



Updates from our Chamber and Partners in Prosperity

Today is an exciting day! The Chatham-Kent Chamber is proud to join in announcing **Canada United**, a national movement to rally Canadians to *Shop Local*. Small and local businesses have faced an incredibly difficult environment since the early days of this pandemic, many stayed closed for months to protect consumers from COVID-19. Now it's our turn to come together to support the re-opening of these businesses. This movement brings together the national network of Chambers of Commerce, fellow Canadian business associations and 50+ of Canada's leading brands to give businesses the support they need. Beyond the social and shopping campaigns, **Canada United** is offering relief grants of up to \$5,000 to help Canadian small businesses with recovery efforts. **Canada United** starts now and will build towards a national shopping weekend. Yeah – a weekend of shopping!!

In supporting our Chatham-Kent businesses, here is what you can do:

- . Watch the Canada United videos online at GoCanadaUnited.ca, 'Like' the posts from [@GoCanadaUnited](https://twitter.com/GoCanadaUnited) on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn and use **#CanadaUnited** to demonstrate support. Your participation is important. The Canada United Small Business Relief Fund will continue to grow as with every video watched and social media 'liked' RBC will contribute 5 cents to the grant fund.
- . Safely buy from our local businesses, all while leading up to a Canada United Shopping Weekend August 28th-30th.
- . Learn about the movement and, if you're a small business owner, get involved or apply for the Canada United Small Business Relief grant by visiting GoCanadaUnited.ca

Canada United has brought together a multitude of partners to unite Canadians in support of local businesses. RBC initiated the movement, contributing up to \$2 million to the Small Business Relief Fund. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce is working with the national network of Chambers of Commerce to facilitate the fund. Corporate partners are contributing funding and in-kind marketing support to help spread the news of the initiative. I am pleased to work with my Chamber peers across the nation promoting and sharing this movement. Responding to the challenge of COVID-19 has been a Canada wide effort that will be needed more than ever as we re-open our businesses, communities and economy.

Re-opening is exciting, but we can't lose focus on all the hard work invested to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and get us to this stage. Stage 3! Chatham-Kent has fared well, and I encourage you to continue to follow safety guidelines and look out for one another. Social distance, wash your hands, and (as I've stated before) be understanding of how businesses are adapting to keep customers and employees safe. Consider wearing a face mask. By helping our businesses, we can come through this stronger than ever and help Chatham-Kent, Ontario and the whole of Canada turn the corner into economic recovery. We know many businesses have been severely impacted, having to make tough decisions around whether to stay open with reduced operations, pivot their business or shut down. Please support this initiative as they need to safely re-open and thrive during these uncertain times. Let's all do our part. Let's support Chatham-Kent business. Let's support Canada United.

I can't believe that next week ends another month of 2020. That also means that nominations are closing for our Rural Urban Awards. I urge you to look below at the awards and criteria, I am certain there is a worthy business or individual deserving of your time. Please take a moment and make someone's day with your nomination.

This information is to be shared, feel free to pass on. Please remember to stay safe, for you, family, friends and community.

As always, we are in this together, Gail.

Gail A.B. Hundt / President & CEO / Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce

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SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

Join Us In Supporting Small and Local Businesses

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is excited to be participating in the Canada United campaign —a nationwide social media campaign to encourage Canadians to buy local — and we hope you will join us in lending your support for small and local businesses.

Canada United is offering relief grants of up to \$5,000 to help Canadian small businesses with their recovery efforts as a result of COVID-19. *Your participation is important!*

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! [Learn More](#)



Nominations close Next Tuesday, July 28th. Nominate TODAY: [Nomination Form](#)

Award Categories:

- Agriculturist of the Year
 - Agriculture Innovator of the Year (Individual)
 - Agriculture Innovator (Business/Organization/Group)
 - Friend of Agriculture
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The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is pleased to introduce our newest Chamber members. We continually strive to connect you to one another and to the community at large.

Hidden Hills Golf & Country Club Big Ricky's little bake shoppe

Please welcome them by visiting their website and explore what they have to offer!

