



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

Dear Member & Associates:

Well, I guess I wasn't far off when I mentioned that people are missing their shopping 'experiences'. That proof rang loud and clear with Winners opening yesterday. After my workday yesterday I had a few errands to run and thought I might return a purchase I had made, well over two months ago. Not expecting what I arrived to, I quickly changed my mind, there are other days ahead.

I would suggest visiting www.ckphu.com/information-for-workplaces/ and www.cbrn.ca. These recommendations and tools are available for business but can also aid the consumer to understand the challenges proprietors are overcoming. These safety measures come at a cost to their bottom line and reputation. While the Premier extended emergency measures once again, I was hoping to see more doors opening. As business representatives, we all know that every day a business remains closed adds another day of worry and concern. The unfortunate reality is that some businesses will not see through until their doors can open, or, will not survive longer term. As said before, we all need to do our part in adapting and accepting the 'new normal' for every business welcoming us in.

I am currently working on an initiative with several peers from across Ontario as our communities initiate opportunities for restaurants to expand into adaptable spaces such as streets, parking lots and sidewalk areas. Yesterday, the Ontario Chamber offered their assistance with co-ordinations to help amplify the need for revised rules and regulations under the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. As a member on the OCC Board of Directors, I can attest to the magnitude of support of the organization and the variety of initiatives they are backing administratively and vocally. *Thanks to the OCC!*

I encourage you to be readying your grant application for the Small Business Relief Fund opening on Monday, June 1st. There will be 62 small businesses finding \$10,000 relief, details are at : <https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/smallbusinessrelieffund/>. Recipients will be chosen by a Canadian Chamber Judging Team...I will be watching closely for a Chatham-Kent benefactor! I also want to remind you of the free Business Resilience Service Hotline, available for the next four weeks, open 7 days a week to provide financial advice. These programs have been co-ordinated through the Canadian Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of a number of supporting partners. *Thank you to the CCC!*

With each of these messages is a wealth of information on announcements and initiatives. I tend to not replicate our *Partner in Prosperity* information as every piece has varied values to business, but each worth its weight in gold. Every e-message comes with a new set of updates and information sessions, surveys and deliverables. I encourage you to review and share! Like so many these days, as climates and environments change, the Board of Directors, Sarah and I are continually pivoting, working through and creating our new normal. We truly appreciate your continued support. *Thank you to our Members!*

In closing, please - 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

Member Spotlight...

We're asking our members, "What is, or was, your business prior to COVID-19? What has your business implemented for your 'new normal'?"

What advice can you share with other Chamber members and fellow business?



In this interview, we connected with Dan Whittal, Whittal + Company Law Firm. Dan shares his current ways of transacting business, benefits of incorporating your business and some COVID-19 'tactics and tips' to use now, and into the future. Valuable information to be learned and shared.

[Watch the Video](#)



As we continue our battle against COVID19 and Ontario begins to "RE-OPEN", local businesses are answering the **CALL TO ACTION** and doing their part to help flatten the curve. Although you may be implementing temporary barriers and social distancing, how will you protect your staff and ensure the safety of the public going forward? Can you be truly certain that your facility is truly **contamination free**?

The truth is that preventative measures are the BEST MEDICINE, and safe, healthy workers and customers mean a healthier bottom line for your business.

Introducing GO FOG IT.

A revolutionary disinfecting service that utilizes the power of fog.

Go Fog It™ is the world's leading electrostatic spraying and disinfectant fogging company, providing fast and effective solutions to **businesses and homes globally** while also giving peace-of-mind. Using **government-approved** and **environmentally friendly** disinfectants in our proprietary 360° Fogging Disinfection Protocol, Go Fog It™ effectively and affordably spreads microns of safe disinfectant that kill **99.9% of viruses present, including COVID-19.**

RE-OPENING ONTARIO

As we move to re-open our businesses and public spaces, the need for high-quality effective solutions to protect the public has never been greater. Hospitals, airports, and other institutions have turned to **Go Fog It™** for a solution. **Go Fog It™** can help you re-open your business safely and help you maintain the highest level of cleanliness, and eliminate **contract traces** in the months to come by offering weekly and monthly scheduled preventative maintenance visits, as well as emergency response visits if you have experienced a case of COVID19 in your space.

