

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

Dear Member & Associates

Although Monday wakened to snow, mentally, it was spring in the air. As more businesses opened to welcome customers, it was not without caution. There is no doubt that everyone is anxious – the customer to ‘touch and feel’ and the business to say “Hello”. Wisely, steps are being taken to ensure everyone remains safe as businesses are implementing the necessary and required measures. I made some seasonal purchases from a couple of members this weekend, stood in line on marked spaces, entered in numbers while staff carefully counted people going in and out and provided sanitizer to all incoming customers. I was one of the very few wearing a mask, and will continue to, for the sake of my family, friends, store staff, community, knowing we are all in ‘this’ together. Little actions can make for big difference.

Together, Chatham-Kent is going to experience a miracle this Saturday. I encourage you to participate in the May 16 Miracle by donating some grocery items, your time, or both. As usual, Chatham-Kent citizens are stepping up in a big way and the food drive this weekend will, once again, make one proud to live in this wonderful community. I have made, and have known of, many porch ‘drops’ the last number of weeks, this will be a porch ‘pick up’ like no other. If you are unsure how or where you can help visit www.may16miracle.com.

As always, Please share this information to your contacts and those that may benefit from the below information. Stay strong, stay safe. Sunny days are ahead.

Yours in Prosperity, Gail

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SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

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](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



**THE HUNGRY IN CHATHAM-KENT
NEED OUR HELP.**

Join the fight on May 16th and help make a miracle.

**May 16th
at
noon**


Place a
non-perishable
on your doorstep.


We'll pick
it up.


And give it
to those
who need it.

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Additional Support For Medium And Large Businesses

The Government of Canada today announced its intention to create the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. This support will not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms, nor will it provide financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis. The additional liquidity provided through LEEFF will allow Canada's largest businesses and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time and position them for a rapid economic recovery.

The government also announced it will expand the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs, including loans of up to \$60 million per company and guarantees of up to \$80 million. [More Information](#)

Innovation Canada: Interactive Business Benefits Finder

Innovation Canada's digital platform brings together all of the latest COVID-19 supports for businesses as well as hundreds of other programs and services offered by federal, provincial and territorial governments. Businesses answer a few quick questions and get access to:

- Opportunities to find funding, wage subsidies, loans, tax credits and expert advice offered by government and some not-for-profits too.
- A tailored list of the right supports for their business, delivered to them in under two minutes.
- The option to save their favourite programs to review later.

The email notification feature, where they can sign up to get emails whenever a program changes, an application deadline approaches or a brand new program is introduced that meets their needs, including new COVID-19 supports. [More Information](#)

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Program To Be Extended

Today, the Government of Canada indicated the CEWS program will be extended beyond the current June 6 cut-off. No further details are available at the time of this writing; however, they are expected to be released by the government next week. We are pleased the CEWS is being extended.

Details Of Emergency Support Fund For Cultural, Heritage And Sport Organizations Announced

Today, the Government of Canada shared further details about its April 17 announcement of temporary relief measures to support the culture, heritage and sport sectors as they manage the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for the future. A total of up to \$500 million has been set aside to help alleviate the financial pressures of affected organizations. [More Information](#)

Restaurants Canada: Best Practice Guide For Food Service

Informed by lessons learned from those operating during the pandemic, this document provides practices that establishments can consider implementing to comply with government guidance in the areas of physical distancing, cleaning, sanitation, health and personal hygiene. [More Information](#)



5 Minutes For Business: Business As Usual

"Business as usual" is a thing we hear people say. However, this edition of 5 Minutes for Business will help you to better understand just how unusual business has now become amid COVID-19, along with what the new normal will look like.

[Read More](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

[*Town Hall with the Premier of Ontario and Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade*](#)

Thursday, May 14 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

A discussion on the road to economic recovery with the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

[Register now](#)

BDC Webinar: Planning for recovery: How to restart your business in the wake of COVID-19

May 22nd at 12:00 p.m.

What will recovery look like for Canadian businesses?

Discover what various business sectors can expect as well as the steps entrepreneurs need to take to successfully jump-start their operations.

[Register Now](#)

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

WATCH NOW: [Clarifying Government COVID-19 Relief Programs for Business](#)

WATCH NOW: [Information Security and Data Privacy in the age of COVID-19](#)

WATCH NOW: [How Big Data is Being Used to Combat COVID-19](#)

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.

Update from the Federal Government

The Prime Minister announced that we will be [extending the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) beyond June, because we know it'll become even more crucial as stores and businesses begin to open. More details on this to come next week.

We also announced that Minister Bains will be leading a [new Industry Strategy Council](#). Chaired by Monique Leroux, this Council will take a deeper dive into how the pandemic is affecting specific sectors, and how to best support them.

And finally, Minister Guilbeault shared more details about our [\\$500 million package for arts, culture, and amateur sport](#) and how it will support workers in those sectors. This investment will help people access wage support, and help organizations access funding.

