



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

Dear Member & Associates:

Just a number of months ago, Chatham-Kent Board Chair, Cecily Coppola, made a deputation to Council on behalf of our Board, members and business community. Her closing comments “Our ask of today’s Council is to *Be the Change*. Be the change we need to get us to this Chatham-Kent of 2040.” “The window of opportunity is HERE. Now is the time to be visionary, innovative, and future-focused in your decision-making. Be ‘Open for Business’, and thereby, open for the GROWTH of this community.”

Last night, Council made Change. And, we applaud them. It is harder to create a new path than remaining status quo, however, it is necessary in these times. COVID-19 may have caused the change, yet, Council, the Chamber, the Economic Recovery Task Force, fellow business, organizations and citizens can ALL take pride in the process and what can be a ‘new normal’ for Chatham-Kent as a whole. This new path can come way of strategy, action, partnerships and numerous other avenues, all with a focus on prosperity of Chatham-Kent, now and long into the future. Thank You to Mike Grail and Rocky Gaudrault for leading the charge, my fellow Sector Co-Chairs and to the many volunteers who stepped up to help create this recommendation to Council. Thank You to Council for acknowledging and accepting Change. Together, We are CK.

The Canadian Business Resilience Network unveiled two new programs yesterday with a focus on assisting small business and aiding them through current pandemic challenges. The free Business Resilience Service Hotline is available for the next four weeks, open 7 days a week with financial strategy advice. A program, opening June 1st will provide 62 Canadian small businesses with grants of \$10,000 each. I truly hope a Chatham-Kent businesses is recipient, assisted and profited. Details on both programs are below, and can be found at cbrn.ca

While I am very pleased on the above announcements, I was disappointed to hear the COVID-19 statistics of the last few days. Today is a better story. Reigning in and postponements are common talks of the day. I witnessed many situations this past weekend of people pushing the boundary (literally, in some cases). I, admittedly, caught myself forgetting the six foot rule, albeit with family, yet, not distanced. It is hard when ‘freedom’ feels available. I am looking forward to Stage 2 (and then some) as I know many others are as well. We miss shopping, dining out, and the euphoria of a gym. Experiences will be different, yet, I look forward to embracing the challenge and finding the creativity in these. New normal can be a good normal, let’s think positive.

We’re adding another Member Spotlight with Daniel Whittal, Whittal & Company, on our social media sites tomorrow. Dan shares his current ways of transacting business, benefits of incorporating your business and some COVID-19 ‘tactics and tips’. Watch for the link in our next broadcast as well, valuable information to be learned and shared.

There is no short supply of assistance these days. The Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Financial and Lending Institutions, Legal and Accounting Firms are just a sampling of those providing professional support through webinars and sessions, readily available at your finger tips. Whether you participate live, or watch the recorded versions, take advantage of these free programs, we are all working together for your success.

In closing, please - Stay Safe, Stay Connected, Stay Tuned.

Yours in Prosperity, Gail (Remember, this information is to share)

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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

Update from the Chatham-Kent Economic Recovery Task Force



The Task Force presented the [Economic Recovery Report](#) last night at Council. Here are the items voted on and carried by Council:

1. Council receive the report from the Task Force and staff for information.
2. Council endorse and support the creation of an independent CK Business Advisory Group as requested by the Economic Recovery Task Force.
3. All committees and boards of Council discuss ways to work in collaboration with the new Business Advisory Group.
4. Staff organize, plan and schedule a strategic planning session with Council and the Task Force/Business Advisory Group. This session will take place before the end of June of this year. The results will be reported back to Council.
5. Administration will provide a report on the options listed in recommendations #3, #4 and #5 of the Task Force Report.
6. Staff report back to council with recommendations and options for program criteria and funding sources, including options for potential 2020 service reductions, for up to \$2-million dollars, as requested for immediate relief strategies outlined by the Task Force. The new Business Advisory Group will be consulted in the making of this report.

The Task Force web site is still coming together as we now move past items that have been voted on... www.ckertf.ca

We will be adding a check list as it is developed in collaboration with city & council, so more to come!

Updates on the Task Force can be found [here](#)

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

CBRN Small Business Relief Fund

Small businesses have persevered. They have had to make changes to survive this pandemic. Now, they are ready to look to the future. The future may require new marketing tactics. It may require investments in new technology. Whatever the future brings, we're betting that \$10,000 could come in handy for a number of your members. The CBRN Small Business Relief Fund, made possible through the generosity of Salesforce, was officially announced.

For 62 businesses across Canada, the CBRN Small Business Relief Fund will be a one-time \$10,000 grant to do something for their business that will help set the course for the future; the possibilities are open.

We've developed a social media kit, including posts, images and videos (to come), to help you share this opportunity with your members. You can [access that here](#).

The application process for the CBRN Small Business Relief Fund runs from June 1 to 12.

If you have any questions regarding either of the above initiatives, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#)



Introducing the Business Resilience Service Hotline



Announced by the Prime Minister earlier today in his daily briefing, the Business Resilience Service (BRS) is a hotline SMEs, not-for-profits and charities can call for free accounting advice to help them navigate COVID-19 uncertainty and plan their recovery.

The Business Resilience Service is a government-funded program that is run through the Canadian Business Resilience Network in collaboration with EY and with support from Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada) and Imagine Canada.

