



COVID-19 - Updates from our Chamber and “Partners in Prosperity”

Hello Members and Associates:

It's been a couple of days since messaging and there are some very positive updates.

First, I have the honour of Co-Chairing the Small Business and Entrepreneur Sector of the Chatham-Kent Economic Recovery Task Force. Along with Co-Chair, Wade Vermeersch (Wader Likes Media and a CK Chamber Board member), we have been working with an amazing group of about 20 volunteers who are helping in these efforts. After some initial tests, the group has composed a levelled up survey, specifically designed for Small Business and Entrepreneurs to complete. The Team has proactively taken the task of reaching out to specific geographic areas throughout Chatham-Kent to ensure everyone under this large umbrella sector has the opportunity to contribute their input. The Economic Recovery Task Force has tight timelines to deliver a final report to Municipal Council on May 25th. Given that, the survey deadline is Monday, May 11th at 9:00 a.m. Rather than sharing the link in this 'all sector' encompassing email, if you are in this sector and would like to participate, please contact the Chamber and we will share the link directly with you. We ask, however, if you have already been approached, or further are asked through one of the Small Business & Entrepreneur committee volunteers, please complete only one survey. You do not need to be a Chamber member to participate, we encourage all to advantage this opportunity.

Second, Rent - the repeated topic of discussions and advocacy efforts. Clearly, there are weaknesses in the program delivery. I am hearing some amazing and positive stories from tenants here in Chatham-Kent and the proactive approach of their landlords. Yet, I have heard of some less fortunate too. Yesterday, with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and Andrea Horwath, NDP Leader of the Official Opposition, we discussed these tenant concerns. I believe all governments know, for the most part, directly affects small business, of the program inaccuracies and will take steps needed. Recognizing the various levels of involvement, it requires solid partnership agreements to help save business - hopefully, they will work it out soon.

Third, The doors are opening! We are hearing of businesses slowly opening through a daily process, as early as tomorrow. I am hearing positive comments from business, and I am hearing negative comments from business. I am thrilled for those opening and empathize for those that are still waiting in the wings. These are difficult times. No one can argue that. Phased steps were announced early on and as progression is made, it is hard to absorb when your business is still on hold. I understand and respect the frustrations. While COVID-19 cases continue, and with fear of a second wave, government is being cautious, all the while being pressured for opening business.

While I write this note, I am multi-tasking, listening to business guests in a Canadian Chamber of Commerce meeting. These representatives are providing testimony of dealing with, and managing, cases of COVID-19 within their workforce, how the internal climate changes, the increased measures to be taken and, naturally, concerns of fellow staff. Acknowledging the cases we have in Chatham-Kent, I step back and think how lucky we are, with these employers, health care and caretakers limiting further risk to the safety of our citizens, local and beyond.

We continue to send invitations to participate in webinars with professionals in their fields to help you and your business through these tough times. Finances, mental health, physical health are daily concerns and the sessions are here for you at no cost. They are very worthy of your time, time well spent.

As always, care, and please share this information. Stay Safe, Stay Distanced, Stay Connected.

Wishing you good health, always. Yours in Prosperity, Gail

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SHOP MEMBERS – SHOP LOCAL FIRST!

Visit the *Canadian Business Resilience Network* at CBRN.ca for the most up-to-date, relevant tools and links to aid you through this crisis and through to the path of success.

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. Below, and other, resources area available at www.chatham-kentchamber.ca

Ontario announces new list of businesses that can reopen

Premier Doug Ford has announced a list of more businesses than can reopen, with strict guidelines in place, as the province moves with "cautious optimism" to restart the economy.

Garden centres and Nurseries will be allowed to reopen as of Friday

Hardware stores and safety supply stores to reopen as of Saturday

Retail stores with a street entrance will be allowed to reopen for curbside pickup on Monday, May 11th

The government is also expanding essential construction to allow below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects like apartments and condominiums to begin and existing above-grade projects to continue. This will help clear the way for the housing and jobs our economy will need to support economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. The business owners should review the health and safety guidelines developed by the province and its health and safety association partners.

