



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Do You Have a Q About CEWS?

Do you have a question about CEWS? Then you certainly would not be the only one. The complexity of the program has just become a significant hurdle for many.

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

Government Announces Updates to CEWS:

- Finance Minister Bill Morneau (July 17th) revealed the news about the updates to the CEWS program, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The announcement included a minimum 28 page description of the changes and specifics around the rates of the subsidy, how it will be reducing over the term and how to calculate a top up if you are in the hardest hit industries/sectors. See the [NEWS RELEASE Here](#).
- Here are some key points:
 - Though the program is to run until December 19th, 2020, the news release only provides program details to November 21st, 2020.
 - They have broadened the businesses that now qualify for the program by removing the 30% revenue decline as a base criteria.
 - They have introduced a top-up subsidy of up to 25% for those businesses / sectors hardest hit.
 - Provide certainty to those businesses who have made decisions thru July and August, based on the previous rules and qualification of CEWS.
 - Addressed some technical issues with the program.
- See the [BACKGROUNDER Here](#), that provides the details and technical information on the subsidy moving forward.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce responds to announcement of CEWS updates. See the [NEWS RELEASE Here](#).

Provincial Government:

Re-Open Saskatchewan: Guidelines for Yard and Garage Sales, Door-to-Door:

- Saskatchewan Health officials continued to provide guidelines for more businesses and activities to be undertaken. In this bulletin, they provided news that effective July 21st, 2020, modifications had been made to
 - Drive In Theatres - reducing the distance between vehicles to 2 metres down from the original 5 metre distance;
 - Retail Guidelines, libraries, places of Worship - reducing the time a returned items must be held, from 72 hours down to 24 hours;
 - Fitness facilities - permitting 24 hour access and ensuring a registration process to facilitate contact tracing;
 - Campgrounds - laundry facilities may now open.
- As well, the Yard and Garage Sales guidelines were issued, as well as those for Door-to-door Canvassing and Sales.
- See [NEWS RELEASE Here](#).

Other Announcements:

CBRN Site: Crisis in Food Services Industry:

- An Open Letter was directed to the Prime Minister, Provincial and Territorial Leaders and Municipal Officials discussing the dire circumstances in the Food Services Industry in Canada in the midst of this pandemic.
- In it, the supporters of the Canadian Business Resilience Network (CBRN), including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, urge leaders to take immediate and decisive action to ensure restaurants and food services businesses can continue to operate.
- See the [LETTER Here](#).

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

CBC News has Released an Article About Tax Breaks Working from Home:

- Does this impact you or your employees? There may be a benefit for them.
- Read the [STORY Here](#).

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

Some Quick Facts on Restaurants in Canada:

- The industry created one out of every 15 jobs in Canada (1.2 million Canadians)
- They served 22 million meals per day to Canadians
- They operate close to 100,000 establishments in the country
- they pay \$30 billion of wages and benefits, while contributing \$31 billion annually to Canada's GDP.

Since the ongoing recovery for restaurants and food services industries in the country may be a long and difficult path, it is up to us all to support our local friends and neighbors working in businesses related to food services. Let's all get out and support our local restaurants and bars, and book a caterer for your next meeting or get together!

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.

Some Openings of Note in the Battlefords:

This week the Capitol Theatre has opened for a few showings each week or previously released movies, and on August 12th, 2020 the Western Development Museum will re-open to the public!

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](https://www.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:** New order in place July 7th, 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."



Real Benefits for your business

Talk to your local advisor:

Aaron Cadrin | 306.446.8080

visit **chamberplan.ca**
Employee Benefits with a Difference. Simple. Stable. Smart.



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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