



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

Dear Member & Associates

Holy Smokes, many positives to appreciate.

MAY16MIRACLE. Truly, I would like to say “ ‘nuf said ” as, I believe, it speaks for itself! However, rightfully, there are is a huge round of applause coming from our Chamber to the many – and I do mean, MANY – people and businesses that contributed to the huge success of this event. The co-ordination and efforts of the volunteers shined on Saturday, as brightly as the sun. The overwhelming warmth of the donations echoed the temperature we were also blessed with. Chatham-Kent did miracles, in a big way! Thank you to All!

Today is ‘Day 2’ where many businesses have been welcoming customers inside their stores. I was out earlier today doing a few work related errands, supporting members, shopping local, spending a few dollars, investing into the Chatham-Kent community. As I safely maneuvered my tasks, I was very pleased to note the respect of the fellow shoppers, following the well marked distancing lines, travelling one direction through marked aisles and many wearing masks, all doing their part to put this crisis behind us as early as can be. As this will be the new normal for some time, these are also new habits that are easily adopted. Everyone doing their part helps keeps a twinkle in the eyes rather than fear... since we may only see eyes, lets keep the body language positive.

Government has, again, strengthened and opened more availabilities for business. The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy has been extended, both in timelines and inclusiveness, the Canada Emergency business Account announced added inclusivity with broader minimum payroll levels, announcing the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Funding and the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility. While I do not expand on details, many links and valuable webinar sessions are listed below. Visit www.cbrn.ca for the most up to date business information and assistance.

Chatham-Kent Council will be presented with an Economic Recovery Task Force report on Monday night. There have been hours of meetings, multiple surveys and revision over revision with many dedicated businesses individuals contributing their time and efforts to the cause. The report will provide the platform - this not the end, only the beginning, as we work to conquer the hurdles placed before us by COVID-19. Chatham-Kent will come through strong and vibrant, yes, quite possibly different, yet as a Chatham-Kent bonded and together.

Trees are growing leaves, flowers are blossoming, dogs are being walked, bikes are aplenty and, notably, family time is outside. There is a smell of positivity in the air – take a deep breath and take it in.

Remember, this information is to share. Stay Safe, Stay Connected, Stay Tuned.

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

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Expanded Eligibility For The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

Today the government announced it was expanding the criteria used by businesses in calculating their CEBA eligibility. To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 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.

Canada-U.S. Border Closure Extended

Today it was announced the closure of the Canada-U.S. border would be extended an additional 30 days to June 21. The conditions of the closure remain unchanged, which bans non-essential travel.

Update from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

- Today, the federal government [announced](#) an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses.
- The CEBA 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.
- **NEW BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY RESULTS**
- As many businesses begin to reopen under new health guidelines, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association, and Ontario General Contractors Association released a statement in response to [new business confidence survey results](#) from Campaign Research Inc., Market Research Firm.

- [Read our joint statement.](#)

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

- On May 16, the Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade announced that the federal government 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

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, have [extended all emergency orders](#) currently in force until May 29, 2020. Today, the province officially entered the first stage of its [Framework for Reopening the Province](#).
- The Ontario government also made its final decision today to [keep schools closed](#) for the remainder of the school year.
- Today, the Prime Minister noted that the federal government has reached an agreement between Canada and the United States to keep the border closed to all non-essential travel until June 21.
- The Prime Minister also noted that in recent weeks his government has doubled the inventory of surgical masks and face shields and is expecting hundreds of thousands of hospital gowns, face shields and swabs to be delivered to the provinces and territories in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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 Thursday, May 21 (in English).

[More Information](#)

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](#)

Strategies for how businesses can persevere and recover from COVID-19

May 26 at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Throughout this webinar, Canadian Western Bank will discuss tips and tricks for how to take care of your employees as well as provide insight into how they are able to offer their support to businesses and clients as they navigate the crisis and beyond. [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](#)

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.



The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) provides financial contributions (interest-free loans) to help support fixed operating costs of SMEs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund, valued at more than \$962 million nationally, is delivered by Canada's six regional development agencies.

[More Information](#)

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.



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.