[List of Essential Businesses](#)

[Framework for reopening our Province](#)

[Health and Safety Association Guidance Documents for Workplaces During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

Update from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Government Announces Support For Agriculture Sector

Today, the Government of Canada announced \$252 million to support farmers, food businesses and food processors that provide essential services to Canadians every day by ensuring a safe and reliable food supply. The government also announced that it intends to propose an additional \$200 million in borrowing capacity for the sector. [More Information](#)

Canadian Chamber Says Agri-Sector Funding Falls Short And Calls On Government To Provide More Meaningful Assistance

The supports announced today are a first step but they fall short of what the sector needs and will lead to delays in the ability of agriculture firms to address the impacts of COVID-19. The sector will inevitably require more assistance in the future, and many businesses will suffer in the interim. [Read Our Statement](#)

Reopening Canada's Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic curve is starting to flatten; provinces and territories are allowing businesses to reopen, and Canada needs a plan to restart the economy. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has identified five key areas that need to be part of the country's strategy to reopen the economy quickly and safely. We also need to hear from you. [More Information](#)

Update from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

MORE BUSINESSES PERMITTED TO REOPEN IN ONTARIO

- On May 6, the Ontario government announced it would be allowing all retail stores with a street entrance to provide curbside pickup and delivery, as well as in-store payment and purchases at garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores and safety supply stores. [Learn more.](#)
- The government is also expanding essential construction to allow below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects like apartments and condominiums to begin and existing above-grade projects to continue.
- [Read the OCC's response](#) and share on social: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Some specifics:

- Friday, May 8: Garden centres and nurseries will be able to open for in-store payment and purchases, operating under the same guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies.
 - Saturday, May 9: Hardware stores and safety supply stores will be permitted to open for in-store payment and purchases.
 - Monday, May 11: Retail stores with a street entrance can begin offering curbside pickup and delivery.
- The Province stressed that these workplaces must operate in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Guidance Document for Essential Workplaces and occupational health and safety requirements. [Access the guidance documents here.](#)

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- Today, the Ontario government [released](#) a comprehensive framework, [A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) to help hospitals assess their readiness and begin planning for the gradual resumption of scheduled surgeries and procedures while continuing to respond to COVID-19.
 - Today, the federal government [announced](#) that all provinces and territories have confirmed, or are in the process of confirming, plans to boost wages for their essential workers. The federal government will provide up to \$3 billion in support of increased wages with each province or territory responsible for determining which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive.
 - On May 6, The Ontario government [announced](#) an extension of emergency electricity rate relief to families, farms and small businesses until May 31, 2020, during the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - On May 5 the Ontario government [announced](#) an expansion of virtual mental health services to help thousands of Ontarians experiencing anxiety and depression, including frontline health care workers, during the COVID-19 outbreak. [Read our response.](#)
 - On May 5 the federal government [announced](#) over \$252 million to support farmers, food businesses, and food processors who provide essential services to Canadians every day by ensuring a safe and reliable food supply. [Read our response.](#)
- On May 5, our COVID-19 Working Group was joined by the [Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria](#), Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. With the discussion of the economy reopening, these conversations are more important than ever.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

WEBINAR WITH THE HON. MARY NG, MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS, [Export Promotion and International Trade](#)

Tuesday, May 12th 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

A webinar with the Hon. Minister Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade.

[Register Now](#)

ENSURING THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE OF CANADA'S FOOD SERVICE SECTOR

MAY 12TH AT 2:30- 3:30 PM

Please join Molson Coors Canada President Frederic Landtmeters, Boston Pizza President and CEO Jim Treiving, Firkin Group of Pubs President Larry Issacs and Canadian Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Perrin Beatty for this special roundtable.

[Register Now](#)

[Canada's Supply Chain in the COVID-19 Crisis: The CN Perspective](#)

May 12th at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join the OCC's President & CEO Rocco Rossi and Sean Finn, Executive Vice-President, Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer, CN, as they come together for a virtual fireside chat to discuss CN's perspective on Canada's Supply Chain during the COVID-19 crisis.

[Register Now](#)

BDC Webinar: Planning for recovery: How to restart your business in the wake of COVID-19

May 22nd at 12:00 p.m.

What will recovery look like for Canadian businesses? Discover what various business sectors can expect as well as the steps entrepreneurs need to take to successfully jump-start their operations.