SECTORS WE SERVICE

Go Fog It™ has been servicing a variety of sectors and our capabilities are applicable to all environments. We have been fogging all types of facilities including (but not limited to):

COMMERCIAL | RETAIL | OFFICE | BANKING | RESTAURANT | DEALERSHIPS | HOTELS | MEDICAL

INDUSTRIAL | MANUFACTURING | COMMUNITY CENTRES | GOVERNMENT | CONDOS

SCHOOLS | RESIDENTIAL | VEHICLES | CONSTRUCTION | REAL ESTATE

Go Fog It™ is EASY, SAFE and EFFECTIVE.

Update from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

ONTARIO EMERGENCY ORDER EXTENDED

- Today, the Ontario government has extended all emergency orders in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until **June 9, 2020**. [Click here for a full list of extended emergency orders.](#)

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE (CECRA)

- The CECRA for small businesses application portal is open. [Apply here.](#)
- Since the CECRA announcement, we have heard from numerous businesses that the program will not provide the support needed without improvements. The main concern is that commercial landlords may not participate in the program.

- We have called for the federal government to work with provinces and territories to address issues with the CECRA program, including improving the program uptake by landlords. Specifically calling for a “temporary” moratorium to allow for time for both landlords and tenants to digest the actual details of the rent subsidy program that only just launched on Monday.
- We appreciate how collaboratively the Ontario government has always worked with the Ontario business community. To stop widespread evictions & bankruptcies, we join the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association, Restaurants Canada, and Retail Council of Canada in asking for a moratorium on commercial evictions. [See our announcement on social.](#)
- [Read the letter here.](#)

CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY CONSULTATION

The federal government has [launched a consultation process](#) to seek information and feedback from businesses of all sizes, in every sector, labour representatives, not-for-profits, and charities on how the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program can be adapted to save as many Canadian jobs as possible. The consultations will close on **June 5, 2020**.

To participate in this consultation:

1. Share your experience by taking a [short survey](#) or, Provide in-depth feedback to this email fin.cews-succ.fin@canada.ca.

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Youth Employment And Skills Program (YESP) Enhancement

The Government of Canada is funding the YESP with up to an additional \$9.2 million to create up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture industry. This additional funding will help the agriculture industry attract Canadian youth, ages 15 to 30, to their organizations to assist with labour shortages brought on by the pandemic. This program aims to provide youth, and particularly youth facing barriers to employment, with job experience in agriculture that will provide career-related work experience. [More Information](#)

Two New COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, through the Innovative Solutions Canada program, has two funding opportunities available. One seeks a smart digital exchange platform solution that will connect researchers, health providers and solution providers with the appropriate expertise, materials, devices and information to respond to COVID-19. The second requires a solution for reagents required for nucleic acid sample preparation and rapid and efficient SARS-CoV-2 Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) extraction in order to perform downstream molecular diagnostics of COVID-19 with capability to integrate within existing and/or potential microfluidic platforms for sample-to-answer solutions that can be deployed on the frontline for rapid testing. [More Information](#)

Joint Letter To Prime Minister Justin Trudeau On Restarting Canada’s Tourism And Travel Sector

On May 26, 2020, an open letter was sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urging the federal government to take measures to restart Canada’s tourism and travel sector. The letter was sent on behalf of Canada’s Tourism Roundtable, which includes the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC), the Hotel Association of Canada (HAC), the National Airlines Council of Canada (NACC), the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA), the Canadian Airports Council (CAC), Meetings Mean Business Canada, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, the Toronto Region Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal and Tourism Toronto. [Read Our Statement](#)

New PPE Matchmaking Portal Connects Producers With Businesses In Need

As our economy begins to reopen, many businesses will need to access personal protective equipment (PPE) to help keep their customers and staff safe from COVID-19. Sourcing masks, hand sanitizers and gowns is often challenging, especially for businesses that are new to purchasing this type of equipment, especially with unprecedented global demand for PPE.

RRP Canada is free to use and provides a matchmaking service to ‘connect the dots’ between manufacturers and businesses in need of PPE. PPE products on the Rapid Response Platform include hand sanitizer, surgical masks, N95 masks, surface sanitizer, face shields and gowns. [Learn More](#)

Contribute To The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Consultation

The Government of Canada is reviewing the CEWS program, and input from businesses is required to inform potential changes to the program to best meet the needs of businesses and their staff. You can participate via a short online survey or by email. Deadline to participate is June 5, 2020. [More Information](#)

Travel, Tourism And Hospitality Sector Last To Fully Recover From COVID-19

Our survey with Statistics Canada revealed that the travel, tourism and hospitality sector will be one of the last to fully recover as consumers face new, post-COVID, realities. The federal government has taken some action to help firms whose businesses are primarily seasonal through the form of a \$1-billion regional relief fund. This funding will clearly help but, inevitably, businesses in this sector will require more targeted support. We are working to ensure they have the resources they need to get through this period of uncertainty. [Read Our Statement](#)