[Chamber Member Directory](#)

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Improved Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Bill Passes The House

This afternoon MPs in the House of Commons passed Bill C-20, including the improved CEWS, which was announced on Friday last week. The Senate must now study the bill before it can be implemented. We have called for the bill to be swiftly passed and are grateful MPs on all sides worked to achieve that goal. We are hopeful the Senate will now do the same. The improved CEWS will help get Canadians back to work.

[More Information On Bill C-20](#)

Government Of Canada Creates The 'Essential Services Contingency Reserve' Program

The Essential Services Contingency Reserve will allow organizations that provide essential services to apply for temporary, urgent access to personal protective equipment and other critical supplies. It aims to help bridge gaps in their supplies to avoid any significant disruptions in services to Canadians. Eligible associations and organizations will be able to apply online for a range of equipment, available for purchase at cost. Registration will begin in early August. [More Information](#)

Business Groups Call On Government To Avoid A Recipe For Disaster During Prolonged Food Services Recovery

Today our organization, alongside provincial, territorial and municipal chambers of commerce and leaders in the food services industry, sent a joint letter to political leaders at all levels across Canada to sound the alarm of imminent failure of an entire industry. The letter, signed by 21 industry and business representatives, underscores the food services industry's importance across Canada, outlines where government programs responding to COVID-19 have helped and identifies key policy areas where immediate action is required to prevent irreparable harm to the food services industry. [Read Our Statement](#)

July Opt-In Is Now Available For The CECRA Program

Businesses may now apply for the opt-in for the month of July for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. If you have previously been approved, you automatically qualify and no additional documents are required, but you must log into the portal and opt-in for your affected tenants. If you haven't yet applied for CECRA for small businesses, you can apply for July as part of your entire application. [More Information](#)

Government Confirms Canada-U.S. Border Closure To Extend Until August 21

As had been widely reported earlier this week, the government has confirmed the current closure of the Canada-U.S. land border will be extended until August 21. The government will continue to reevaluate the situation on a month-by-month basis. [More Travel Information](#)

Federal Government To Provide \$19 Billion To Provinces And Territories

This afternoon it was announced that the federal, provincial and territorial governments have reached an agreement in which the federal government will provide over \$19 billion in funding to help the country's economic recovery. The funding will target seven key areas:

- Testing, contact tracing and data management

- Health care, including mental health and addictions
- Aiding vulnerable populations, including in nursing homes
- Personal protective equipment
- Early learning and child care
- Municipal budgets, including public transit
- Paid sick leave

[Read More](#)

Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program

In Ontario's fast-growing economy, skilled talent, tradespeople, and professionals are in high demand.



The Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) - Regional Pilot is now open!

The pilot will assist Chatham-Kent employers looking to retain international talent or to target skilled labour that is not available locally.

Visit www.chatham-kent.ca/CKimmigratetowork or <https://www.ontario.ca/page/regional-immigration-pilot> to learn more

UPCOMING WEBINARS

How COVID-19 has Impacted Ontario's Health Care System

July 23rd, 12:00 p.m.

Ontario's economic rebound depends on our health care system recovering. On July 23rd, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) will host a webinar on the "new normal" for the health care system and what it means for Ontario's physicians and patients [Register Now](#)

Navigating Your Business To Recovery

July 29 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Have questions about navigating through government support programs? Want to learn more about e-commerce and cybersecurity? Or maybe you have questions about labour laws during the pandemic? Join this packed webinar to hear from experts on all these topics to help you navigate to recovery. [Register Now](#)

The Key To Employee Well-Being During And After The Pandemic

August 10 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In this webinar, we'll be looking at how overall health culture, which includes physical, mental and financial health, is especially important during a crisis. And how going forward, this culture will be an integral part of group plans. [Register Now](#)

Update from the Federal Government

Today, Finance Minister Bill Morneau, [announced](#) proposed changes to the CEWS that would broaden the reach of the program, providing better-targeted support and enabling more workers to their jobs quickly as the economy restarts. With these changes, the CEWS would continue to protect jobs and help Canadian businesses that have been hardest-hit by COVID-19.

The proposal would:

- Extend the CEWS until December 19, 2020, including redesigned program details until November 21, 2020.
- Make the subsidy accessible to a broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30 percent and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers. This would help many struggling employers with revenue losses below 30 percent get support to keep and bring back workers, while

also ensuring those who have previously benefited could still qualify, even if their revenues recover and no longer meet the 30 percent revenue decline threshold.

