



ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - SASKATCHEWAN STEPS TO THE PLATE

UPDATES FOR BUSINESS FROM THE SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNMENT

April 9th, 2020, Premier Scott Moe announced a new provincial program to assist businesses during this pandemic. The **NEWS RELEASE** from government highlights the new initiative that can provide up to a maximum \$5,000 per eligible business. The program is known as the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP).

FULL DETAILS HERE.

Additional information includes:

- \$50 million dollar commitment to business will assist small and medium sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations as a result of the pandemic;
- One time grant for SME's directly affected by the provinces public health orders;
- The grant is not dedicated to a specific cost for business;
- To be eligible, a business must:
 - Have been fully operational on February 29th, 2020
 - have ceased or curtailed operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health order
 - have less than 500 employees
 - commit to reopen their business operations following the cancellation of the COVID-19 public health order.
- The program has been designed to be simple and provide business with timely support;
- Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the SSBEP, along with Co-operatives,
- The provincial government has asked Canada to exempt these grant monies from business income tax purposes;
- You can use either April 2019 or February 2020 as revenue figures for this grant.

FAQ HERE as part of #4 on the page.

Chambers across the province have made known their appreciation for the government's timely response in assisting provincial businesses.

UPDATES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

The federal government approved, in a rare sitting of parliament on Easter Saturday, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2. The bill went on to approval in the Senate that same day and received Royal Assent. Bill C-14 as it is officially known, approves the new wage subsidy program for employers. See the program **BACKGROUND** here.

This bill represents the 75% wage subsidy for employees.

MEDIA RELEASE HERE.

Other Announcements:

- Canadian Chamber has released its COVID-19 Edition of 5 Minutes for Business, featuring the Energy sector. They discuss economic choices going forward in Canada and how Canadian business can lead the way. See the article **HERE**.
- Be sure to add your business to the growing list of Battlefords businesses who are using the website **thebattlefords.thingsthatareopen.com** Be sure to update the site regularly, should you change your hours, availability, etc. Let's be sure to let residents know how, where and when to reach you during this pandemic. Sign up today.

Advocacy work at the national and provincial level for businesses continues. Key things we are asking now:

1. Since a large percentage of the government programs have now been announced it is the businesses who may fall through the gaps that government now want to know about. So, to that end, please email us here at the Chamber if you have a question or are aware of a gap in programs. We will be happy to forward them to the government rep's at the provincial or national levels to get you an answer.

EMAIL Linda or **EMAIL** Heather.

Just as a note: CRA's rep on the national call today, talked about them taking down 16 websites trying to impersonate the federal government in funding programs to acquire personal information, so Please Beware and be sure to access only Government of Canada websites.

The Canadian and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce are in close contact with the federal and provincial governments on these and many other issues. We will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. Stay tuned, and follow the Chamber network.

DEADLINE EXTENDED to FRIDAY APRIL 17TH
Please be sure to complete the joint
Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Statistics Canada -
Canadian Survey of Business Conditions

RESOURCES YOU NEED

Government of Saskatchewan:

Visit Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus here!

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

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: Extended 2 additional weeks, April 1st, 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



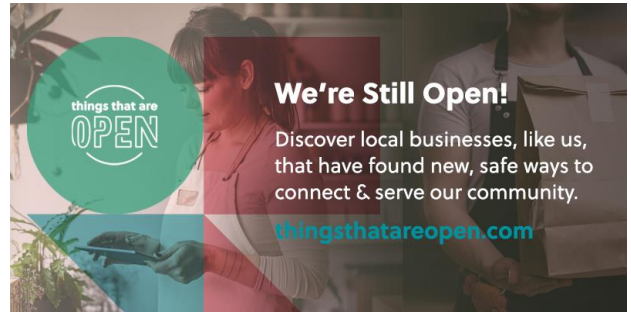
Monday Minute

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. **VIEW CHAMBER'S PLAN FAQ**
2. **COVID-19 INFO SHEET HERE**
3. **TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH HERE**



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!

WHO deems "Chambers of Commerce" an essential service for business.

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