



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - RESOURCES for YOU!

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS

Together with Statistics Canada, the Chamber Network across Canada is encouraging ALL businesses to participate in and complete the **Canadian Survey of Business Conditions**. This survey will potentially be one of the largest crowd sourced business intelligence surveys in Canadian history. Results will form decision making on programs and needs of business going forward. Have your *voice* heard!

Monday, April 6th, 2020, the Canadian Chamber announced the launching of a new micro-site that will house everything businesses need to know about business and the COVID-19 pandemic. It is: **Canadian Business Resilience Network** or **CBRN.ca** Launched with its over 450 local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade and several business organizations and associations, and the government of Canada support, this website has all the information, tools and resources businesses need, and is a one-stop site. View the Prime Minister's announcement [here](#). Chamber Announcement [here](#).

Other Announcements:

- It is **National Caregiver Day**, so be sure to express your gratitude and thanks for anyone in your life that is a caregiver, whether its for seniors, children, those with special needs, or a family member or friend with an illness. Thanks for keeping us all safe and healthy!
- China has ended a 76 day lock-down on the epicentre of the coronavirus -Wuhan.

- Businesses across the country have been re-tooling and manufacturing much needed medical supplies, masks, shields, and gowns. The business community steps up! We're all in this together.
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Advocacy work at the national level for businesses continues on items like:

1. Postpone government consultations that are not germane to COVID-19;
2. Place a moratorium on the introduction of new regulations that are non-essential;
3. Identify and support workers for essentials goods and services;
4. Help businesses, particularly SME's finance remote work options;
5. Offer flexibility on remittance payments;
6. Support for diminished sectors (e.g. energy, transportation, travel, tourism, cannabis, etc.)
7. Continuing work on the WAGE Subsidy
 - when will the portal be open for applications and how quickly will the money be flowing for businesses;
 - conveying concerns to government that most SME's have a month's reserve, and cannot wait several weeks or months for this money to arrive;
 - concerns around the 30% reduction requirement, perhaps look at a sliding scale;
 - start-ups and businesses who have operated less than a year;
 - legislation initially did not include non-profits but did include business and charities. Working to fill that gap and ensure correction in this next round of Commons work;
 - Seasonal businesses;
 - Dividends paid to business owners will be included in payroll monies for subsidy applications, but not yet sure on some specific examples, so work continues.

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.

SOMETHING TO CHECK

We have heard some group insurance providers have said once people who have been laid off, return to work (and benefits) that they will have to go through the 90 day waiting period again? We are checking on this. But, for those on Chambers Group Insurance benefits, you are A-Ok, as they will restart benefits if an employee is re-hired within 6 months of the lay-off without penalty. More to come.

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 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 2 additional weeks, April 1st, 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



1. [VIEW CHAMBER'S PLAN FAQ](#)
2. [COVID-19 INFO SHEET HERE](#)

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](#)

3. TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH [HERE](#)



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!](#)

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

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