



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

Dear Member & Associates:

The layers are slowly peeling as we unveil a new way of business, a new means to our economy.

There are businesses that are still closed, still hurting, still frustrated. Governments continue to ‘pivot’ to find means of support. As higher levels of government continue announcements, it is good to note that the Municipality will be receiving its Gas Tax Fund payments in accelerated fashion. This will help soften some effects on our community overall. Although uncertain in how the monies will be utilized locally, I recognize the challenge Chatham-Kent Council and Administration has in battling the crisis as well. We need cost savings in order to reduce expenses and tax increases in future. We must also be thoughtful when asking for savings, yet, unwilling to reduce servicing. Fair play is in place.

While federal government extends emergency funding reliefs, the provincial state of emergency also finds extension. This is a hard blow on many, yet, Chatham-Kent’s business community is slowly reopening, albeit with cautious optimism. Pleasingly, Municipal Council approved monies to help those businesses that, still, are between the cracks. All hope is that the funds are delivered to provide timely support to find ‘the other side’ of sustainment. We can all play a part in helping business open..., stick to the safety rules and get out (yes, I said ‘get out’) and support the businesses that are open. Wearing a mask is becoming more acceptable, and, even more so, appreciated. Hand sanitizer is offered at every store and should be used. Sons of Kent unveiled their ‘Hang in There’ bottled sanitizer last week. I purchased my ‘handful’ to stock the vehicles and house. Although it doesn’t smell like beer, it is another great S.O.K. product and of use by all ages! Simple tasks like these will find us on ‘the other side’ of Stage 2.

At end of today, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are gathering for a Thirsty Thursday virtual social - I’m still debating on S.O.K.’s ‘Don’t Panic’ or ‘In This Together’. Hmm ? Last week, I shared in a Chamber Executives of Ontario ‘Lounge and Learn’ with Early Acres Estate Winery product in hand. Promoting ‘local’ socially, while responsibly. Social media marketing does have its ‘glass half full’ perks!

We’ve received offerings from Chatham-Kent Chamber members, GoFogIt: Windsor and Post Media, stepping up to help fellow members and local business with options to help beat the COVID-19 battle. I’ve also talked to some members refining their grant applications provided through the Small Business Relief Fund.... (yeah!!). All are proactive initiatives, and all worthy of reading details below.

The community lost ‘one of its best’ earlier this week. Sadly, Mike Korpan, entrepreneurial owner of Early Acres Estate Winery, passed. Mike was a long time volunteer with our Chamber, active on many committees, and a Director on our Board for a number of years. His positive demeanour will be missed, immensely. His infectious smile will carry on, always. Our sincerest condolences to Sue and family.

It is times like these, with the many challenges, distancing and loss of connection, we must find the positives. Life throws us curveballs, only to make us wiser and stronger. Please remember to support, encourage and lend a hand or kind word. We are One. We are Chatham-Kent. We are “In This Together”.

Please share this, and below, information...we are in this together, and we will win!

Yours in Good Health and Prosperity, Gail .....Remember the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce slogan: SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

*Gail A.B. Hundt* / President & CEO / Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce

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SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

Visit the *Canadian Business Resilience Network* at [CBRN.ca](http://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 are available at [www.chatham-kentchamber.ca](http://www.chatham-kentchamber.ca)

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## Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

### Open Letter To The Prime Minister From The Six Largest Business Associations

As provinces and territories begin to reopen, Canada must prepare to transition to economic stimulus and getting Canadians back into the workforce while ensuring their health and safety. The goal should be to encourage investment and business activities that will generate federal and provincial/territorial revenue, thereby helping to offset the extraordinarily high levels of public spending required during the pandemic. [Read The Letter](#)

### Statement On Racism In Canada

Like all other Canadians, our businesses benefit from the rich diversity of our citizens. Our diversity is a source of strength that adds to the social, cultural and economic well-being of every one of us.

We must work together to build a society that is based on respect and equality for all of its members.

It's important that each and every one of our members upholds these same principles, and we encourage you to share our statement with all of your stakeholders. [Read Our Statement](#)

### Reminder: 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. The deadline to participate is June 5, 2020. [Complete The Survey](#)



**Roadmap to Recovery** Today, the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is endorsing [Roadmap to Recovery](#); a comprehensive look at the challenges facing our economy that identifies 51 specific recommendations governments should adopt to overcome them.

[Click here](#) to read the full *Roadmap to Recovery*.

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## **POSTMEDIA SOLUTIONS**

Through Postmedia Supports, we are offering a Local Marketing Grant Program as another way to strengthen our communities and help boost economic growth, one business at a time.

The program has two components:

- A full marketing grant program to select businesses in the hardest hit sectors of our economy, including, but not limited to the Restaurant, Tourism and Hospitality sectors
- A match program whereby local businesses can apply for matching media investments from \$500 to \$15,000 to complement their new programs

Our local experts will work directly with you to understand your business, set goals and implement a thoughtful marketing strategy to help grow your business.

Click here to learn more and apply: <http://www.postmediasolutions.com/grant/>

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### **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

#### [Webinar with the Hon. Mary Ng](#)

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

The discussion with Minister Ng will address key questions on relief programs available to small businesses during a time when they need it most, as well as provide insights on what the path to recovery may look like.

[Register now](#)

#### **Getting Creative With Your Mobile Phone, With Facebook**

June 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Learn how to plan and create content using your mobile phone. We'll share tools, tips and creative apps that can help you create high quality content for your customers and followers.

[Register Now](#)

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

Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

#### **Take Control of Your Business: 3 Simple Tools to Help Your Business Survive and Thrive with Bradshaw & Associates**

June 22, 1:30 p.m.

[Register Now](#)

#### **How to Build an Effective Advertising Strategy with Facebook**

June 24, 1:00 p.m.

[Register Now](#)

### **PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS**

**WATCH NOW:** 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.

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Hello Chatham-Kent Businesses! With changes in business quickly evolving, you may need access to offering Debit, VISA and Mastercard, and the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce can help you access and at rates guaranteed to help save on your bottom line! Contact us TODAY!

**First Data**



## First Data Chamber Merchant Services Credit Card Processing to Help Drive Business



### Let UPS help you come back strong

As safer at home measures start to relax and we focus on rebuilding, lean on your Chamber UPS Savings Program to address logistics challenges and deliver the tools and resources you need to help your business come back stronger than ever. Here are a few featured solutions:

#### INCREASE YOUR CASH FLOW

- Save 50% on all shipping domestic and international

#### START SELLING ONLINE, QUICKLY

- Navigate the “next normal” with these [5 Tips to Expand your E-Commerce Strategy](#).

#### MANAGE SHIPMENTS LIKE A PRO

- Easily see all of your inbound and outbound shipments in one place with [UPS My Choice<sup>®</sup> for Business](#).

To learn more visit: [www.membersbenefitprogram.com/CKChamber](http://www.membersbenefitprogram.com/CKChamber)

Or call: 1-800-MEMBERS (636-2377), 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., to speak with a member care specialist.



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## Resources:

### Local

[Public Health Information on COVID-19](#)

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Community Futures CK](#)

[Community Futures CK - Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#)

[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](#)

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