



SUMMARY FROM MAY 6th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our Week 6 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:

BBIA Open Video Call for Businesses- Week 7

Time: May 13, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86991535088>

Meeting ID: 869 9153 5088

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,86991535088# US (San Jose)

+19292056099,,86991535088# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86991535088>

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM WEEK 6 DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. OCECRA- Rent Abatement Update

Last week, the Prime Minister and Premier announced rent support program for small businesses that will apply to April (retroactive), May and June **gross rent** (base rent with other costs associated like property taxes, utilities, etc). While the program offerings are good, there have been some issues flagged by tenants. We are advocating for changes to be made to better assist small businesses along with local groups like OCOBIA and Provincial/National groups like OBIAA and IDA. Please see our website for these letters.

- Property owners can apply for this program until the end of August and it is retroactive for April, May and June rent.
- Tenants should contact their landlord to ensure they know about the program and that you qualify and would like for them to apply on your behalf.
- Let your landlord know they do not need to offer this program to all tenants in order for you to qualify. Rent support is awarded on a tenant by tenant basis.

2. CERB

Small businesses are continuing to struggle with employees who are collecting the CERB not wanting to come back to work. Part-time employees are collecting more than they would by working. We have forwarded these concerns on to the government through our local MP, Chandra Arya.

This is a 12-week program ending on June 6th (can be extended by Parliament). It is unknown if it will be extended- it depends on the status of reopening amongst the various Provinces. It is anticipated that, once things re-open and more hours are available for workers and the CERB benefit is closed, the issue of workers not wanting to return will dissipate.

3. Provincial Re-opening Strategy

The 1st phase of the provinces reopening strategy was released, focusing on physical distancing, curbside pick-up and deliveries (see our website under the Provincial Resources section for the full list).

Businesses should be putting a plan into place NOW. How will you will comply with possible industry-specific reopening regulations? How will you deal with a possible 2nd or 3rd mandated-closing if we have another spike in COVID cases? Have you digitally-transformed your business as much as possible to deal with another closure and to compete and succeed in the new economy?



SUMMARY FROM MAY 6th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Here are some ideas:

- Make your clients feel comfortable with coming back to see you. Create a short video to demonstrate how you will be protecting your customers when they return to your place of business. Share it on your website, social media pages and email it to your client list. We will share some example videos for you... coming soon!
- Don't delay in ordering the protective supplies that you will need. Issues are expected with supply levels, non-medical/government accessibility to some suppliers, long delays in shipping and price mark-ups. Check out our new Recovery Page (to be launched early next week) including a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) section with links to various suppliers as well as physical distancing signage, plexiglass shields and more!
- Join us for our weekly Wednesday 10 am call to chat with other business owners about ideas.
- Participate in one of our upcoming BBIA Webinars.

Remember, you are not alone: 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. Take good care!

Sincerely,

Andrea Steenbakkers
Executive Director
Barrhaven BIA
execdirector@barrhavenbia.ca