



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - WHAT'S NEW TODAY!

UPDATES FROM GOVERNMENT ON SUPPORTS OR INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS

Governments, both federal and provincial have announced additional measures to assist businesses in Canada and Saskatchewan. Parliament yesterday, passed the initial Response bill presented by the government to support residents and businesses. Now the roll-out will begin.

Here are the latest highlights for you:

- Yesterday the Premier of Saskatchewan together with the Chief Medical Health Officer announced several additional business closures, identifying a list of those who are to remain open to support essential services. The list is available [HERE](#). The province's **Business Response Team** can assist if you have questions. **Business Response Team Contact [HERE](#)**
- The Business Response Team is also hosting some "Employment Standards Public Emergency Provisions" webinar's Thursday and Friday this week. See [HERE](#) to register.
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce conference call today, was very informative on the newly announced [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#). While we are awaiting formal written information, it was communicated that people would qualify if:
 - Canadian Residents over 15 years of age;
 - Employee or self employed;
 - earned at least \$5,000 in the previous year from time of application;
 - employment income can be a combination of salary, maternity/paternity benefits, commissions;
 - Citizens cannot claim EI and CERB, only one program;

- And benefit available for those who cannot work for at least 2 weeks in a 4 week period.
- CERB is being administered by CRA (so they will be aware of earnings, etc. for claimants).
- CERB - the rate of benefit is a flat \$500 per week, so anyone asking to be laid off in order to claim the higher benefit than what they might have earned, may find it difficult to collect, and there is an attestation on sign up, so beware.
- ROE's need to be filed for those being laid-off, but they are aware of challenges with the system currently. They are working to streamline items to assist.
- Government has completely streamlined the Work-Share program and its application process, timelines, and requirements for submission. They are hoping to approve all applications within 10 days, rather than the previously posted 30 days. There is now a dedicated website for the Work-share program. **HERE** Be sure to read the most up-to-date notices on COVID-19 and changes in the process.
- An urgent call was made today across the country for businesses who have supplies of surgical masks, N95 masks, and the like to make them available to the public system if they can. We have not seen a call in the Battlefords as yet, but FYI.

Advocacy work at the national level for businesses continues on items like:

1. Continuing to advocate that the 10% wage subsidy is insufficient. **See HERE** This was discussed at length today in the conference call. No new news yet, but still working on it.
2. Advocating on issues around Credit Card fees for business - companies and banks being encouraged to support their business clients. Hoping news will be out shortly.
3. Briefing Call with Innovation Science and Industry - additional measures to support businesses whose landlords won't defer rent payments, options for staggering the introduction of support programs to ease the strain on/processing time for government.
4. Ag Sector - Temporary Foreign Workers
5. Flow of International Air Cargo
6. Flow of Medical Equipment across borders
7. Working with Financial Institutions on flexibility of payments, needs of small business clients, urgent need to speed up emergency loans, and more.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is in close contact with the federal government on these and many other issues. We will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. Stay tuned, and follow the Chamber network.

I would add that I took 7 pages of notes today on the call, with the experts from government on the line. If you have a specific question about ROE's or CERB, I may be able to provide further clarity, or can direct you to a connection. **Email me HERE**

BUSINESSES THAT CAN REMAIN OPEN [List HERE](#)

RESOURCES YOU NEED

Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan - Rapid Policy Update Chamber's Website

The Chamber has compiled the up-to-date information on new government programs.

FAQ - Government Programs

Government of Canada:

**Department of Finance website:
Finance Dept. Here**

CRA Website [HERE](#)

Government of Saskatchewan:

Visit Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus here!

**Newly announced "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:

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:

**Resources for Business
Website Here**

Check too, they are listing webinars available to business, specifically, one hosted by BDC: How to Cope with the Impacts of COVID-19 on Your Business



Pandemic Preparedness Guide

Get your Pandemic Preparedness Plan for Business information here, at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce site. There is a Guide, Crisis Communications Plan, and Business Continuity & Recovery Plan.

See the Chamber's website



Monday Minute

Smart Moves
for your small business...

1. Join the Battlefords Chamber
2. Protect your most valuable assets

Request more information:
Aaron Cadrin
306.446.8080

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

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!](#)

[VIEW CHAMBER'S PLAN FAQ HERE](#)



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.

We will be working reduced hours, but will still be available to members and organizations who require assistance.



[Email us today!](#)

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