



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - Throne Speech A Start

Throne Speech A Start But Much More is Needed to Get Canadians Back Work

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has added its "voice" to the chorus that says Canada urgently needs a recovery plan to both protect the health of Canadians and creates conditions for business to reopen and to resume more of their normal lives.

The Speech from the Throne provided some clarity, but they say we urgently need more information and speedy action if we are to prevent COVID-19 from inflicting even greater damage on the personal and economic health of Canadians. A patchwork of disconnected initiatives will not fit the bill. We must have a national strategy to manage and defeat the virus.

What businesses want is a focus on economic fundamentals. Economic policies that help businesses create new jobs; encourage investment in technologies and skills that help companies adapt to a post-COVID economy; improve productivity and compete in an increasingly zero-sum global arena; and reskilling and upskilling programs for Canadians who do not have a job to go back to.

Some positive measures in the Throne Speech were:

- EI reform and additional measures focused on reskilling displaced workers. Although we need to ensure that small businesses will not be burdened with additional EI costs as they struggle to stay afloat.

- The establishment of a national childcare program, enabling women to more fully participate in the workforce.
 - The extension of the CEWS, wage subsidy program till next summer, helping employees remain connected to their employer's.
 - Investments to enable a faster rollout of 5G networks including rural and remote areas to improve services to Canadians.
 - A promise to breakdown interprovincial trade barriers.
 - A focused campaign to recoup the remaining 1M jobs lost in the pandemic.
 - A promise to support Canadians in the hardest hit sectors - travel, tourism, hospitality and food services.
 - The establishment of a taskforce to support women entrepreneurship.
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- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

Another note from the Canadian Chamber is the significant concerns about the debt levels that Canadians will be burdened with for decades to come, without a plan as yet for how to pay for it.

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM GOVERNMENT

Federal Government:

[Speech From The Throne: A Stronger and More Resilient Canada](#)

Key points from the Throne Speech:

- Protecting Canadians from COVID-19 - priority #1
- Helping Canadians Through the Pandemic
 - Creating jobs
 - Supporting workers and their families
 - Women in the economy
 - Supporting businesses
 - Fiscal Sustainability
- Building Back Better - A resiliency agenda for the middle class
 - Addressing gaps in our social systems
 - A stronger workforce
 - Taking action on extreme risks from climate change
- The Canada We're Fighting For
 - Reconciliation
 - Addressing systemic racism
 - Protecting two official languages
 - A welcoming Canada
 - Canada in the World

- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

Federal Government Introduces Legislation for Recovery Benefits:

- Today legislation was introduced (Bill C-2) to enact recovery benefits for Canadians. These particular benefits have already been announced, but this now will be the legislative approval process. They include:
 - Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)
 - Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)
 - Canada Recovery Care Benefit (CRCB)
- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

Provincial Government:

Saskatchewan Provides \$34M to Support Oil & Gas Service Sector:

- The province provided an update on the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP). Originally announced in May, these are the first projects approved.
- This is Phase 1 of the program which will allocate \$100M in funding for eligible oil and gas operators who collaborate with Saskatchewan based service companies to undertake abandonment and reclamation work on inactive wells, facilities and flowlines.
- Currently, there are 11 operators and over 100 service companies involved in the approved work packages distributed throughout the province.
- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

Saskatchewan Tourism Sector Support Program Expanded:

We know the tourism and hospitality sectors have been very hard hit in the pandemic, and the government has already announced some supports for the industry. Today, they announced additional measures that will allow more tourism businesses access to apply for the funding programs to support their businesses.

- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

COVID Alert App Launched in Saskatchewan:

Starting September 18th, 2020, the Health Canada COVID Alert App is available to Saskatchewan residents.

- COVID Alert App uses bluetooth technology.
- Some App features:

- If you test positive for COVID-19 you will be provided a one-time key from public health upon notification of your status.
- Enter the key into the app and it will notify other app users who have been within two metres of you for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within the last 14 days.
- Subscribers who receive this exposure alert can assess their risk and seek testing.
- All aspects of the app are completely voluntary.
- The COVID Alert App does not collect personal information or health data, and does not know or track the location, name, address or contacts of any user.
- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

30% Increase in Fuel Costs?:

The federal government is introducing a new regulation that may cripple many businesses at a time when they can least withstand such a move. The proposed Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) will increase fuel costs to many small businesses, with a whopping **30 percent increase to natural gas costs alone!**

- The CFS will apply to 70% of the energy consumed by end users, such as homes, industry and agriculture and would be additional to existing carbon fuel surcharge tax and other pricing regimes. This means a significant increase in costs for manufacturing, transportation, mining, agriculture and even hospitality sectors, among others.
- The Chamber is looking for a cost-benefit analysis of this type of policy.
- There needs to be another approach, to assist in meeting climate targets while not driving up the costs for businesses trying to recover from a pandemic.
- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.

So, the Canadian Chamber has launched a campaign: **FreshFuelStandard.ca** the campaign highlights these issues and proposes solutions that will allow Canadian businesses to continue to lead the world in responsible development, environmental protection and job creation.

Business Needs More Women:

Several key points were made prior to the Throne Speech about how to engage or re-engage more women in the workforce in this COVID era. Specific topics included:

- Ensuring safe, reliable and affordable childcare and back to school;
- Tailoring supports for women business owners and entrepreneurs;
- Facilitating upskilling, reskilling and job pivots for women;

- See [NEWS RELEASE](#) Here.



The poster features a stage with red curtains and a large red maple leaf logo in the center. Below the logo, the text reads "BBEX GOES TO THE MOVIES CELEBRATION OF BUSINESS". In the foreground, there are rows of red theater seats. A small logo for the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.

BBEX Goes To The Movies

Deadline for Nominations is Friday, September 25th, 2020.

Only one day left to submit!

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 the **New Public Health Order** in place September 10th, 2020.

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:

Resources for Business Website Here



The banner features logos for the Canadian Business Resilience Network, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and the Government of Canada. The text reads "COVID-19: GET THE RESOURCES YOU NEED" and includes the website "CBRN.co".

CANADIAN BUSINESS RESILIENCE NETWORK
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
In partnership with Canada
COVID-19: GET THE RESOURCES YOU NEED
CBRN.co

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](#)

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Talk to your local advisor:
Aaron Cadrin | 306.446.8080

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Know someone who gives great customer service. Nominate them for the **Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award!**

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.

The Canadian, Saskatchewan and Battlefords Chambers of Commerce are working overtime to ensure that all of the key information, policy initiatives and business issues and solutions are at your fingertips. Call if you have any questions or require a referral # or contact.



Email us today!

**Help rebuild the
Saskatchewan
economy one
step at a time.**

#TogetherWeStandSK

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

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