



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Are You Ready for Phase 4, Part 1

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

Updates to CEBA Canada Emergency Business Account:

- Effective June 19th, more businesses will be permitted to apply for CEBA.
- To qualify under the expanded eligibility rules, CEBA applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 will need:
 - A business operating account at a participating financial institution;
 - A Canada Revenue Agency business number;
 - A 2018 or 2019 tax return; and
 - Eligible non-deferrable expenses of between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million.
- See **RELEASE HERE**.
- The CEBA, or Canada Emergency Business Account program you will recall is administered through your primary financial institution, as your first call.

Finance to Release Economic & Fiscal Snapshot:

- Mark July 8th on the calendar as a date when Finance Minister Bill Morneau will address the country with an Economic and Fiscal Snapshot of Canada's finances.
- Estimates from the PBO indicate we could see a deficit of more than \$260B.

CERB Extended:

- CERB has been extended by an additional 8 weeks making available to Canadians the \$2,000 per 4 week period to support them while not working.
- There will be new attestation requirements that the recipients are actively looking for work, etc.

Government Announces Temperature Screening at Canadian Airports:

- If you are travelling for business or pleasure, you will soon see changes at Canadian airports. The government has announced that all passengers will be subject to temperature screenings in 3 phases:
 - Phase 1: By June 30, 2020, all air operators will be required to conduct temperature screenings of all passengers travelling to Canada prior to departure from international or trans-border points of departure.
 - Phase 2: By the end of July, temperature screening stations will be placed in the departure section of the four major airports that are currently identified as the only Canadian airports for international travel (Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver).
 - Phase 3: By September 2020, temperature screening stations will be in place in the departure sections of the next 11 busiest airports in Canada (St. John's, Halifax, Québec City, Ottawa, Toronto – Billy Bishop, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Kelowna, Victoria).
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

Government Announces Strategic Investments in Food Production:

- The Emergency Processing Fund was announced as part of the \$252M aid package to support food production and processing in Canada. This specific announcement outlines categories for funding - Emergency Covid Response as well as Strategic Investments.
- The funds are earmarked as investments to maintain and increase domestic food production and processing.
- See [BACKGROUNDER HERE](#).
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

Food Surplus Rescue Program:

- \$50M dollar program to support movement of surplus food commodities such as potatoes and other possible horticulture, fish and seafood, and meat through the food system as efficiently as possible to help vulnerable Canadians.
- Two core principles of the plan are:
 - Provide assistance to organizations serving vulnerable populations to acquire and process surplus commodities and food that would otherwise be lost or destroyed and distribute them to populations in need.
 - Connect surplus food commodities to vulnerable populations to avoid food waste.
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

Provincial Government:

Saskatchewan Announces New Rules for Churches and Segments for Phase 4:

- The date for Phase 4 - segment 1 has been announced, and the province released guidelines for
 - Churches (changes to initial plan)
 - Options for Graduation Ceremonies
 - Child and Youth Day Camps
 - Outdoor Pools & Splash Pads, and
 - Outdoor Sports & Activities, indoor and outdoors.

- See the [RELEASE HERE](#).
- Phase 4, segment 1 will open Monday June 22nd, 2020
 - This segment includes:
 - Outdoor Pools
 - Splash Parks
 - Child and Youth Day Camps
 - Seasonal / Recreational outdoor sports and activities.
- Segment 2 of Phase 4 will include indoor pools, indoor rinks, libraries, museums, galleries, movie theatres, casinos and bingo halls. No date has yet been set for its go ahead.

[Saskatchewan Announces an Extension to the State of Emergency in the Province:](#)

- The State of Emergency in Saskatchewan has been extended to June 24th, 2020.
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

[Saskatchewan Announces the Highest #'s of Wholesale Trade Growth:](#)

- Canadian wholesale sales #'s showed a sharp decline for April, but in Saskatchewan the story was much brighter.
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

[Saskatchewan Announces NEW Temporary Training Program for Employers:](#)

- Today, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a new temporary training program to help businesses train employees to enhance safety protocols and adjust business models as they re-open.
- The Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) program will reimburse eligible private-sector employers 100 per cent of employee training costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per business to mitigate against additional financial impacts from training required to support their safe re-opening.
- The province is investing \$2M dollars in this training program for businesses.
- See [RELEASE HERE](#).

Other Announcements:

- The **WHO** has put out its "[ASKS to the Private Sector](#)". In the document, they outline how they believe business can support the COVID-19 efforts
- Canadian Chamber launches a [National Food Services Working Group](#) to bolster economic recovery in the food services sector. See [RELEASE HERE](#).

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

The [Business Resilience Service](#) is open to support you and your business.

To access the BRS call 1-866-989-1080 to connect with a business advisor from the accounting profession.

The service is available 7 days/week:

- Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET
- Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
- Sundays: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET

The program, delivered to your organization free of charge, provides:

- Guidance on COVID-19 financial support program options and eligibility
- Direction on accessing the most appropriate support organizations
- Help to make decisions to support recovery plans
- Real time insights and feedback to policymakers

If you need support don't hesitate to call.

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.

Have you entered your business listing on: theBattlefords.thingsthatareopen.com
Be sure to enter your business listing, or update your open times, restrictions or things you are doing to keep your guests, customers and staff safe. Be sure your customers can find you. The site has seen over 4,500 unique visits and almost 20,000 sessions averaging 2:17 per visit. Be Seen!

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:** Order extended to June 24th, 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](#)

Chambers Plan includes:



Business Assistance Service (BAS) - Access to professional accounting, counselling, legal and human resource experts.

Talk to your local advisor:
Aaron Cadrin | 306.446.8080
visit **chamberplan.ca**
Employee Benefits with a Difference. Simple. Stable. Smart.

things that are OPEN
We're Still Open!
Discover local businesses, like us, that have found new, safe ways to connect & serve our community.
thingsthatareopen.com

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!



Battlefords Chamber of Commerce
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