



## ADVOCACY UPDATE

### COVID-19 - Slow News Week, But Great Announcement!

**Battlefords Chamber of Commerce very pleased  
to see an independent Tax Review undertaken!**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has launched an independent tax review to spur recovery, and is pressing for a more competitive, simpler and more fair tax system.

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce was co-sponsor of a policy resolution at the 2019 Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM calling for just such a review of the tax system, either by Royal Commission (if government had undertaken the review), or independent commission, as this announcement has undertaken.

Specific details:

- First step in the review process will be a broad and inclusive public consultation process;
- 8 respected academic and business leaders will act as special Commissioners. The list includes a well known name in the public policy space, in Jack Mintz, President's Fellow of the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary.
- The Commissioners will solicit ideas on potential tax reforms that will help businesses and individual Canadians recover from the pandemic;
- Successive Canadian governments have avoided tackling such a comprehensive tax review; and significant reforms have not been introduced in some 60 years;
- Public Consultations dates:
  - August 11th - Western Canada
  - August 12th - Central Canada
  - August 19th - Quebec
  - August 26th - Atlantic Canada
  - September 2nd - Northern Canada

- A preliminary report is expected to be released in early October, 2020. The document will form the foundational document for the tax review.

See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

## UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

### **Federal Government:**

#### **[New Extension for Commercial Rent Relief:](#)**

- The government announced an extension to the Commercial Rent Relief program.
- See the [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

#### **[Businesses in Western Canada to see \\$95M in Supports:](#)**

- Western Economic Diversification announced that over \$95M will be distributed to businesses in western Canada thru the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.
- Businesses in Saskatchewan will see in Stream 1 - 92 projects with a total of \$3,013,284 and in Stream 2 - 22 projects with a total fund base of \$9,364,514, for a total investment of over \$12M.
- Stream 1 funding was for projects up to \$40,000, much like a CEBA loan
- Stream 2 funding was for projects over \$40,000 up to \$1M
- See the [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.
- See the [BACKGROUND](#) Here.

### **Provincial Government:**

#### **[Sask. Schools Re-Opening Plans Introduced:](#)**

- Saskatchewan has introduced its 8 point plan for the kids to return to school in September, 2020.
- The plan has 8 key points:
  - Safe Attendance
  - Safe Transportation
  - Safe Access
  - Safe Facilities
  - Safe Classrooms
  - Safe Supports
  - Safe Activities
  - Safe Alternatives
- See the provincial [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.
- See [Plan for Living Sky School Division](#) Here:
- See [Plan for Light of Christ Catholic Schools](#) Here.

### **Other Announcements:**

#### **[CBRN Site: Cannabis Support Falls Far Short:](#)**

- Health Canada has introduced a relief package for the Cannabis industry, but the Canadian Chamber says it falls far short of what is needed.
- The industry was calling for waiving of the annual fees, but Health Canada has only announced a deferral of fee payments.

- See the [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

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

I know you've heard the saying many times "We're all in this together!" Well, it's true, and it is important to remember that our communities all depend on each other and interact with one another. We need each other, and so should care about each other.

Here is an article from the CBC, that talks about how one neighbor and the community showed their caring for and about his Hutterite neighbors. See the story [LINK](#) Here.

We are working for you! If you require additional information or need support to connect, please call the Chamber office in North Battleford at (306)445-6226.

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.

**Be sure to get out and support your favorite local restaurant!**

### *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 the **[New Public Health Order](#)** in place July 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 **[Re-Opening the Economy;](#)**  
**[Tips and Advice;](#)**  
**[Financial Support;](#)**  
**[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](#)



**“When I realized my wellness program could be more than apples in the lunchroom.”**

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**Aaron Cadrin | 306.446.8080**

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### 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!



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