

Issue: COVID-19 Pandemic Affecting Businesses

The Morden Chamber of Commerce is understanding of the current risk presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for the related restrictions. However, the Chamber recognizes that those restrictions have a disproportionate impact on small to mid-sized business. The Chamber will, in addition to continuing to promote shop local initiatives, continue to advocate for the Province to address the inherent inequities created by the restrictions, however necessary.

Objectives

The Morden Chamber of Commerce has been working to support the business community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our objectives throughout the pandemic have been as follows:

1. To clearly communicate and be a reliable source of pandemic response information and restrictions to our business community by sharing messaging, protocols, and practices from the Government of Manitoba's Public Health team and Restart Manitoba team, as well as federal public health guidance, response initiatives and programs.
2. To support business community compliance with public health orders and reduce risk and transmission in places of businesses by connecting members with expert sources of information and relaying accurate and reliable tools and resources.
3. To serve as the voice of business by advocating on behalf of the business community with government for emergency funding/support programs to help them make it through the crisis.

Action Items

1. We are working tirelessly to promote supporting local and implement campaigns to promote the #shopmorden concept.
2. While we recognize the inequity of the Critical Level Red restrictions, the message is clear from Dr. Roussin that this is a critical time for Manitoba. We encourage compliance with Public Health Orders.
3. We will survey our business community to better understand how to best advocate for a strong economic future.

4. We have worked alongside the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce to advocate to our provincial government to ensure that those businesses that are forced to close are compensated. For example, the announcement of the \$5,000 Bridge Grant Program.
5. We continue to advocate for new and ongoing supports to help Manitoba's small and medium sized businesses that have been impacted by restrictions related to COVID-19.
6. We encourage business owners to investigate all available financial relief programs:
 - a. Bridge Grant Program
 - b. Province of Manitoba's Back to Work Wage Subsidy – recently extended and altered so that a portion of the payroll payment can be flowed in advance.
 - c. Canada United Small Business Relief Fund
 - d. Federal Programs
 - i. Canada Response Benefit (CRB)
 - ii. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
 - iii. Canada Emergency Benefit Account (CEBA)
 - iv. Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)
 - v. Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)

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