



SUMMARY FROM MAY 13th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our Week 7 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 8

Time: May 20, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87374168837>

Meeting ID: 873 7416 8837

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87374168837# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,87374168837# US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbtphVosyU>

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM WEEK 6 DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. OCECRA- Rent Abatement Update

Discussions continued about leases, landlord/tenant issues and rent relief. Many landlords are starting to work with tenants now that the details have been released regarding the OCECRA program. The best resource, for both landlords and tenants, is the [CMHC](#) website. The CMHC is administering the new program on behalf of the Federal government. What does it mean if a landlord says they will evict you? If a landlord says you need to give a year's notice, does this mean you will have to pay for a year, even if your business closes? **Please contact a lawyer before agreeing to any lease/contract changes.**

While the OCECRA program offerings are good, there have been some issues flagged by small business tenants. We are actively 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.**



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2. Reopen and Recover

A second big announcement is expected from Premier Ford and team tomorrow (Thursday). The 1st phase of the provinces reopening strategy was released last week, focusing on physical distancing, curbside pick-up and deliveries (see our website under the Provincial Resources section for the full list). **Please continue to read our daily update emails and check our website for real-time updates to industry specific re-opening regulations, guidelines and specifications.** We want to ensure you are prepared and ready to re-open as soon as possible!

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?

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 THIS week) including a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) section with links to various suppliers as well as physical distancing signage, plexiglass shields, moveable, stand-alone hand-sanitizing stations 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: Insurance Liability Issues with New Business Practices, Digitally Transforming Your Business, Personal Protective Equipment: What You Need and Where to Find it, COVID-related Legal Advice for Small Businesses.

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,

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