



Updates from our Chamber and Partners in Prosperity

Hello Members, Hello Associates!

These last days have been a whirlwind for Chatham-Kent. Our local government has implemented a Mandatory Mask By-Law, won in receiving \$5.8 million to maintain critical services affected by COVID-19 and lost in application for upper government funding for arena & amenities.

There is much ado in the community as to whether the mask by-law is a win or loss situation. For me, personally, this is a win. I have not been shy on encouragement of wearing a mask. I do, family and many of my friends as well. To some this is comforting, others not as much. As a Chamber, we very quickly polled our membership on the issue as there was a stirring in community and buzz with Council. Hearing from 116 members over the weekend prior to the Council meeting of Monday night, we shared the results to Council prior to their meeting. The summary of 60.34% - Yes, support (70 responses), 30.17% - No, do not support (35 responses) and 9.48% - Indifferent (11 responses) was useful and appreciated. I am also in agreement that social distancing and sanitizing is the best preventative and hope we don't lose focus on these initiatives. The reality is there are times that one forgets, or is put into circumstances they cannot control. Our local businesses are to be commended for their proactive measures, whether government instituted, or not. For some, the mask will be a welcomed add-on to these controls to continue their day to day operations, bring in upcoming Thanksgiving and Halloween business and welcome the Christmas season. (Sorry to mention fall and winter, however, most businesses plan far ahead, and further out than one season.)

Our members were also asking for education and materials should the by-law pass. Proactively, Chatham-Kent Public Health and Economic Development have guidelines that are easy to follow, posters to download and a plethora of information that will assist business through these stages. Visit www.ckphu.com/covid-19/ and www.chatham-kent.ca/EconomicDevelopment for these and more.

As businesses are rehiring, energizing and gearing for full throttle, there are many more initiatives to support and assist their initiatives. The RAP (Recovery Activation Program) is an instrumental opportunity to help business with hands up information and mentorships on recovery and prosperity. This program is completely free for all non-main street businesses of any size – and has an estimated value of over \$40K. As a partner with TBOT in sharing this program to Chatham-Kent businesses, I encourage one and all businesses to register. RAP is an immersive, highly practical online workshop that helps you identify areas of digital overhaul, helping maintain existing clients and finding new ones in this changed world of business. In 3 steps – 1. Digital Needs Assessment, 2. engage in virtual sessions and 3. Create a Digital Transformation Blueprint with the help of professional, experienced business mentors – you will be well on your way to new growth and opportunities.

The Canada United 'Shop Local' initiative is quickly growing in support, with (lots) more monies and opportunities being added daily. As we build up to a climax shopping weekend late August, I encourage you to visit <https://www.gocanadaunited.ca/> to see how you can partake and Be United, Be Local, Shop Local. More on grant applications will be coming....stay tuned!

I also encourage you to investigate the offerings through Economic Development with the Digital Mainstreet Program, Community Futures and BDC with government funding opportunities, Blackburn with Shop Local marketing program, Post Media with grants, Intellitix with tracking software, and, gosh, so, so many local connections of assistance. If you are offering, let us know. If you are looking, reach out. We are all in this together. Let's come through the crisis in a better space, safely. And, don't forget, our Chamber offers many discount and value add programs to assist your business. Check the links and opportunities below.

As we also work on the 'normal' in the Chamber, we are organizing our golf tourney for September 23rd at Willow Ridge Golf & Country Club, our Business of Excellence Awards for October 8th and our Rural Urban Awards for November 25th. As we finalize details, we know things will not be the same as in past, but we welcome change and fresh and innovative deliveries. I'm a believer that change can be a challenge, but the outcome is, traditionally, rewarding.



Did you know we like to 'LIKE'? We do! Members - please share your Facebook page with us to follow.... and 'SHARE'! Also, follow our Facebook for important and valuable info and shares.

Wear your Mask. Stay Distanced. Wash your Hands. Respect Others.

Yours in Prosperity, Gail.

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SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

Recovery Activation Program – will help businesses go digital!

The program is completely free for businesses of all sizes to digitize their operations, and open to participants across Ontario..

Don't wait, apply now: <http://supportbusiness.bot.com/RAP>



Get Ready For Canada United Weekend

[Canada United](#) is a movement that brings fellow Canadians together to show their support for small and local businesses. The grant funds will grow over the next several weeks as every campaign video watched and social media post liked and shared will result in a 5¢ contribution from RBC!



