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:**

BBIA Open Call for Businesses

Time: Sep 2, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84379899900>

Meeting ID: 843 7989 9900

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,84379899900# US (Tacoma)

+13017158592,,84379899900# US (Germantown)

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb4y6HPL8j

**SUMMARY FROM THIS WEEK’S VIDEO CALL**

**Business Recovery Webinar**

* City of Markham, in partnership with the Province of Ontario, is hosting a [webinar on Aug 28th at 1pm for small businesses](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/business-decision-making-during-re-opening-tickets-116903163509).
* The Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to deliver a free webinar to help businesses recover successfully from the impact of the pandemic. In this session, “Business Decision Making During Re-Opening,” Steven Karpenko will present a playbook for emerging from the pandemic as a stronger and more flexible business, that is better prepared for the challenges of the present and the uncertainty in what lies ahead. Key topics are:

1. Your re-opening toolkit

2. Taking the pulse

3. Strategic leadership

4. New business models and evaluating ideas

5. Organizing and leading through crisis

6. Re-open AND Re-invent

**Class action Insurance lawsuits**

* Local legal experts are reporting that there will be a number of Ontario-initiated lawsuits launched this Fall by businesses against Insurance companies for failing to provide payment for loss of income and other COVID-related benefits
* Businesses, especially restaurants, are also perceived to be at a higher risk for COVID implications (cases, liability) and are starting to see huge increases in commercial insurance premiums at renewal time. We are monitoring this with OBIAA and TABIA. Please contact us if you have experienced any huge increases in your insurance premium.
* Precision Gymnastics to let us know about their association’s call about insurance on August 26th

**Webinar with Minister Ng**

* If you missed the Ottawa Board of Trade’s video call with Minister Ng, [please watch the recording here.](https://youtu.be/ihtBmagU0ko) The panel featured Hon. Mary Ng - Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Rachel Bendayan - Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade and members of the NCR Caucus for a discussion focusing on business relief gaps and priorities for recovery.

**CECRA Updates (Rent Assistance Program)**

* Still pushing for tenants to be able to apply on their own, not just the landlords. Also working to change the 30% threshold.
* Updated draft plan from the government expected by the end of the month.
* The Ontario Business Improvement Association (OBIAA) participated in a hearing with the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction the week of August 24 to address our collective CECRA concerns.  See their [report](https://obiaa.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4db9e3e90e782357fee0aa8c7&id=44dc6455c1&e=df4b1d0da4) and the [presentation](https://obiaa.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4db9e3e90e782357fee0aa8c7&id=9d21600ecf&e=df4b1d0da4) here.

Sincerely,

Andrea Steenbakkers  
Executive Director  
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