



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Much Work to Be Done!

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

Additional Support for Indigenous Businesses and Tourism Industry:

- Today, Minister Marc Miller announced an additional \$133M in new funding to support Indigenous business through the pandemic and into recovery. Of these additional funds, \$117 million will reach more community-owned First Nation, Inuit and Métis businesses including microbusinesses, who are not eligible for existing business support measures. Indigenous communities rely on these businesses to provide revenue for important services, and to create meaningful jobs.
- See **RELEASE HERE**.

Government Supporting Communities Across Saskatchewan:

- Infrastructure and Communities Minister Catherine McKenna announced that Saskatchewan has received \$62.5 million through the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) for the 2020–21 fiscal year to fund its most pressing infrastructure needs.
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.
- Locals receive: RM of Battle River = \$68,086; RM of Meota = \$55,047; RM of North Battleford = \$42,775.
 - Town of Battleford = \$261,311
 - City of North Battleford = \$844,585

Government Announces Hub for PPE:

- See **RELEASE HERE**.
- If you have not been able to source required PPE locally, take a look at the Hub.

Minister Ng Announces POST Program:

- Minister Mary Ng announced government support to assist businesses to re-open safely during COVID-19, and communicate that to customers.
- See **RELEASE HERE**.
- People Outside Safely Together (POST) Promise program.
- Tells your customers you are doing the 5 key things to keep your staff and guests safe:
 1. Maintaining physical distance
 2. Washing and sanitizing hands
 3. Cleaning and disinfecting regularly
 4. Staying home if unwell and self-monitoring for symptoms
 5. Practicing respiratory etiquette (including wearing a mask when physical distancing is difficult)

The **Prime Minister** is urging business to rehire their employees and file for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program, rather than allow them to remain on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

Provincial Government: Economy and Jobs on the Rebound:

- Minister Jeremy Harrison released news of recent job numbers in Saskatchewan. See the **RELEASE HERE**.

Saskatchewan Announces Commercial Eviction Protection for Tenants:

- The government has announced temporary measures to ensure businesses are not subject to commercial
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.

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

Much Work to be Done!

On the national conference call today, 3 tourism sector experts discussed the desperate needs of the sector, and how current government programs are not meeting their needs.

Not just the tourism sector is feeling the same way. Many sectors in Canada are suggesting the government needs to refine their programs to be sector specific to assist with the unique needs of the sector. Tourism is just one example of this.

The Canadian Chamber noted they have been working with industry and government on this issue, in Tourism, Retail, and Restaurant sectors, just to name a few.

They also made a presentation to the Senate Finance committee last week, on recommendations on how to stimulate and grow the recovery in the country.

Also, there is still widespread disappointment with the CECRA, the commercial rent assistance program. Uptake is slow at best, and many landlords are not yet enticed to participate or cannot. One business on

the call today, said only 1 of 5 landlords could and did apply for the program. No word yet on success, but we know that this program has been a hot button issue since its announcement. There is more to be done, as they said.

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.

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**The Canadian Chamber of Commerce together with Salesforce are offering
\$10,000 grants to 62 companies from across Canada.**

Will you be one of them? See [INFO HERE](#).

Application Deadline is June 12th, 2020 - 8:00 p.m. E.T.

There are 765 applications in hand to date, but you still have time!

RESOURCES YOU NEED

[Canadian Chamber of Commerce:](#)

[Government of Saskatchewan:](#)

Visit Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus here!

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

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:** Order extended on May 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."



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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