Need more ideas? Check out the [Small Business Kit](#) for some quick and easy ways to participate.

Masks mandatory in indoor public spaces in Chatham-Kent

Chatham-Kent Council has passed a by-law to make the wearing of masks in indoor public spaces mandatory as of 12:01 A.M on Friday, August 14.

Wearing a mask is only one aspect in reducing an individual's chances of contracting COVID-19. As directed by Chatham-Kent Public Health, individuals must:

- Maintain physical distancing of two metres at all times
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with 70% alcohol frequently
- Stay home (not going into the community or to work) if you're not feeling well, and get tested for COVID-19.

[Find more information from Chatham-Kent Public Health on their website.](#)

Resources

- [Click here to access the municipal by-law](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment supplies, including a list of Chatham-Kent suppliers](#)

Business Signage for Mask By-Law From Chatham-Kent Public Health

Chatham-Kent Public Health has developed several resources to help your business with the Chatham-Kent mandatory mask by-law.

As a reminder, while masks are required through by-law, physical distancing (2 metres) and healthy hand hygiene (washing hands or sanitizing with 70% alcohol sanitizer frequently) are equally as important in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

The following are two documents you may download, print, and display:

- [Click here to download the Public Health poster for businesses: Mask Sign Face Covering Required](#)
- [Click here to download the Public Health poster: Dos and Don'ts of wearing a mask](#)

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Government Of Canada Sets National Temporary Unemployment Rate For EI Benefits Calculations

As the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is set to wind down at the end of August, the federal government has temporarily adjusted the Employment Insurance (EI) program's unemployment rate to 13.1%, which will be applied nationally (except for in areas where the actual rate is higher). This temporary measure will set a uniform eligibility requirement for EI regular benefits, provide a minimum entitlement of 26 weeks of benefits and set the number of best weeks of earnings used in the calculation of the weekly benefit rate at 14. [More Information](#)

2021 Pre-Budget Submission

As the federal government prepares its 2021 budget and looks for new ideas on how to drive the economy forward, we have made our submission to the Standing Committee on Finance for its 2021 budget consultations. Our Roadmap to Recovery forms the foundation of our submission, which makes 33 specific recommendations to promote private sector economic growth and competitiveness. [Read Our Submission](#)

Canadian Chamber Responds To New U.S. Tariffs On Canadian Aluminum

This afternoon President Trump announced a 10% tariff on raw aluminum imports from Canada. We have urged immediate action to have the tariffs removed. [Read Our Statement](#)

Hand Sanitizer Recall Expanded Further

A recall that was first initiated in June has again been expanded and now includes more than 40 products. The recalled hand sanitizers are made with ethanol or denaturants that are not acceptable ingredients for use in hand sanitizers in Canada. Please check the list to ensure you are not using a recalled product. [View The Recall List](#)

Government Of Canada's COVID-19 Resilience' Infrastructure Funding Stream

Today the federal government announced the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is being adjusted so that provinces and territories can use federal funding to act quickly on a wider range of more pandemic-resilient infrastructure projects. Under a new COVID-19 Resilience funding stream worth up to \$3.3 billion, projects will be eligible for a significantly larger federal cost share – up to 80% for provinces, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations in provinces and raising it to 100% for remote, northern and territorial projects designated under the new stream. [More Information](#)

Update from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INVESTING IN NON-PROFITS

The Government of Ontario announced today \$83 million is being invested through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to provide grants to help eligible non-profit organizations, including food banks, child and youth programs and Royal Canadian Legion branches, recover from COVID-19 and continue the delivery of vital programming in their communities. [More details here.](#)

COVID-19 ALERT MOBILE APP

Have you downloaded the COVID-19 Alert mobile app yet? COVID Alert, a new national mobile app, is now available to Canadians for free download. The app, first developed in Ontario, helps notify users if they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. [More details here.](#)

[Click here to download the COVID-19 Alert mobile app.](#)

CLICK TO TWEET & 5¢ WILL BE DONATED TO SMALL BUSINESS!

