



## ADVOCACY UPDATE

### COVID-19 - Have You Applied for CEWS?

#### UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Monday, April 27th, 2020 was the first day that CRA was accepting applications from eligible employers for the **CEWS - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy**. It was an easy enough process to use their calculator to determine the eligible amounts for the subsidy, and the application process was painless as well. The indication is from government, that funds could be in businesses hands by May 7th, 2020. News Release (April 27th) [HERE](#).

The Commercial Rent Assistance Program, or **CECRA - Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** has been agreed to in principle by the federal and provincial governments. Early indications are that the plan will be a 25-50-25% split amongst the parties. The federal government will kick in 25%, the landlord will receive benefit through a forgivable loan to qualifying commercial landlords, to cover the 50%, and the tenant is asked to pay the remaining 25% of their rent. The loan to the landlord will be forgiven if they agree to reduce the rent for the tenant by 75%, and they agree not to evict the tenant during the 3 month period of the program. The program is expected to be ready for applications by mid-May, and more details will be announced in due course.

#### Other Announcements:

Provincial:

- The **PLAN** has been released. The dimmer switch is moving to the on position. April 23rd, 2020 Premier Scott Moe together with the Chief Public Health Officer unveiled the slow and methodical phased re-opening of the Saskatchewan economy.

Federal:

- The government announced supports for the fish and seafood industry, with their Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund. Find the media release: [HERE](#)
- Agri-Stability interim-payments for Saskatchewan farmers have been increased. See the media release: [HERE](#).

## Canadian Chamber of Commerce

- Today, Trevin Stratton, Ph.D., Vice President of Policy and Chief Economist at the Canadian Chamber has written an article on **5 Keys to Re-opening the Economy**. Take a **READ HERE**.
- As noted below, get your daily updates and information from **CBRN.ca** on everything COVID-19 and business resilience and recovery.

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### Advocacy work at the national, provincial and local level for businesses continues.

Today's provincial Chamber network conference call after the round-table, was focused on the re-opening particularly of the Retail Sector - May 19th, 2020, and questions Chamber members were having around PPE, #'s of people allowed in specific stores, and returns and the trying on of clothes. More will follow on this issue. For some information, please be sure to read articles from [saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus), in particular **HERE**, where they discuss PPE in the workplace.

Late last week we had two ZOOM calls, one with Minister Jeremy Harrison of the government of Saskatchewan, and then with the official opposition NDP leader Ryan Meili, together with Trent Wotherspoon.

- Minister Harrison discussed the most up-to-date information on the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, and touted the phased in, slow methodical and measured approach.
  - He noted that the up to \$5,000 SSBEP emergency benefit for Saskatchewan businesses is the most generous of its kind in the country;
  - they have been collaborating daily with the federal government and continue to do so in many areas;
  - The Commercial Rent Assistance program is a key focus of late;
  - He noted to "**stay tuned**" on infrastructure news and announcements upcoming;
  - he encouraged businesses to take advantage of the CanSask. Job Grant program, to assist training needs;
  - They are coordinating with the feds on the programming that will come out of the Community Futures Network in Sask.
- Dr. Mieli and MLA Wotherspoon provided opening remarks and answered questions from the business community across the province. It was an opportunity to hear from the opposition and gain a better understanding of their positions during this pandemic.
  - The main vein of their focus is "people first", as Dr. Mieli was quoted as saying'
  - They do have questions about the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, so were hoping to see the legislative assembly opened for work to resume and questions to be answered;
  - questions during the call were from a wide range of participants and with different themes.

Both calls were good discussions, and we were glad to participate on behalf of Battlefords Chamber of Commerce members.

The Canadian, Saskatchewan and Battlefords Chambers of Commerce are in close contact with the federal, provincial and municipal governments on many issues. We will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. Stay tuned, and follow the Chamber network.

Add your business to the growing list of Battlefords businesses who are using the website **thebattlefords.thingsthatareopen.com**

Be sure to update the site regularly, should you change your hours, availability, etc. Let's be sure to let residents know how, where and when to reach you during this pandemic. Sign up today.

## **RESOURCES YOU NEED**

### **Canadian Chamber of Commerce:**

**CBRN** micro-site has all the information, tools and resources businesses need to manage through COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Government of Canada:**

**Department of Finance website:**  
**Finance Dept. Here**

**CRA Website HERE**

### **Government of Saskatchewan:**

Visit [Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) here!

**The "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:** Extended until April 28th, 2020.

### **Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:**

**Resources for Business Website Here**



## **Canadian Business Resilience Network - Resources You Need**

Get the most up-to-date information on **Containment Measures;**  
**Business Continuity;**  
**Support for Business;**  
**Recovery**

See the Chamber's new micro-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](#)

1. Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance - **rebates** are being prepared for all plan holders - 50% of Dental Premiums and 10% of Extended Health Premiums. Watch for that change / reduction on your next statement.



## 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.

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



Email us today!



Battlefords Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 1000, North Battleford, SK. S9A 3E6  
W. 306-445-6226 F. 306-445-6633 or 306-446-0188

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