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Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Launches Second Intake of Young Entrepreneur Bursary Program

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, with funding from the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Trade and Export Development, has announced the launch of applications for the second intake of the Young Entrepreneur Bursary Program.

Building on a successful inaugural year, the program continues to support Saskatchewan's next generation of entrepreneurs who are driving innovation, job creation, and community impact across the province. Eligible entrepreneurs may apply to receive a $5,000 bursary, alongside access to exclusive mentorship workshops and a complimentary Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce membership to help advance their professional goals and strengthen their capacity to grow their businesses in Saskatchewan.

The first intake for the program received more than 340 applications from young entrepreneurs from 87 communities across Saskatchewan, ultimately recognizing 57 recipients. The second intake aims to build on this momentum and reach even more of the province's emerging business leaders.

Applications for the 2026 Young Entrepreneur Bursary Program opened May 27, 2026, and close July 17, 2026.

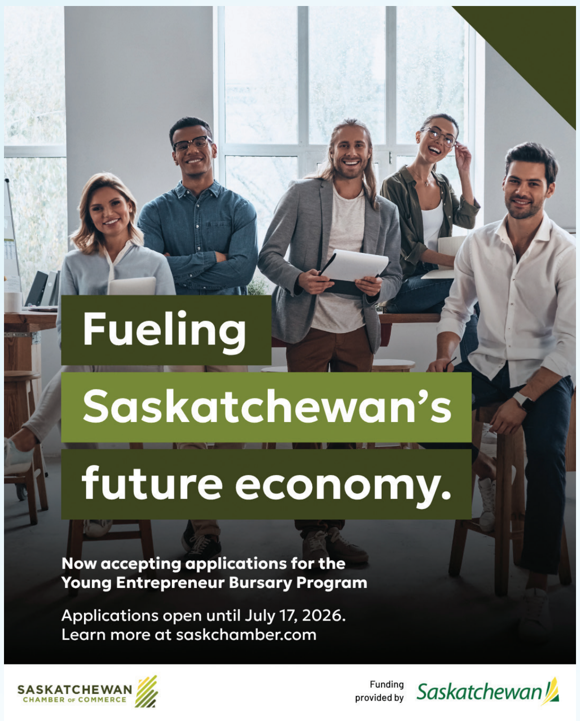
What to Expect:
- $5,000 in funding for eligible business expenses
- Mentorship opportunities with businesses relevant to you
- Peer networking with other up-and-coming entrepreneurs across Saskatchewan
- Support from a province-wide business community

Who's Eligible?: For our 2026-27 Cohort, the program is open to young entrepreneurs who:
- Are aged 18 to 35 as of July 17, 2026 (if you are currently 35, you must not turn 36 before July 16, 2026)
- Own a for-profit business registered and based in Saskatchewan
- Have been in business for 10 years or less, with preference to those under 5 years

"There is no better place in Canada for young people to start a business than right here in Saskatchewan. The Young Entrepreneur Bursary is supporting young business owners as they grow their ventures and contribute to their local economies and communities. Young entrepreneurs are the future of our province, and our government is proud to support them as they build that future here at home." – The Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade and Export Development

"Saskatchewan is home to extraordinary entrepreneurial talent, in every city, town, and rural community across this province. The Young Entrepreneur Bursary Program was created to find that talent, invest in it, and connect it to the networks and opportunities it deserves. When young entrepreneurs succeed, the entire provincial economy is stronger for it. We are proud to open our second intake and we look forward to welcoming the next cohort." – Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

"The Young Entrepreneur Bursary helped me open my first studio space — it's a small step toward a much bigger dream of creating a creative event and community space in the future. But sometimes the greatest investment in a community isn't money, it's giving someone the belief that their story, their dreams, and their future actually matter. That's what it really did for me. It helped me realize that I mattered, and that caused growth in my business. It wasn't just the money that affected me. It was the community that came with it." Montana Lautamus, Owner, MontanasPhotoWorks



The Inflation Gap Widens as Price Pressures Spread Beyond Energy

-Jasleen Trehan, Business Data Lab, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Inflation moved above 3% in May as an energy-driven price shock began leaving its fingerprints across the broader economy. Rising fuel costs remain the main driver, but higher prices are increasingly showing up in groceries, fresh produce, air travel, and vacations. Inflation is becoming more visible across household budgets, though it has yet to resemble the broad-based price pressures that defined the post-pandemic surge.

Beneath the headline, the picture remains more reassuring. Shelter costs continue to cool, rent inflation has slowed to its weakest pace in more than four years, and the Bank of Canada's core inflation measures remain close to target. Taken together, these trends suggest inflation is broadening at the margins rather than reaccelerating across the economy.

For the Bank of Canada, May's report raises the stakes but not the odds of a policy move. Policymakers can no longer dismiss inflation as solely an energy story, yet a soft economy and easing labour market provide little justification for higher interest rates. The most likely outcome remains a prolonged pause as the Bank watches whether these inflation ripples fade or become more persistent.

Key Takeaways

- Headline inflation moved above the Bank of Canada's 3% upper target band. CPI rose 3.2% year over year in May, up from 2.8% in April, with prices up 1.0% month over month.
- Core inflation remained near target, but progress has stalled. CPI-trim held at 2.0% and CPI-median remained at 2.1%, suggesting underlying price pressures are stable but no longer easing.
- Gasoline prices rose 33.2% year over year, reflecting elevated global oil prices and ongoing geopolitical supply concerns.
- Shelter continued to lean against inflation. Shelter inflation eased to 1.7%, rent growth eased to 3.5%, and mortgage interest costs declined slightly. Homeowners' replacement costs, household appliances, other owned accommodation expenses and natural gas also helped offset some of the upward pressure. This matters because the disinflation engine is still running in the most interest-rate-sensitive parts of the economy.
- Goods inflation did most of the lifting, rising 4.8%, led by gasoline and other non-durable goods. Services inflation was much softer at 2.0%.
- Most provinces recorded faster inflation in May, with Atlantic Canada hit hardest because gasoline carries a larger weight in household spending.

Implications

Despite representing just 4% of the CPI basket, gasoline accounted for roughly 40% of May's headline inflation rate, underscoring how heavily recent inflation remains tied to energy prices. However, rising prices for food, travel, and transportation indicate the effects are no longer confined to energy alone. Even so, stable core inflation and continued cooling in shelter costs suggest broader inflation pressures remain largely contained.

For the Bank of Canada, this creates a more complicated balancing act. Inflation is moving higher and becoming somewhat more widespread, but a soft economy and easing labour market leave little justification for raising interest rates. The more likely outcome is that the Bank remains on hold, watching closely to see whether these price pressures fade or begin influencing inflation expectations among households and businesses. That uncertainty matters for Canadians and businesses alike. Higher gasoline and grocery prices will continue to weigh on household purchasing power, while firms face rising transportation and input costs at a time when demand remains fragile.

Looking ahead, elevated energy prices and the upcoming USMCA review could add another layer of uncertainty for businesses. Any disruption to North American supply chains would risk reinforcing cost pressures and making the path back to stable inflation more challenging.