TWO WEEKS IN REVIEW:

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Monday, April 27th

On Monday, Minister Ng announced the opening of [applications for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#). To date, we've received applications for wage subsidies for almost 2 million workers across Canada.

This day was the first time in our country's history that parliamentarians held a virtual session to work with all members of the House of Commons – debating and advancing support measures to help Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Tuesday, April 28th

The Prime Minister [announced](#) that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have come together and agreed to a set of common principles for restarting the Canadian economy, based on shared understanding and appreciation of what science and experts are telling us.

[Minister Ng spoke with New Zealand's Minister](#) for Trade and Export Growth David Parker about economic recovery and Canada's leadership on the international trade front at this critical time.

And, as of Tuesday, more details on the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance were made available on [from CMHC](#). More details still to come.

Wednesday, April 29th

To provide income support to post-secondary students who lost work opportunities due to COVID-19, we [introduced legislation to establish the Canada Emergency Student Benefit](#) for students to receive \$1,250 per month for up to four months (May-August 2020).

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Thursday, April 30th

Minister Ng met virtually with her counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea and signed onto a [joint statement](#) committing facilitate the cross-border movement of essential goods and to maintain open and connected supply chains throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also announced [new virtual tools to support the health](#) and wellness of Canadians and help people through this very difficult time.

Friday, May 1st

Our government [banned](#) over 1,500 models of assault-style firearms. Weapons designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time have no place in our communities. While there is more to do to keep Canadians safe, this is a significant step in the right

direction.

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Saturday, May 2nd

Minister Ng had an [op-ed published](#) in the Toronto Star denouncing racism and urging Canadians to “fight fiercely for the values of acceptance and compassion” amid the COVID-19 crisis.

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Sunday, May 3rd

The Prime Minister [announced](#) that our government is investing over \$240 million in online healthcare to expand existing online tools, and create new virtual platforms for mental health and primary care. We also [announced](#) our investment of \$175 million to support the Canadian company, [AbCellera Biologics](#) and their very promising research in drugs to treat COVID-19.

Also on this day, Minister Anand announced the [creation of the COVID-19 Supply Council](#) which will bring together a diverse group of leaders to guide our government in building innovative supply chains for goods such as masks, gloves, and disinfectants.

Monday, May 4th

The Prime Minister joined other global leaders to launch [the Coronavirus Global Response](#) to raise billions of dollars to help researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people against COVID-19. We are committed to a robust global effort to stop COVID-19 and address its devastating health, social, and economic impacts on people around the world.

Tuesday, May 5th

We announced over [\\$252 million in funding to support farmers, food businesses, and food processors](#) who are working hard every day to ensure Canadians have a safe and reliable food supply,

Also on Tuesday, Minister Ng signed onto two joint trade statements with our international partners:

1. Canada and the other 20 dynamic and fast-growing countries in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), [committed](#) to keeping our essential goods and services flowing while we work together towards economic recovery.
2. Canada and 42 other World Trade Organization (WTO) members [reinforced](#) our commitment to the rules-based trading system, given the WTO’s vital role in ensuring free and predictable trade during this global crisis.

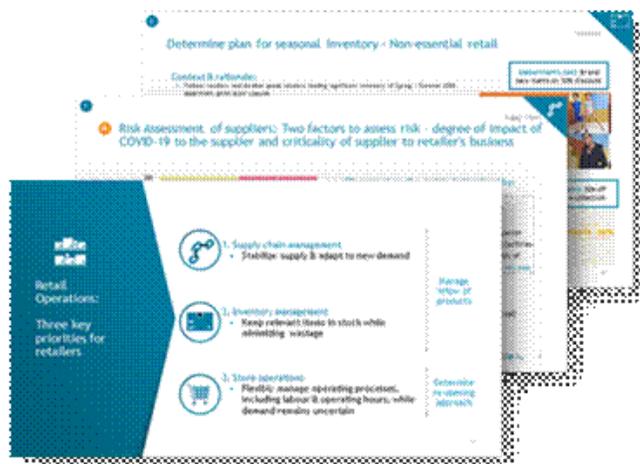
Wednesday, May 6th

The Finance Minister announced that we’re [waiving tariffs on certain medical goods](#), including PPE such as masks and gloves. This will reduce the cost of imported PPE for Canadian businesses, which face tariffs of up to 18% in some instances, help protect workers, and ensure our supply chains can keep functioning well.

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Thursday, May 7th

Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced our investment of [\\$3 billion to increase the wages of low-income essential workers](#). Premiers have committed to working with our government to determine which workers will be eligible and how much support they will receive.

A Reopening Playbook And Checklists To Businesses



To assist retailers in their reopening planning, Retail Council of Canada, in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group and retailers from across Canada, are leveraging global best practices for a diverse range of retail formats with the fundamental aim of ensuring a safe environment for employees and customers. [Go to download](#)



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 TO LEARN HOW IT WORKS!



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.

The discount for the Chamber UPS Canada shipping program has increased to 50%

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!

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](#)
