



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY CAN MAKE!

UPDATES FROM GOVERNMENT ON SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESS

Friday, March 27th, 2020 the Prime Minister announced an increased wage subsidy to support business in Canada. His announcement moves the wage subsidy program from the initial 10% announced earlier, to now a new 75% subsidy of eligible wages. More details were to be announced today, but the Canadian Press is reporting that Finance Minister Bill Morneau will speak to the program at a media availability on Wednesday. But here is what we understand so far:

75% Wage Subsidy:

- Open to all businesses (small, medium and large) as well as non-profits and charities;
- To be eligible, a business must demonstrate a loss of at least 30% of their revenue;
- The subsidy will be capped at \$847 per week (salary of \$58,700 per annum);
- The government is asking, that those businesses who qualify for the subsidy, should re-hire workers whom they have recently laid off;
- Subsidy will be available retroactive to March 15th, 2020;
- Subsidy will be for a period of 3 (three) months.

Other Announcements included: Media Release [HERE](#)

- Allowing businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax payments until June, as well as customs duties owed on imports.

- Launch of a new **Canada Emergency Business Account** which will provide interest-free loans to small business. Guaranteed by the Government of Canada, these loans will ensure small businesses have access to the capital they need, at a zero % interest rate, so they can pay rent and other important costs over the next number of months. The loans can be up to \$40,000. To qualify, a business has to provide that they paid wages from \$50,000 to \$1M dollars in 2019. [INFO HERE](#)
- Launch of the new Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending, supported through EDC and BDC for guaranteed loans when small businesses go to their financial institutions to help weather the impacts of COVID-19. This is intended to assist those who require greater help to meet their operational cash flow requirements.
- March 31st, the government announced supports for the air transportation sector, specifically for 21 airports across the country. Saskatoon and Regina Airports are included in that relief package.
- Government is also supporting Broadcasting companies, with the announcement of waiving of the regulatory fees from the CRTC for Part 1 License Fees for broadcasters. [Announcement Here](#)

Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board - has announced that premium penalties will be waived for employers effective April 1st, 2020 through June 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 crisis.

WHO deems "Chambers of Commerce" an essential service for business.

Advocacy work at the national level for businesses continues on items like:

1. Advocating on issues around Credit Card fees for business - companies and banks being encouraged to support their business clients. Hoping news will be out shortly.
2. Briefing Call to focus on sector specific issues. Most recent: Canada-U.S. border and international trade.
3. Conversations on ongoing to support businesses whose landlords won't defer rent payments, options for staggering the introduction of support programs to ease the strain on/processing time for government.
4. Ag Sector - Temporary Foreign Workers
5. Flow of International Air Cargo
6. Flow of Medical Equipment across borders
7. Working with Financial Institutions on flexibility of payments, needs of small business clients, urgent need to speed up emergency loans, and more.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is in close contact with the federal government on these and many other issues. We will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. Stay tuned, and follow the Chamber network.

BUSINESSES THAT CAN REMAIN OPEN [List HERE](#)

RESOURCES YOU NEED

Canadian Chamber of Commerce:
Keeping Employees Connected media release [HERE](#). The Chamber believes this is critical to keep employees connected to businesses, but also assist in a fast recovery beyond the pandemic.

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan - Rapid Policy Update
[Chamber's Website](#)

The Chamber has compiled the up-to-date information on new government programs.
[FAQ - Government Programs](#)

Government of Canada:
Department of Finance website:
[Finance Dept. Here](#)

[CRA Website HERE](#)

Government of Saskatchewan:
[Visit Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus here!](#)

Newly announced "Business Response Team". Contact them by phone or email.
Phone # 1-844-800-8688
[Website](#)

For information on the **State of Emergency in Saskatchewan.**
[See Media Release here:](#)

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:
Resources for Business
[Website Here](#)

Check too, they are listing webinars available to business, specifically, one hosted by BDC: [How to Cope with the Impacts of COVID-19 on Your Business](#)



Pandemic Preparedness Guide

Get your Pandemic Preparedness Plan for Business information here, at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce site. There is a Guide, Crisis Communications Plan, and Business Continuity & Recovery Plan.

[See the Chamber's website](#)



Monday Minute

Monday Minute provides up-to-the minute information on key Chamber of Commerce activities, advocacy and events. Recorded each Monday, it is distributed to Chamber members via email, and is available on the Chamber's website.

Visit our [website!](#) or Click [HERE](#)

Smart Moves
for your small business...

1. Join the Battlefords Chamber
2. Protect your most valuable assets

Request more information:
Aaron Cadrin
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visit **chamberplan.ca**
Employee Benefits with a difference. Simple. Stable. Smart.

1. [VIEW CHAMBER'S PLAN FAQ](#)
2. [COVID-19 INFO SHEET HERE](#)
3. [TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH HERE](#)

Take Out
TUESDAY
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL EATERIES!

Chamber Network Working for You!



As a valued member of the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, you have access to the chamber network. The Canadian and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce and

of course our local resources are here to support you. Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 and other key business issues.

[Email us today!](#)

We will be working reduced hours, but will still be available to members and organizations who require assistance.

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