



SUMMARY FROM JULY 15th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our Week 16 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 for our **next** call: a facilitated discussion about our strategic work plan for 2020 and beyond, through a COVID lens. Please use the following link to participate:

COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBIACOVIDRecovery>

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

BBIA Open Call- COVID Response: Strategic Work Planning Session
Wednesday, July 22, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528604655?pwd=aWtOZVh1ZHD1M0F6SUx0ZWlPa1JqQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 2860 4655

Password: 995048

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87528604655?pwd=aWtOZVh1ZHD1M0F6SUx0ZWlPa1JqQT09>

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION FROM WEEK 16 DISCUSSION TOPICS

Masks

- Customer attitudes –most on our call said that customers seem okay with the “new” way of doing business and most are wearing masks
- Most businesses are hoping the shift becomes second nature to shoppers
- Businesses happy that the government has taken this on and made the policy standard for all

OCECRA- Rent Abatement

We are still receiving emails from an increasing number of members saying that they have been contacted by their landlord to apply for the program.

Updates;

- The program now includes July
- City of Ottawa managers have agreed to help us advocate for a sliding scale of assistance instead of the hard-lined 30%
 - The program, as it stands, penalizes those who worked hard to pivot their business in response to COVID. They have not generated enough revenue to cover their costs, yet they no longer qualify for any assistance



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We are continuing to advocate for small businesses through our partner organizations like OCOBIA and TABIA. Here are some questions that we are working on, on your behalf;

- Has the program been modified in any way to give more flexibility for businesses to qualify?
- If landlords choose not to participate in the program, might the government consider giving the 50% grant directly to tenants?
- Would the government consider extending the moratorium on evictions to Dec 31st to incent more landlords to participate in the 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. Please contact a lawyer before agreeing to any lease/contract changes.

Reopening kits- Made in Barrhaven!

Our **FREE** kits are now being delivered.

They include; physical distancing floor decals, open for business window decals, hand sanitizer signs, hand washing signs, physical distancing signs, stop the spread signs, clean surface table tents, shop with your eyes table tents and laminated signs with customizable sections for hours, contact info, and the number of people allowed in the store.

If you haven't ordered yours or received one, please contact us at info@barrhavenbia.ca.

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 are now offering free social media profiles (with video), so please contact us to schedule yours at marketing@barrhavenbia.ca.
- 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 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!**
- Join us for our weekly Wednesday 10 am call to chat with other business owners about ideas.

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



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Barrhaven BIA

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