



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Phase 4, Part 2 Starts Monday

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

Government Announces Extension to Time Given for Recalls:

- The federal government has announced an extension to the time periods for temporary layoffs to allow employers more time to recall laid-off employees.
- The temporary changes will help protect the jobs of federally regulated private-sector employees and support employers facing economic hardship.
- See **RELEASE HERE**.
- See **BACKGROUNDER HERE**.

Support for the Tourism Sector Announced

- But, not yet for Saskatchewan.....
- Quebec and the Maritime provinces received their good tourism news on June 23rd, 2020, as the government has invested \$30M in Quebec and \$16M in the 4 Atlantic provinces to invest in and re-start tourism sector businesses.

CEWS - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:

- Segment 4, which will include the weeks: June 7th, 2020 to July 4th, 2020, will follow the same eligibility criteria as the most recent segment #3. However, we are hearing there may be modifications for Segments 5 and 6, that will take us through the end of August. Watch for news of any potential changes. The announcement of an extension of CEWS was made several weeks ago, but no new information has yet come out.

Provincial Government:

Saskatchewan Announces Phase 4, Part 2 - Starts Monday:

- Things are moving right along in Phase 4, when the government announced June 23rd, 2020 that effective Monday June 29th, 2020, several more components in Phase 4, now Part 2, can re-open. They include:
 - libraries;
 - museums;
 - galleries;
 - movie theatres;
 - live theatres;
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.
- This leaves what will now be a Phase 4 Part 3 with a TBD date for re-opening. This will include casinos and bingo halls, indoor sports facilities, etc. Likely date will be announced in the next two weeks.
- The announcement also included several changes to take effect Friday, June 26th, 2020, including the expansion of campgrounds usage to include 100% capacity for overnight stays, and limited term camping. Washroom and showers facilities can now also be open with increased cleaning measures in place.
- outdoor sports activities will also be permissible starting Friday, if physical distancing can be maintained.
- Additional changes or announcements include: masks to be worn in restaurants where distances cannot be maintained, by wait staff;
- change rooms in retail stores can now move to 100% capacity as well.

Saskatchewan Sees the Lowest Decline in Retail Sales in Canada:

- Retail sales in Saskatchewan dropped 14.8% between March and April 2020 (seasonally adjusted) to \$1.26B, well below the national average decline of 26.4%
- Data shows that over 63% of Saskatchewan businesses remained fully open, the highest percentage of any province.
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.

Other Announcements:

- **Manitoba Paying People to Get Off CERB**
 - The Premier of Manitoba has announced a \$2,000 benefit for Manitobans who get off CERB and go back to work.
 - See **NEWS STORY HERE**.
- **CBRN** site now has a Communications Guide for members to utilize.
 - It is a guide for business on communications and to which audience you are addressing those communications. Also, it has links to signage, posters, and more materials to assist.
 - See **RELEASE HERE**.

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

Today on the national conference call we heard from key association and chamber representatives about organizational and structural changes as a result of COVID-19. Has your strategic plan been thrown out? What about constructing a budget? What is the best technology, or platforms to best serve our markets in this new era? Interesting and thought provoking discussions on the road forward. Glad you're with us on this ride!

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.

The Advocacy Updates will resume Thursday, July 16th, 2020.
Thank you for your patience as staff vacations will mean a break in these Advocacy Updates for a couple of weeks.

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 June 22nd, 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.



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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