Details on the BRS are available [here](#).

We have developed a [social media toolkit](#), including posts and images, for you to easily share this program with your members.

Please note that this service is active now.

[Find COVID-19 Federal Support For You And Your Business](#)

To help Canadians and Canadian businesses navigate the number of COVID-19 programs available, the government has developed two tools, one for individuals and one for businesses. They allow users to quickly find programs they may qualify for by answering a few simple questions. [Business Support](#) [Individual Support](#)

[Did You Know? CBRN Reopening Toolkit Includes Childcare And Social Service Tracking](#)

As most economic reopening plans across Canada involve several phased-in stages stretching across weeks or months, a formidable challenge will be the availability of childcare and other social services as employees return to the workplace. The CBRN reopening guide for business includes information on the availability of these services. [CBRN Business Reopening Toolkit](#)

Update from the Federal Government

[Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance now open for applications](#)

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, [today announced](#) that [applications are now being accepted](#) for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. Over the course of the program, property owners will reduce rent by at least 75 per cent for the months of April and May (retroactive), and June, for their small business tenants.

Applying for CECRA makes financial sense for property owners, as their success depends on the success of their tenants.

[Canadian Chamber and the Government of Canada team up with accounting profession to provide free advice to small to medium-sized business, not-for-profits and charities to navigate uncertainty](#)

Small to medium-sized businesses, not-for-profit organizations and charities will now have direct access to a network of qualified business advisors to help guide them courtesy of a new, government-funded program from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The program, called the [Business Resilience Service](#) (BRS), is run through the Canadian Chamber's [Canadian Business Resilience Network](#) in collaboration with [EY](#) and with support from [Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada \(CPA Canada\)](#) and [Imagine Canada](#). The BRS will provide options for any vulnerable small to medium-sized business, not-for-profit or charity to immediately connect with experienced accounting and tax professionals across the country from professional services firms. The program, delivered to organizations free of charge, will:

- Provide guidance on program options and eligibility
- Rapidly direct businesses – including enterprises involving Indigenous peoples, women and diverse groups – to the most appropriate support organizations
- Help organizations make decisions to support recovery plans
- Provide real time insights and feedback to policymakers

The BRS program, coordinated by EY, will be provided for four weeks from Monday, May 25, and will involve support from

approximately 125 business advisors from across the accounting profession. Organizations can access the BRS seven days a week by calling 1-866-989-1080.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

WSPS Safety Connection

Thursday, 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](#)

EDC Webinar: Manage Your Cash Flow And Ramp Up For Business

Thursday May 28 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Manage Your Cash Flow and Ramp Up for Business, to discover strategies that can help your company weather the pandemic and prepare for recovery and growth.

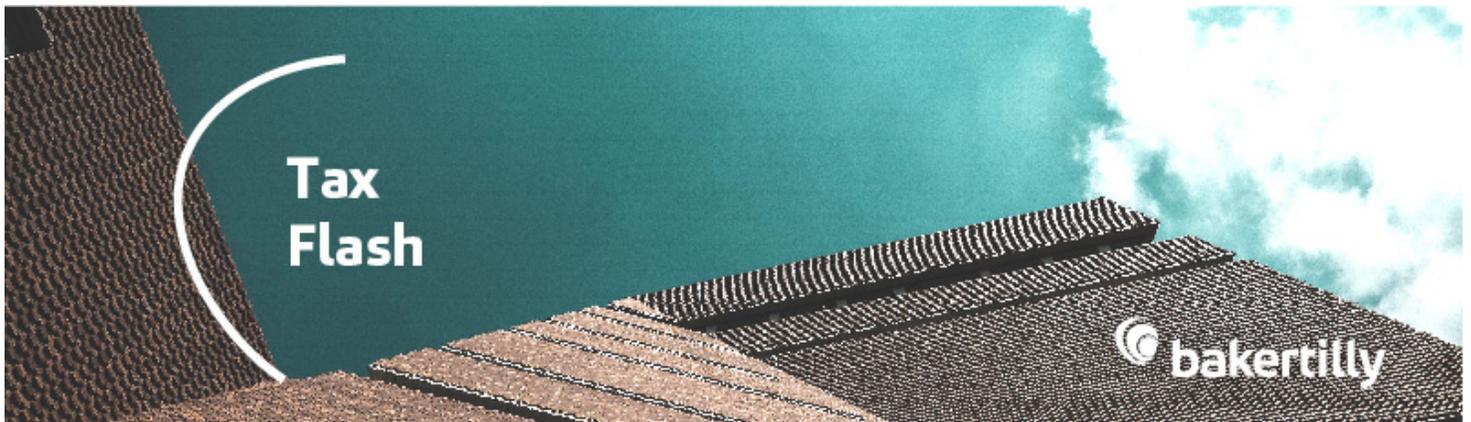
[Register Here](#)

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

WATCH NOW: [The Road to Recovery: Townhall with the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford](#)

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.



The wage subsidy is the most lucrative program offered by the federal government with wide appeal ranging from small to large businesses. The proposed wage subsidy program was originally introduced on April 1, 2020. It received a few modifications a week later with even further amendments as it passed through the House as Bill C-14 on April 11, 2020.

[Read more](#)





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](#)



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](#)
