



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - CHANGES TO THE WAGE SUBSIDY

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

April 8th, 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program to allow more business access to the 75% subsidy. Rather than requiring a 30% drop in revenue, businesses can now qualify if they have lost just 15% of their revenue in March (since the program only kicked in mid-month). There are also new components to the program.

The [NEWS RELEASE](#) from government highlights the new initiative. On top of that, there is additional information provided in its [Backgrounder](#) on the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#).

Additional information includes:

- Employers entitled to receive the CEWS will now be eligible to receive a 100 percent refund for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, and the Quebec equivalents. This refund would apply to the entire amount of employer paid contributions, and will make it easier for employers to rehire staff who may have been laid off.
- There is now flexibility in how revenue is calculated. Initially they said it would be based on comparative figures from the same time in 2019. (Mar 2020 - Mar 2019, etc.) However, now employers can average their revenue earned in January and February, 2020.
- There are new rules around when revenue is earned and when it is paid, and is variable depending on the sector your business is in. So, they will allow employers to use either the accrual accounting or cash accounting methods to measure

revenues. Whatever method you choose, you must use the same calculation (method) for each of the periods you are applying for. (March, April or May)

- Registered charities and non-profits may choose to include government funding or not, in their revenue calculations.
- It also appears that they are proposing no overall limit on the subsidy amount per eligible employer. Employer's are expected to make their best effort to top-up employee's salaries to bring them to pre-crisis levels.
- There is also new measures for start up companies and ways for them to calculate revenue for the CEWS.

Again, eligible employers include: individuals, taxable corporations, partnerships consisting of eligible employers, non-profit organizations and registered charities.

Employers are encouraged to re-hire employees as quickly as possible if they are eligible, to avoid duplication of federal funding. CERB or monies employees may have received, can be repaid, if they are brought back to the workplace and paid through their employer.

APPLICATIONS are now available online, at your current financial institution, for the **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** - interest free business loans of up to \$40,000 for businesses and non-profits. Check online at your bank's website.

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!

Battlefords Chamber of Commerce participated in conference calls this week with not only the Chamber Network nationally and provincially, but one with the Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages. This ZOOM meeting was recorded and will be live on the Saskatchewan Chamber's website shortly.

Other Announcements:

- In the 1st edition of "The Business of Business" blog President & CEO Perrin Beatty (Canadian Chamber of Commerce) interviews the Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, on the effects of COVID-19 on SMEs. Watch the video blog **HERE**.

Advocacy work at the national and provincial level for businesses continues. Key things we are asking now:

1. Since most of the government programs are now announced (perhaps not legislated as yet), it is the businesses who may fall through the gaps that government now want to know about. So, to that end, please email us here at the Chamber if you have a question or are aware of a gap in programs. We will be happy to forward them to the government rep's at the provincial or national levels to get you an answer. [EMAIL](#) Linda or [EMAIL](#) Heather.
2. Minister Joly discussed that they feel 80% of businesses now should have access to some or multiple of the federal programs. If you experience challenges in applications processes (like being asked for personal guarantees in some specific programs), she would like to understand the roadblocks. So, as noted above, please email if you are experiencing challenges in applying for program assistance.

Just as a note: CRA's rep on the national call today, talked about them taking down 16 websites trying to impersonate the federal government in funding programs to acquire personal information, so Please Beware and be sure to access only Government of Canada websites.

The Canadian and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce are in close contact with the federal and provincial governments 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.

DEADLINE EXTENDED to FRIDAY APRIL 17TH
Please be sure to complete the joint
Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Statistics Canada -
Canadian Survey of Business Conditions

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