



SUMMARY FROM APRIL 8th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our Week 2 call on Wednesday. I have compiled the following summary in response to the questions and concerns raised during our discussion. We hope you will all join us next week. Please use the following link to participate:

Topic: BBIA Open Video Call for Businesses- Week 3

Time: Apr 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/336991242>

Meeting ID: 336 991 242

One tap mobile

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adtX2WZfv1>

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM WEEK 2 DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. **CEWS: Temporary Wage Subsidy (75%) Program**

Yesterday, the government [provided further details on the eligibility criteria](#) for businesses to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

Here are some answers to your **FAQ** from our MP, Chandra Arya:

1. Do I have to hire back ALL employees to qualify for the program or can I hire back some of the laid off staff?

- No need to hire back ALL employees.

2. Can we bring our employees back after they are off for a certain amount of time and if they are already collecting CERB?

- Yes. (Probably the rules will state if the employee happens to collect both wages and CERB then they will have to reimburse the CERB at a later date).

3. Is the application process open now? How long will it take to be approved? I would like to only hire employees back once I know I can receive the benefit.

- Soon. Our legislation is ready. As the PM stated, we are hoping the opposition will allow us pass this quickly with virtual Parliament instead of insisting on physically calling back the Parliament.

As soon as the legislation is passed full details of the program including a more-detailed FAQ will be made available.

Highlights of the Program

The proposed CEWS would apply at a rate of 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week, per employee. The program would be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020. Employers of all sizes and across all sectors of the economy would be eligible, with certain exceptions including public sector entities. An eligible



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employer's entitlement to this wage subsidy will be based entirely on the salary or wages actually paid to employees. All employers would be expected to make best efforts to bring employees' wages to their pre-crisis levels.

As well, the Government is proposing that employers eligible for the CEWS be entitled to receive a 100-per-cent refund for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan. This refund would apply to the entire amount of employer-paid contributions in respect of remuneration paid to furloughed employees in a period where the employer is eligible for the CEWS.

In order to address the realities faced by the not-for-profit sector, high growth companies and new businesses, the Government proposes the following additional flexibility:

- To measure their revenue loss, it is proposed that all employers have the flexibility to compare their revenue of March, April and May 2020 to that of the same month of 2019, or to an average of their revenue earned in January and February 2020.
- For March, the Government proposes to make the CEWS more accessible than originally announced by reducing the 30-per-cent benchmark to 15 per cent, in recognition of the fact that many businesses did not begin to be affected by the crisis until partway through the month.
- In recognition that the time between when revenue is earned and when it is paid could be highly variable in certain sectors of the economy, it is proposed that employers be allowed to measure revenues either on the basis of accrual accounting (as they are earned) or cash accounting (as they are received). Special rules would also be provided to address issues for corporate groups, non-arm's length entities and joint ventures.

More information can be found [here](#).

3. Canada Emergency Response Benefit

We invite you to please visit www.Canada.ca/coronavirus-cerb which has a very good FAQ.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is available to those who stop working for reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits.

Examples of stopping to work could include but are not limited to:

- You have been let go from your job or your hours have been reduced to zero;
- You are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19;
- You are away from work to take care of others because they are in quarantine, sick due to COVID-19; and/or
- You are away from work to take care of children or other dependents whose care facility is closed due to COVID-19.

Employees cannot quit their job voluntarily.

Employers who are self-employed also qualify. You will need to provide your personal contact information, your Social Insurance Number and confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements. You may be asked to provide additional documentation to verify your eligibility at a future date.

4. Canada Emergency Business Account: (\$40,000 interest-free loans)

The program is now open and Barrhaven businesses are starting to receive approvals from their banks. This program provides interest-free \$40,000 loans to small businesses and not-for-profits. Repaying the loan before December 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (up to \$10,000). The security/guarantee for this loan will be provided by the Government of Canada. To obtain this loan and answer any questions on this, please visit YOUR bank where you have your business account. Your business' payroll must have been over \$50K in 2019 in order to qualify.

5. City of Ottawa COVID-19 Property Tax Relief



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The City is offering a [Property Tax Hardship Deferral Program](#) for City of Ottawa residential property owners and small business property owners (assessed property value of up to \$7.5 M) that have been financially affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will extend the interim property tax and final property tax deadlines of March 19, 2020 and June 18, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020.

