



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Phase 2 Off and Running!

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

CEBA: Expanding Loan Eligibility:

- The \$40,000 Canada Emergency Business Account program will be expanded to include:
 - Sole owner-operators;
 - Business relies on contractors;
 - If a business pays family members via dividends;
- CEBA is administered through the financial institutions in Canada, and applicants are to apply with their primary account holder institution.
- If \$30,000 of the loan is paid back in full by December, 2022, the remaining \$10,000 of the loan is forgiven.
- The **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** shares its **RELEASE HERE**, praising the adjustment in the program to allow for all types of business structures.
- See Prime Minister Trudeau's **NEWS HERE**.

Funding for Women Entrepreneurs:

- Minister Mary Ng announced an additional \$15M of funding for Women Entrepreneurs, that will be distributed through the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES).
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.

Canada/US Border Still Closed:

- The government has announced that the Canada/US border will remain closed for at least another month.
- All non-essential travel is still restricted.

Provincial Government:

Phase 2 - Off and Running Today:

- In the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, today was the day that most retail businesses could re-open if they wished to.

- It includes: hair salons and select personal services (including massage therapy); clothing and shoe stores, flowers shops, sporting good stores, and a wide range of other retail outlets, malls, public and farmer's markets.

Applications Now Open for Temporary Wage Supplement:

- Saskatchewan announced that the application window is now open for the Temporary Wage Supplement for care workers in the province.
- The program will run for a 16 week period - March 15th, 2020 to July 4th, 2020
- To be eligible a worker must earn less than \$24 per hour; an eligible worker must also have less than \$2500 earning in that 4 week period (including earnings from other jobs); and must work in an eligible care home facility.
- See the **RELEASE HERE**.
- Full **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** here.

Other Announcements and Supports:

Canadian Business Resilience Network (CBRN):

- **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** applauds the announcement of an extension of the Wage Subsidy program, but continues to work with the government on ensuring more businesses qualify. The uptake in the program has been less than anticipated. See **STORY HERE**.

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

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce has put together a **Back-to-Business Tool Kit** and released it to members yesterday via email. Please be sure to review the material. The **Back-to-Business Tool Kit** can be found at battlefordschamber.com, and click the link.

Also, the Saskatchewan Chamber has released its guidelines for re-opening office workplaces. See the **DOCUMENT HERE**.

The **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** continues to advocate with government on:

- The CECRA Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program;
- The eligibility of CEWS, CEBA and more;
- Sector specific supports.

Watch for updates regularly.

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.

Is a Phase 3 start date in the offing?

How soon would you like to see an announcement on Phase 3 businesses opening, and how much time would you like to prepare your business? Phase 3 includes restaurants, gyms, personal services (not included in Phase 2), licensed establishments and child care.

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 on May 13th, 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

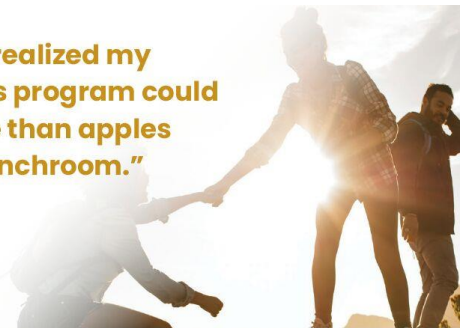


Monday Minute

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."



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Chambers Plan has announced an extension on the adjustments of premium for May as well! Great news for plan members. 50% of Dental, 10% of Ext. Health. See your June Statement.



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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