



SUMMARY FROM MAY 27th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our Week 9 call today. 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 10

Time: Jun 3, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85759315112>

Meeting ID: 857 5931 5112

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85759315112# US (San Jose)

+19292056099,,85759315112# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdoJ7BdS1>

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM WEEK 9 DISCUSSION TOPICS

OCECRA- Rent Abatement Update

If you are a tenant and have asked your landlord to apply for the program and haven't received a response or you have received notification that you need to pay rent for June 1st, talk to your neighboring businesses and consider sending an email to your MP, MPP and the Mayor on this to ask for assistance.

Advocacy groups are still pushing for amendments to make the program more inclusive for all businesses. We are also asking Premier Ford to impose a moratorium on commercial leases as all current relief programs cover only April, May and June and it may be a while before some sectors are allowed to reopen.

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.**

- 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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The Toronto Association of BIAs (**TABIA**) collected data on this from Toronto-area businesses. The Ottawa Coalition of BIAs, through the Mayor's Economic Development Task Force on COVID, is drafting a new letter to advocate for changes to the program, citing the recent results of the Toronto survey. Here are the Key Findings & Recommended Actions:

- Enact a provincial moratorium on commercial evictions OR make the CECRA program mandatory
- Allow commercial businesses/tenants the right to apply for the program
- Reduce business qualification - 70% revenue loss is too high
- Reduce the landlord rent contribution or allow landlords and tenants to negotiate the best way to cover the remaining 50%
- Enhance education and communications on program details; how to apply; and open the portal as soon as possible
- Expand the \$40,000 loan to allow more small businesses to qualify so they can better manage their portion of rent payments.

[Please find the TABIA survey results here.](#)

Recently, **Invest Ottawa** hosted a **commercial lease webinar**. They shared that landlords have an obligation to work with their tenants to help them to maintain their place of business during the COVID crisis. If you are looking for assistance with your lease, please contact the presenters for a copy of the webinar presentation;

- Zach Coakeley, Principal
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613.797.9224 mobile
613.688.7200 x1009 main
- Simon Sigler
simon@businesslawadvice.com
Litigation Lawyer
T: 613-695-7800 ext. 105

Reopen and Recover

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!

CERB

Many businesses are reporting that they have employees who are refusing to go back to work. Here is an example of how some owners feel that workers are taking advantage of the CERB: The first communication indicated that the employee needed full-time hours in order to return (even though they were hired as part-time) because they couldn't afford to come back to work part-time when they could make more collecting the government CERB program. When the employer pointed out that the employee could still collect the CERB and earn up to \$1000,



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the employee then changed their reasoning to say that they lived with someone who is “vulnerable” and doesn’t feel comfortable potentially exposing that person.

We have sent an inquiry to the local elected representatives at all levels of government asking;

- Who can we contact on behalf of businesses to find out what an employer can or should do in this situation?
- How long after reopening the economy does the government intend to continue the CERB program?
- Can an employer let a worker go in this case and hire someone new to replace them?
- Is there any requirement to prove that you cannot return to work for medical/risk of exposure reasons if you are recalled to work?

The BBIA is presenting a webinar on this topic on June 11th at Noon. Please stay tuned for details to follow shortly!

Reopening Businesses in the Retail Sector

Gyms and personal services like salons and massage therapists are contacting us daily asking if there is a timeline or particular targets to be referenced to determine when they will be reopening. To date, 52 Tommy Gun hair salons across Canada have successfully opened and the number of safety procedures that have been implemented exceed what the provinces are requiring. Ontario is the only province where Tommy Gun’s hasn’t opened yet. Understandably, some areas are experiencing more cases than others, like in the GTA. We have reached out to our local MPP, Minister MacLeod, asking if there is a possibility that other areas of the province might reopen these industries sooner, if the data shows that it is safe to do so.

Proposed 10-day Sick leave

It is widely held that a proposed mandatory 10-day sick leave benefit, paid for by employers, will further harm every small business, especially those with a lot of part-time staff. Today, we asked MP Arya that the government instead consider creating a COVID-related sick leave program as part of EI, similar to the CERB.

Here are some additional 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 featuring 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!**



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- 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: Personal Protective Equipment: What You Need and Where to Find it and 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,

Andrea Steenbakkens
Executive Director
Barrhaven BIA
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