[Register Now](#)

PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

Our latest webinars:

WATCH NOW: [Information Security and Data Privacy in the age of COVID-19](#)

WATCH NOW: [How Big Data is Being Used to Combat COVID-19](#)

WATCH NOW: [Cross Border Transportation During COVID-19](#)

WATCH NOW: [Payroll Continuity Planning: How Prepared Is Your Organization?](#)

You can find a full list of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce webinars [here](#)

Through our relations and affiliations with the Ontario Chamber and Canadian Chambers of Commerce, you are invited to participate in the webinars that they have organized, and we recommend you participate in to help guide you through relief programs and availabilities.



Restart & Reimagine Forum: "Day Zero Strategic Planning"

Join us for the next installment of the OSW Tourism Industry Restart & Reimagine Forum. This webinar will take place May 11th at 4:00pm.

The purpose of the Day Zero Strategic Planning session is to learn how to look at your business today, so you can plan for the opportunities that will exist in the recovery, and make smart business decisions that will form a strategy to get from here to there.

Attendees will be given a framework to organize their thinking, case studies to illustrate the concepts, and ideas to help get

started in the right direction. Attendees will leave the session with a Day Zero Plan, which will help them to bridge the gap from

started in the right direction. Attendees will leave the session with a Day Zero Plan, which will help them to bridge the gap from today to recovery, and then enter recovery prepared to grow.

[Click here to register](#)

Funding Opportunity for Agri-Food Businesses

The Governments of Canada and Ontario are supporting the agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors to capture online e-business opportunities that will help create new, expanded or enhanced markets and open new retail channels to help generate new revenue streams for future growth.

The Agri-Food Open for E-Business targeted intake will help businesses/organizations quickly expand their marketing channels and respond to new market challenges, increase online sales in the sector and provide consumers with access to more local food.

This targeted application intake features two funding streams:

1. **Bring Your Business Online:** Provides a grant of up to \$5,000 to eligible organizations/businesses to help establish an online presence.
2. **Develop Online Business Opportunities:** Provides cost-share funding for up to 90% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000 to develop e-business opportunities on a larger scale.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)



Economic
Development



Accessing Supplies and PPE

Chatham-Kent Economic Development has created a list of cleaning, medical, and safety supplies information for business. Newly added to the list is the bulk ordering of hand sanitizer made in Bothwell by Bootlegger Distillery:

List of resources: <https://www.chatham-kent.ca/EconomicDevelopment/covid-19-business-resources/supplies>

Economic Development COVID-19 Business Resources

Chatham-Kent Economic Development is dedicated to providing local businesses with accurate and timely information. Information is changing quickly as governments at all levels adapt to the COVID-19 situation. Chatham-Kent Economic Development will be posting information to this area of our website as frequently as possible.

You can find information on:

- [COVID-19 Business Resources](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- [Construction](#)
- [Ecommerce and Digital Business](#)

- [Employment and Workforce](#)
- [Financing](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [Trade and Export](#)
- [Supplies](#)
- [Utilities and Taxes](#)
- [Mitacs COVID-19 Funding](#)

[Economic Recovery Task Force](#)



Make the most out of your Chamber membership and take advantage of some of the most competitive rates available on shipping services with the UPS Members Benefit Program.

The discount for the Chamber UPS Canada shipping program has increased to 50%

We're excited to share this opportunity with you and enhance our members' savings through UPS*.

Visit www.membersbenefitprogram.com/CKChamber or call 1-800-MEMBERS (1-800-636-2377), M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST. and see how you'll save!

Resources:

Local

[Public Health Information on COVID-19](#)

[Workplace Information](#)

[Chatham-Kent Economic Development](#)

[Community Futures CK](#)

[Business Credit Availability Program](#)

Provincial & Federal

[Support For Your Business](#)

[Canadian Business Resilience Network](#)

[Government of Canada Support for Small Businesses](#)

[Wage subsidy for Businesses](#)

[Chamber Plan Ontario](#)

[Canada's COVID-10 Economic Response Plan](#)

[Ontario Chamber of Commerce – COVID-19 Preparedness Toolkit](#)

[Canadian Chamber of Commerce – Pandemic Preparedness Guide for Business](#)
