



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Re-Open Plan Kicks Off in Sask.

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

"Together We Stand"

Friday, May 1st, 2020, the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Immigration and Career Training, announced \$1M to support a province-wide marketing campaign to encourage Saskatchewan residents to support local businesses and their employees. The funding will be provided to the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce, who will work with regional chambers, like Battlefords Chamber of Commerce to expand their very successful "Together We Stand" campaign across the province. The campaign is aimed at bridging the gaps between consumers and businesses in the province to keep the economy moving forward and recovery efforts are strong in the critical weeks and month ahead. See the [MEDIA RELEASE](#) here.

Support for the Ag and Agri-Food Sectors:

Tuesday, May 5th, 2020, the Prime Minister announced additional supports for the Ag and Agri-food sector, putting an additional \$252M on the table. The funds are earmarked for:

- \$77M will help food processors purchase PPE and safety items to ensure safe distancing and measures are put in place in meat packing and food processing plants;
- \$125M will be allotted to cattle and hog producers who cannot sell their animals with supply chain concerns and meat plants challenged or out of operation;
- \$50M for food surplus purchasing and ensuring it is delivered to parts of the country in need of supplies.

No information was provided as to how or when the funds will be distributed, but we will continue to monitor news of programs and offerings in this sector.

Other Announcements and Supports:

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

- The Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce was appointed to the Canada Supply Council, which brings together a diverse group of leaders to

provide government with advice on the procurement of critical goods and services required as part of Canada's COVID-19 response and recovery. We know the business voice will be well represented at the table. See the **MEDIA RELEASE** here, and check out the Backgrounder that has the full list of names appointed to the Council.

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

Update on Retail Re-Opening: On the local/provincial chamber front, the government has heard the business voices at the table related to the retail sector. Specifically, the initial orders from government were that no retailer could have clients utilize change rooms to try-on clothes, and they could not take any returns of clothing, etc. This created an un-level playing field for local businesses when compared to large and giant online retailers.

A new order has been issued providing that retailers may utilize change rooms in their outlets, but must use only every other room, and must clean them between each client. On top of that, retailers will be approved to take refunds, if they quarantine the clothing for a minimum of 72 hours prior to putting it back on the sales floor. Staff working with any returns must have access to proper PPE.

We are pleased to have seen a resolution that provides local retailers with a workable option for their stores in order to be competitive in the marketplace!

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.

Re-Open Saskatchewan Phase 2:

Do You Have Enough PPE available, safety items in place,
and guidelines and social distancing measures clearly posted?

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: New order issued May 3rd, 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 **Containment Measures;**
Business Continuity;
Support for Business;
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](#)



1. Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance - **rebates** are being prepared for all plan holders - 50% of Dental Premiums and 10% of Extended Health Premiums. Watch for that change / reduction on your next 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!



Battlefords Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1000, North Battleford, SK. S9A 3E6
W. 306-445-6226 F. 306-445-6633 or 306-446-0188

FOLLOW US