- Introduce a top-up subsidy of up to an additional 25 percent for employers that have been most adversely affected by the pandemic. This would be particularly helpful to employers in industries that are recovering more slowly.
- Provide certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for July and August by ensuring they would not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have had under the previous rules.
- Address certain technical issues identified by stakeholders.

These proposed changes follow consultations with business and labour representatives on potential adjustments to the CEWS program aimed at ensuring that it continues to protect jobs and promote growth.

By helping workers transition back to their jobs and supporting businesses as their revenues increase, these changes would ensure that employers have the certainty they need to hire back quickly as the economy improves – positioning them and their employees to succeed into the future.

[BACKGROUNDER](#)

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Week in Review

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Monday July 13th

Across the country, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is helping Canadians keep their businesses open and their teams together. We promised to be with you every step of the way. That's why the Prime Minister [announced](#) the extension of the Wage Subsidy through December 2020.

Also on this day, Minister Ng, on behalf of Minister McKenna [announced](#) an investment of \$16 million to [improve](#) the public transit system in Barrie, Ontario – helping Canadians get to work quickly, run errands more easily, and access the essential services they need. This investment is part of the *Investing In Canada* Plan, Canada's Long-Term Infrastructure project focused on building the cities of the 21st century. Now more than ever, we must invest in our communities & create a strong foundation for people to rebuild.

Wednesday July 15th

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On Wednesday, Minister Ng joined Harley Finkelstein, COO of Shopify, for a virtual panel discussion at Canada's largest start-up event – [Startupfest](#).

During this event, Shopify announced the launch of their [Go Digital Canada](#) hub for businesses. In partnership with our government and businesses across the country, this central resource hub will give entrepreneurs across the country the tools and resources they need to digitize their businesses, at no cost – including live webinars, 24/7 support, online payment capacity, and access to the Shopify platform. This program will help small businesses adapt to a more digital economy and respect physical distancing guidelines.

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Thursday July 16th

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Since the beginning, fighting COVID-19 has been a Team Canada effort, and that will remain true in our recovery phase. Yesterday, our government announced the Safe Restart Agreement with the provinces and territories, that will invest over \$19 billion to protect the health of Canadians, get people back to work safely, and prepare for a potential second wave.

This Safe Restart Agreement for the next six months includes investments in priority areas, including:

- Helping municipalities deliver key services;
- Increasing testing and contact tracing;
- Additional support for provincial and territorial healthcare systems, including challenges related to mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness;
- Securing personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers and businesses;
- Supporting the most vulnerable, including seniors in long-term care facilities and nursing homes;
- Ensuring safe child care is available so parents can return to work;
- Supporting people who do not have paid sick leave;

Together, as a country, we're laying the groundwork for our economic recovery.

Also on Thursday, the Prime Minister [announced](#) the extension of Canada-US border restrictions until August 21st – keeping people in both countries safe and healthy.

Finally, Minister Ng [toured](#) Markham-based PCL Graphics, a business stepped up to fight COVID-19 by retooling to create supply face shields, barriers and floor signs. Across the country, thousands of small businesses are helping Canadians conquer COVID-19, and we'll continue to have their backs every step of the way.

SMEs have you heard about the Recovery Activation Program?

Join the Recovery Activation Program to learn how to leverage technology & digital channels to modernize processes, transform operating models,
& connect more meaningfully with employees & customers.

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

At this time, the first two RAP cohorts in August are full. Anyone who signs up now will be placed in the next available cohort in September.

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

SCALE UP INSTITUTE TORONTO | RAP RECOVERY ACTIVATION PROGRAM

RAP IMMERSIVE:
HARNESS TECHNOLOGY TO DIGITALLY TRANSFORM AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS.

Industry leaders will assist and enlighten during this highly interactive four-week program.

[Learn More >](#)

TORONTO REGION | WORLD TRADE CENTRE | CHATHAM-KENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | Canada | Ontario

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Business Ontario.



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

18 holes of fabulous golf (includes cart) with lunch on the turn \$105(+hst)

PLAY & STAY

18 holes of fabulous golf (includes cart) with lunch on the turn followed by delicious steak dinner \$ 120 (+hst)

CONNECT

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](#)

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](#)
