



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

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is committed to keeping our members and Chatham-Kent businesses updated. Business information below, check out the webinars planned for tomorrow!

As always, please share this information to your contacts and those that may benefit from the below information. Stay strong, stay safe.

Be sure to Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Government Announces Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Extension

The government announced more details of the CEWS extension today. The wage subsidy will be extended to August 29, 2020 and additional types of organizations are now eligible to apply. Neither the 30% drop in revenue requirement nor the allowed types of payroll used in calculations have changed. [More Information](#)

Wage Subsidy Program Extension Welcome But Improvements Needed To Ensure More Businesses Qualify

Canadian businesses have undertaken many efforts to support their employees through the crisis and keep them connected to the labour force. When businesses have been forced to lay off workers, they have been determined to get as many employees back to work as quickly, safely and smoothly as possible. Unfortunately, the update for the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy is far below original expectations. Improvements are needed to ensure more businesses get the support they need to get them through this crisis. [Read More](#)

Smaller Businesses Hit 50% Harder By COVID-19

The Canadian Survey on Business Conditions demonstrates some surprising resilience of small- and medium-sized businesses despite having outsized disadvantages when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. [Read More](#)

Canada Emergency Student Benefit Applications Now Open

Students and recent graduates can start applying for the CESB program today. The benefit provides \$1,250 for each four-week period or \$2,000 for each four-week period if you have dependants or a disability. Please note: if you have already applied, or are receiving support from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI), you are not eligible to apply for the CESB. [Apply Here](#)

Update from the Federal Government

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, [today announced](#) an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses.

The program will now be available to a greater number of businesses that are sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll.

To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

Expenses will be subject to verification and audit by the Government of Canada. Funding will be delivered in partnership with financial institutions. More details, including the launch date for applications under the new criteria, will follow in the days to come. The government will continue to work on solutions to help business owners and entrepreneurs who operate through their personal bank account, as opposed to a business account, or have yet to file a tax return, such as newly created businesses.

Support for Women Entrepreneurs

On Saturday, Minister Ng announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$15 million in additional funding to support women entrepreneurs through the [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy](#) (WES). This money will go directly to select organizations that are currently [WES Ecosystem Fund](#) recipients and will help women entrepreneurs through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming weeks, this investment will help thousands of women entrepreneurs and business owners navigate this crisis. It will help ensure women across the country—whether they're a restaurant owner in Campbellton, New Brunswick, a manufacturer in Prince George, British Columbia, or a retailer in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut—get the support they need through things like business workshops, mentorship and skills training to adapt to a digital marketplace.

Empowering women-owned businesses across Canada remains a key priority, and the government will continue working hard to ensure women entrepreneurs are supported through the pandemic and into the economic recovery.

Fundingportal. Government Grants and Incentives

New \$962M National Program for SMEs

A new federal program called the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) will provide \$962M in funding to businesses affected by COVID-19, particularly those that do not qualify for, or have been rejected from, current Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures. [Learn more >](#)

New Money for Municipalities

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), one of Canada's leading sources of funding for municipalities, has announced the launch of new two funding programs. The first program focuses on asset management, while the other supports sustainable affordable housing. [Learn more >](#)

**Minister Lisa MacLeod's Multi-Sector Tele-Townhall
Wednesday May 20 2020-10:30 AM**

Please join the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Ontario's Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries for the fifth ongoing tele-townhall regarding the government's response to COVID-19.

Note: This call will be a dial-out call. You MUST provide a number you can be reached at in your registration to be able to join the call.

REGISTRATION CLOSES May 19 2020 AT 8:00 PM SO PLEASE REGISTER QUICKLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

[Register Here](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Teleconference: The Impact Of COVID-19 On The Travel And Tourism Industry

Wednesday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m.

The travel, tourism and hospitality sector was among the first to feel the impact of COVID-19, but it will take the longest to recover as we discuss the issues facing the travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

[Register Now](#)

A Q&A With The Canada Revenue Agency On The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

May 20 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The session will respond to general questions about the CEWS and will provide resources needed to apply.

[Register Now](#)

Export Promotion and International Trade

Wednesday, May 20 from 6:00 - 6:30pm.

Our webinar with the Hon. Mary Ng, the federal Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade has been **RESCHEDULED** to **Wednesday, May 20 from 6:00 - 6:30pm.**

If you previously registered for the original webinar, you are registered and do not need to register again.

[Click here to register](#)

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](#)

WSPS Safety Connection

May 28th at 9:00– 10:30 a.m.

Ron Kelusky, Chief Prevention Officer, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development will be our guest speaker for this session and will facilitate a presentation on ministry Initiatives, including *Supporting Ontario's Safe Employers (SOSE)* program, along with **Sarah Hobbs, Ergonomist/Consultant at WSPS**.
Join us for an interactive and informative discussion with the CPO to learn more about ministry initiatives and the SOSE program.

[Click to Register](#)

Webinars From The Office Of Small And Medium Enterprises (OSME)

The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) is hosting a series of free webinars to help businesses find federal bid opportunities and related procurement information in the current context of COVID-19.

The first seminars are scheduled for May 21 (in English).

[More Information](#)

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

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

You can find a full list of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce webinars [here](#)

How To Navigate Government Programs With KPMG [Watch The Recording](#)

Ensuring The Recovery And Resilience Of Canada's Food Service Sector [Watch The Recording](#)

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.

Ontario Businesses To Re-open

The Ontario government announced the retailers, seasonal businesses and health and community service providers allowed to open as part of the first stage of the government's reopening framework.

[Click here](#) for a detailed list of businesses.

This list is effective May 19, 2020, and may be updated when the corresponding emergency orders are amended.



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](#)

Our records indicate your email as a key contact within your business, however, we encourage you to share the Chamber Events and Info Events and Info Updates with fellow employees and associates

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, you have provided your contact information to our staff.

To withdraw now or any time in the future, simply reply to this email with subject line of "Unsubscribe" to inform us that you are no longer interested in receiving our information emails.