[Join the #CanadaUnited movement and show local some love. @RBC & partners will contribute 5¢ for every share, like and view to help support #smallbiz. Together we can help local businesses recover. @GoCanadaUnited](#)

Update from the Federal Government

As you saw yesterday, we believe the decision by the United States to impose tariffs on certain aluminum products from Canada to be [unwarranted and unacceptable](#). In the time of a global pandemic and an economic crisis, the last thing Canadian and American workers need is new tariffs that will raise costs for manufacturers and consumers, impede the free flow of trade, and hurt provincial and state economies. In response to the American tariffs, Canada intends to swiftly impose dollar-for-dollar countermeasures – we [welcome your input](#) on our intended countermeasures. You can also watch the [press conference held today by Deputy Prime Minister](#), Chrystia Freeland, for Canada's full response to these tariffs.

Tuesday August 4th

On her first virtual tour, Minister Ng [visited](#) small businesses in Atlantic Canada to highlight the innovative and resilient businesses across the eastern provinces, including those in the seafood and tourism industries, and well as how our government can continue to help them towards economic recovery in the weeks and months to come.

Also on Tuesday, Minister Ng hosted a virtual meeting with members of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) to [sign the new Global Trade and Gender Arrangement](#). This agreement between Canada, Chile and New Zealand lays out clear steps for our countries to work together to promote inclusive trade, building on Canada's longstanding work to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

The tragic explosion in Beirut on this day was devastating for the people in the city, and for many Canadians with loved ones in Lebanon. We announced up to [\\$5 million in humanitarian assistance](#), with \$1.5 million going immediately to trusted partners on the ground, including Red Cross Canada and Red Cross Lebanon.

Wednesday August 5th

We announced that [harvesters can apply starting August 24](#) for Fish Harvester Benefit and Grant – \$469 million in funding to help get the hard-working people in fishery businesses the support they need to get through this crisis.

Also on Wednesday, our government [announced major steps in treating and preventing COVID-19](#) through vaccines and therapies, including two new agreements with pharmaceutical firms Pfizer and Moderna, the members for the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force, and funding of up to \$56 million to support clinical trials for a COVID-related vaccine candidate from Variation Biotechnologies Inc.

In a call with her U.K. counterpart Liz Truss, Minister Ng [discussed](#) strengthening the trading relationship between Canada and the U.K., as well as the U.K.'s interest in joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Also, on Wednesday Minister Ng [participated in the third CPTPP Commission meeting](#), hosted virtually by Mexico. All 11 countries discuss how we can foster business growth, the possible expansion of the CPTPP to include more economies, and advance an economic recovery that is inclusive and sustainable for people

in all our countries.

Thursday August 6th

Yesterday, Minister Ng had a [call](#) with Minister Yoo, South Korea's Minister for Trade, to talk about the crucial role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in providing predictability for our businesses, and the need to continue work of the Canada-led Ottawa Group to strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Covid-19 Support for Workers

Tuesday, August 25 | 10 AM – 11 AM

Review types of Employment Insurance benefits, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the actions required for maintaining benefits, earnings while on claim and other resources to support return to work endeavours. In collaboration with Employment Ontario and Canada Revenue Agency.

[How to Register](#)

To register, email SERVICECANADALIVE.ESDC@servicecanada.gc.ca, you will receive joining instructions within two business days.



**CHATHAM-KENT
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**
Annual Chamber Golf Tournament

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020

Willow Ridge Golf & Country Club

10 AM Registration 11 AM Shotgun Start

a day of for only

golf \$ 120

includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner & a prize for everyone too!

Design your day your way!
The entire day is based on your time, budget and choice

PLAY	PLAY & STAY	CONNECT
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 holes of fabulous golf (includes cart) with lunch on the turn \$105(+hst)	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 holes of fabulous golf (includes cart) with lunch on the turn followed by delicious steak dinner \$120(+hst)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not golfing but would like to network over a delicious steak dinner \$45(+hst)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available! 18 hole tournament. Shotgun Start.

Register online at www.chatham-kentchamber.ca

Deadline to register is Wednesday, September 16th.
For further information contact (519) 352-7540 or info@chatham-kentchamber.ca

*Interested in Sponsorship [click here](#)
Register to play [here](#)*

Take Advantage of Your Chamber Membership



Great Rates for Visa/Mastercard

Employee Benefit Plans

Shipping Discounts

Insurance Plans

Gas Discounts



Resources:

Local

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

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Community Futures CK](#)

[Community Futures CK - Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#)

[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](#)
