



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Commercial Rent Assistance Program - Is it a Bust?

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

Essential Worker Wage Top Up: The federal government announced more supports for front-line essential workers today, in an agreement with the provinces and territories. The federal government is allocating some \$3B to the program, with additional support of \$1B from the provincial and territorial governments. Each province and territory will determine who will qualify for the wage top-up, and how it will be distributed.

Provincial Government:

Infrastructure Investment to Boost Economy in Saskatchewan: Premier Scott Moe has announced a \$7.2B investment in infrastructure funding over two years to ensure a kick-start to the economy in Saskatchewan coming out of COVID-19. This is a \$2B increase from the existing infrastructure plan. New money will be allocated to highways, schools, crowns, hospitals, and municipal infrastructure needs. Backgrounder and the announcement are [HERE](#).

News from Regina, and Minister Lori Carr, Minister of Government Relation, that municipalities will have their Municipal Revenue Sharing payments fast-tracked, to get money into the hand of the municipalities as early as June, in full, rather than spreading the payments out over the course of the fiscal year. See the release [HERE](#).

Other Announcements and Supports:

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

- Canadian Chamber says agri-sector funding falls short and calls on government to provide more meaningful assistance. See the [RELEASE HERE](#).
- Canadian Chamber/StatsCan survey shows impact of COVID-19 on diverse business owners more severe than the average. See the [RELEASE HERE](#).

Canadian Business Resilience Network (CBRN):

- The Retail Council of Canada, together with the Boston's Consulting Group have developed a Recovery Playbook for retail outlets. You can investigate and download [HERE](#).

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

There has been significant uptake on many of the government support programs for residents and businesses since the pandemic was announced. However, we are hearing that the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)** may be ready for a re-think. It appears those in the industry are not in favour of the plan, and many commercial property owners are opting out, and leaving tenants on their own, or out in the cold. This is a key issue we will continue to follow for business. Let's hope this can be made to work for everyone.

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 **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](#)



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!



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