



SUMMARY FROM OCTOBER 28th BARRHAVEN BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dear BBIA Members,

Thank you to all businesses who joined us for our weekly Wednesday call this week. 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: Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81354739119>

Meeting ID: 813 5473 9119

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,81354739119# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,81354739119# US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81354739119>

SUMMARY FROM THIS WEEK'S VIDEO CALL

New Grant Program - Canada United

<https://occ.ca/canada-united-small-business-relief-fund/>

Created and launched by RBC, [Canada United](#) is a national movement to support local businesses in communities across the country. As part of the movement, RBC brought together more than 70 of Canada's leading brands, the national Chamber of Commerce network and business associations to rally Canadians to "show local some love" by buying, dining and shopping local.

The Federal Government has contributed \$12 million to the CUSBRF and they are extending relief grants to more small businesses and restart accepting grant applications from small businesses across all Provinces. The eligibility criteria has been updated and the application process streamlined.

The new application window will be open on Monday, October 26, 2020. This fund was fully subscribed in 2 days last application. Email address: cusbrf@occ.ca

This Week's City Council Meeting

- There was no COVID item on the Agenda, no report from Ottawa Public Health, for the first time since the pandemic started
- Levels of COVID in local sewage have remained stable

OCOBIA/ 28-Day Return to Modified Stage 2

- Currently continuously pushing for data and transparency
- Meeting with OPH and the Mayor's Office this week as part of the re-opening discussion;
 - We are very optimistic that that meetings with OPH meeting will be productive.
 - We have heard that the Province is not opposed to reopening Ottawa after 28 days
 - How will success be measured and what is the plan for businesses moving forward when waves come and go?
 - Next Friday is the 28th day, how much notice will be given to businesses? There should be a plan in place.



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- Halton and EO (Cornwall) regions were able to avoid closures by providing an argument based on contact tracing data, which Ottawa did not appear have at the time. Their refusals and local plans were accepted by the Province.
- Ottawa's numbers have gone down but our rate of infection has not.

Concerns About People Not Taking Things Seriously and the Impact on Businesses

- Private Halloween parties

Government Programs

- They are always late (CERS, CEWS, and provincial supports) in delivering the programs
- November 1st is almost here and still no information on when the CERS will launch or how it will work.
- Still no information on the \$300M from the province for fixed costs either.

Some Businesses Are Fed Up

- Rumours of some gyms opening on Thursday - against the regulations.
- There is a real lack of government support and confidence this time around from businesses and the general public

Is COVID-Wise Resonating?

- Language is way too weak.
- Nothing is enforceable, merely suggestions.
- Are there any enforceable consequences? Not clear.
- Need to hear specific impacts (and about people dying)?
- It may be too late, the language may not make a difference
- Most people seem to want to move on.
- People know that they won't get caught.
- Strong message - Your choices this Halloween may force our businesses to close for good (to be shared with OPH and OCOBIA).
- We have to remember that lots of people are following the other view - that it's no big deal.
- Where are the social scientists - shouldn't they be consulted on this messaging and what's the best way to get them across.

Different Views

- In the first wave, we were all in this together and we flattened the curve.
- In the second wave, people are feeling fatigue, decisions are like government "hot potatoes" - no one wants to be accountable, lots of politicking, everyone is getting frustrated. Smaller segment of closures means that there is less mobilization. People are busy. Many people work for the government and working from home has become a perk. There is a real lack of confidence in government programs.
- We need to consider the impacts of eliminating small businesses - jobs, competition, quality etc.

Virtual 2020 AGM

- SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, January 13th - 8:30am to 9:30am
- More information to come