The City has no legal authority to enforce that commercial landlords pass the deferral measures to tenants. However, property owners with tenants who do not pass on the deferral will be deemed ineligible and all taxes, penalties and interest will be payable immediately.

6. **Ottawa Coalition of BIAs (OCOBIA)**

Ottawa's local economic development partners are collaborating to use our combined lobby power to address the major issues facing Ottawa businesses as a region. We have contributed to a document that will be sent to the Premier and Prime Minister today. We will share this with Barrhaven businesses, once it has been released. We are also compiling a list of BIA-specific issues that we will highlight on our websites and continue to communicate to the decision-makers.

7. **Business Insurance**

On Tuesday, I participated in a webinar presented by the **Ottawa Board of Trade: Business Insurance in the COVID-19 Context with Cowan Insurance Group**. We have received many insurance-related questions from local businesses as a result of the current crisis.

Here is a summary of the great information provided the video call;

- Business Interruption Insurance only applies when there is physical damage due to floods, fire, etc. therefore, there is currently very limited (if any) COVID coverage.
- Civil Authority: when you are unable to access your business location due to order of Civil Authority. Typically, this is very limited coverage for 14-30 days and there needs to be physical damage to tangible property to trigger this part of your policy.
- Currently, there are some rulings in North America that have considered COVID to be physical damage. Insurance companies in the US are working together to fight lawsuits, claiming that this situation was never intended to be covered. Unfortunately, final rulings will take a long time.
- They urge all businesses to **contact an insurance advisor** and to make a claim for loss of business revenue. While most claims are being denied, this could change (based on court decisions). In other situations, the government has provided assistance to those who have been denied by insurance claims. If court rulings change, you could quickly reopen your claim and get relatively quick action and payment.
- Check your policy if you intend to change your business operation model to ensure that the new activity is covered by your existing policy.
- Ask if you can amend your current policy based on reduction of revenues.
- If you are currently shut down, and your place of business is unoccupied, your policy could be cancelled after 30 days! Please contact your advisor to let them know of your current situation in case amendments need to be made.

8. **Webinars for Business Information**

Here are two upcoming **Ottawa Board of Trade** virtual opportunities. Simply click on the links to register;

- [COVID-19: A Review of Government Assistance and Tax Related Measures](#)

Our governments are reacting to the COVID-19 pandemic with tax measures and business assistance programs. But what do they mean for businesses? How do you qualify for assistance? Are these programs answering business needs?

On **Tuesday, April 14, 2020 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**, join Jim McConnery, CPA, CA, TEP of



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Welch LLP as he reviews the various federal and provincial programs that provide assistance to businesses to weather the COVID-19 challenges. This will include a discussion of the criteria applicable to the various measures and related financial and tax planning considerations.

- [Ottawa Board of Trade Town Hall](#)

The Ottawa Board of Trade is hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting on **Tuesday, April 14 at 8:00 am**, where you will hear from leaders of all levels of government; Mayor Jim Watson, MP Mona Fortier & MPP Lisa MacLeod.

If you have questions that you would like directed to one or all of the panellists, please send them to StrongerTogether@ottawabot.ca with the subject line "OBoT Townhall – April 14, 2020, 8 am"

9. Resiliency: Adopting a Positive Mindset in Troubling Times

Several strategies and resources for staying well and emerging with strength out of the current crisis were shared on the call today;

- Do a SWOT analysis of your business while you are closed. Plan for what you are going to do during the recovery period.
- Try to get creative about your business and any changes that could be made for improvement once you are back to business. What else can you offer at your business? Take on a project to keep your mind busy.
- Practice gratefulness.
- Position yourself as a leader. Be confident. Communicate often with your clients and your team.
- Practice self-care in all areas: Sleep, diet, exercise and mindfulness.
- Look online for resources and tools like these great ones;

- I. [Calm.com](#)

Bring Calm to your workplace. Build a happier, healthier, and more resilient workforce with the world's #1 app for mental fitness.

- II. [The Lean Canvas](#)

Lean Canvas promises an actionable and entrepreneur-focused business plan. It focuses on problems, solutions, key metrics and competitive advantages.

Remember, you are not alone and we can all work together to get through this. Please contact us at any time, with any question, concern or idea. If you would like to be put in touch with your business neighbours during this time of social distancing, we can connect you. Please, reach out.

Sincerely,

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