Facebook Canada Launches Grant Program And New Supports, Totalling Nearly \$3.5 Million For Small Businesses

Small businesses are the pillars of our communities and, right now, they need everyone’s support. Today, Facebook Canada launched a program with nearly \$3.5 million in support for small- and medium-sized businesses in the Ottawa-Gatineau, Toronto, Vancouver and

Montreal regions. From grants and virtual training to enhanced resources and new product features, this is Facebook Canada's way of giving a hand to those who give our communities so much. The deadline to apply for the grants is Tuesday, June 2. [Learn More](#)

Canada Revenue Agency Extends Filing Deadlines For Corporations And Trusts

The CRA has extended deadlines for T2 Corporate Income Tax Returns and T3 Trust Income Tax Returns that had been due in June, July or August. Those returns are now due September 1, 2020. As previously announced by CRA, any income tax balance due on or after March 18 and before September 1 is also now due by September 1, 2020.

[More Information On T2s And T3s Tax Filing And Payment Deadline Info](#)

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.

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](#)



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](#).

Update from the Federal Government

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Consultation

On May 15th, we announced that after listening to Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs, [we extended](#) the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) by an additional 12 weeks to August 29, 2020.

To continue to respond to the needs of Canadians, we [launched a consultation process](#) to seek information and feedback from businesses of all sizes, in every sector, labour representatives, not-for-profits, and charities on how the CEWS program can be adapted to save as many Canadian jobs as possible. All adjustments to the program, including the 30% revenue reduction threshold, are aimed to maximize employment, ensure the CEWS reflects the immediate needs of your business, and support the post-crisis economic recovery.

We want to hear from you. To participate in this consultation:

- i. Share your experience by taking a [short survey](#) or,
- ii. Provide in-depth feedback to this email (fin.cews-succ.fin@canada.ca) using the guiding questions below:
 1. Are there specific challenges associated with the CEWS program? For example, are there challenges with respect to its accessibility, its incentive impacts, or any other aspect?
 2. What adjustments to the CEWS would you propose to provide the right level of support to those most affected by the pandemic while supporting the economic recovery?
 3. Would adding complexity to the CEWS program be acceptable in order to expand access to this support, or better target support to those who need it?
 4. To what extent are employers using the CEWS to provide support to furloughed employees as compared to using it as a means to pay active employees? Do employers value maintaining ties with furloughed employees by keeping them on the payroll? Should the level of support for furloughed employees be the same as for active employees?
 5. What are the key barriers to rehiring workers recently laid off due to the pandemic?
 6. Are there specific factors that are preventing or discouraging employers from applying for the CEWS?
 7. If you are a seasonal business, are there any unique challenges you are facing in relation to the CEWS?

The consultations will close on June 5, 2020.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

Tuesday, June 2 at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

We will be joined by BDC Chief Economist Pierre Cl  roux who will give an economic update and speak about the main business trends that will reshape the way we do business, and BDC Advisory Services Executive Vice President Peter Lawler who will discuss what business owners should be doing now as they ramp up operations and also give an overview of financing support programs and resources available.

[Register Now](#)

Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS) Virtual Office Ergonomics Awareness for Small Businesses

Wednesday, June 3 at 10 am – 11 am

This session will provide you with the opportunity to connect with an ergonomics coach who will provide an introduction to ergonomics in a home office setting, tips and suggestions on adjusting the components of your temporary / make shift workstation. Suggestions will be offered in order to make use of the home environment and the resources available, and assist with comfort and productivity, optimizing setup were possible.

[Register Now](#)

EBS Cyber Security Webinar with Field Effect

Thursday, June 4 at 11:30 am

What we'll cover during this webinar:

- Cyber threats you need to be aware of
- Data trends we're seeing during the pandemic
- Video conferencing – is it secure?
- Email security
- How can you ensure your security in this new environment? Are there specific things to be thinking about?

[Register Now](#)

BDC Webinar: COVID-19 How to adapt your business to thrive in the new normal

Monday, June 15th 12:00 p.m.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented level of uncertainty for entrepreneurs. Sign up for this free webinar to discover a step-by-step approach to adapting your business strategy and forging your own path through the crisis.

[Register NOW](#)

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.



[View the Toolkit HERE](#)



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!



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!

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](#)
