a conversation with the Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, on the effects of COVID-19 on SMEs and what resources are available to help them prepare, persevere and, ultimately, prosper through this pandemic.

### **Time Is Of The Essence: Job Numbers Show Urgent Need To Deliver Wage Subsidy**

As expected, today's job numbers were historically bad. More than one million Canadians have lost their livelihoods during the COVID-19 crisis.

Countless more jobs will be lost if we can't urgently get employers the wage supports they need. However, businesses are still weeks away from receiving the funds they require to support their employees.

### **Read Our Statement**

### **Reminder: Interest-Free Loans Now Available**

The Government of Canada is providing small businesses and not-for-profits with interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to help cover costs. The Canada Emergency Business Account program is for businesses with a total payroll between \$50,000 to \$1 million in 2019. Repayment of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (up to \$10,000). Applications are available now through your primary financial institution.

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**Now is the time to work together, in a new (yet old) way!**



***Wouldn't it be great to get the things you need without using money?***

BarterPay® is an organized bartering platform that helps businesses across Canada get the things they need without having to use money. Instead, they can pay for those things using their own goods & services!

So now, you as a business owner, can acquire some of the things you need and pay by issuing your own goods and services to the network and keeping your hard-earned cash in the bank.

GO TO [chamber.barterpay.ca](http://chamber.barterpay.ca) TO LEARN HOW IT WORKS!



Involved in every element of modern business collaboration, Pragmatic strives to offer complete communication solutions to our customers. From audio conferencing to cloud video, our aim is to make it simpler and more cost effective to connect with colleagues and clients across the globe. Pragmatic has been working to connect people and organizations for over 10 years.

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*Here is an example of partners readying for their clients in r*

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## Resources:

### Local

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

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Business Credit Availability Program](#)

### Provincial & Federal

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

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

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

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

[Wage subsidy for Businesses](#)

[Chamber Plan Ontario](#)

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