



## SUMMARY FROM AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup> BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our 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. **NOTE** the change in time to **9:00 am**. Please use the following link to participate:

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

Topic: BBIA Open Call for Businesses

Time: Aug 19, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89703484531?pwd=Wk0zU3l1UFN3dDZBbWsxQ0tTMWVyUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 0348 4531

**Passcode: 836537**

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89703484531?pwd=Wk0zU3l1UFN3dDZBbWsxQ0tTMWVyUT09>

## SUMMARY FROM THIS WEEK'S VIDEO CALL

### Webinar with Minister Ng

- [Register with the Ottawa Board of Trade](#) for next Wednesday's (August 19<sup>th</sup>) video call with Minister Ng at 10:30am to discuss government programs focusing on business relief gaps and priorities for recovery.

### Class action lawsuit against insurance companies

- Merchant Law in Saskatchewan has commenced a suit against all insurers. Ontario based firms will begin suits in due time. It is suspected that they will really pick up come September.
- Koskie Minsky (<https://kmlaw.ca/cases/business-interruption-insurance-class-action/>), which is very reputable Toronto firm, has joined them in the class action. Their addition to the file definitely gives great credence to the suit.

### Construction on Strandherd

- We are working on construction kits that will be available to affected businesses along Strandherd Dr.
- Andrea has reached out to the By-Law Manager to ask for a reduction on permit fees, flexibility on the regulations (i.e. length of time allowed) and to allow signs to be placed on City property (where a landlord would refuse to put it on his property) for Curbex signs to the malls affected by the construction.
- We will also inquire about the rules concerning putting up different types of signage i.e. flags.



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### CECRA Updates (Rent Assistance Program)

- While there have been no changes announced yet, we are hopeful that there will be soon.
- The Ontario Business Improvement Association (OBIAA) is participating in a hearing with the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction the week of August 24 and will address our collective CECRA concerns.
- Business advocacy representative groups have held numerous calls around this topic including some with government officials. There is interest across the board in continuing a commercial rent support program beyond the current end of August end date, extending it to the end of December (not month by month). There has also been significant discussion on how to correct some of the short falls of the current program, which have been identified through the many advocacy initiatives on this file. Stay tuned!
- Julie from Mountaingoat Yoga has asked if it would be possible to have banks share some of the burden of the economic hardship small businesses are going through – Andrea has raised this with OBIAA for inclusion in their Submission (as outlined above).

### Ottawa Public Health

- OPH created a document on "[shopping etiquette](#)" with great tips to stay safe while grocery shopping.
- We have inquired if there are any plans to create similar tip sheets for different businesses now that they are open, with a focus on educating the public on what they can do to stay safe. The BBIA could make this the focal point of our new marketing campaign as we want people to regain confidence in heading out again.

### Attention Female Entrepreneurs (SME owners)

- Please see today's email for more information about these opportunities created for women-led businesses;
  - The [RE3 program](#) was recently launched which offers non-repayable performance-based contributions of up to \$5,000 to assist Ontario-based Women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to rebuild, reopen, and revive their businesses.
  - On Tuesday, I attended a webinar presented by the [Ontario Chamber of Commerce](#) and the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH) with incredible speakers and critical discussions about how women's entrepreneurship and leadership are critical to a stronger economic recovery in Canada. The State of Women's Entrepreneurship in Canada 2020 report was recently released. [Read the report here.](#)

Sincerely,

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