

COVID -19 Important Information & Announcements

As of May 25, 2020

1. Operating Guidelines

Many businesses have been given the green light to open their doors and get back to business. While you prepare to open please review the Guidelines for your sector set out by the Province.

Details can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace>

2. Upcoming Webinar: COVID-19: Navigate and Create a Plan for Next Steps (Health & Safety)

Friday May 29, 2020 at 9:00 am – 10:30 am

FREE

Lynne Bard a Transformation HR Consultant & Business Coach will walk you through an assessment of your organization that will identify the Infectious Disease Protocols you need to put in place in order to build your Infection Prevention and Control Program that you will need to re-open your business in Ontario

3. New Hours & Procedures

The Town of Minto Economic Development Department and Minto Chamber of Commerce continues to update business hours and procedures on our downtown websites:

www.harristonrising.ca

www.cliffordconnects.ca

www.allaboardpalmerston.ca

Please let us know how your hours have changed and what precautions you have in place so we can continue to keep the community informed.

4. Minto Chamber of Commerce Shout Outs!

The Minto Chamber of Commerce is providing businesses with an opportunity to participate in a “Shout Out” Series where they can have a short video interview recorded with our Business Development Coordinator, Somer Antonopoulos and shared on social media promoting their business and how they are operating during these times. Reach out to Somer at info@mintochamber.on.ca to schedule your “Shout Out”

5. New Funding Announcements & Changes

NEW PROGRAM: Regional Relief & Recovery Fund

The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) provides financial contributions (interest-free loans) to help support fixed operating costs of SMEs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding is available through our partner and local Saugeen Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), located in Neustadt.

In order to provide targeted assistance to the small towns and communities they serve, CFDCs will focus on assisting “main street” businesses, such as retail shops, restaurants, corner stores, and businesses of strategic importance to their communities, with **LOANS UP TO \$40,000.**

- **0 PERCENT INTEREST and NO PAYMENTS UNTIL December 31st, 2022.**
- **25 PERCENT(not to exceed \$10, 000) can be forgiven provided the recipient has paid 75 PERCENT of the loan prior to December 31st, 2022.**

Visit <https://sbdc.ca/blog/2020/05/regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-rrrf> for guidelines and application forms.

Contact: Rose Austin at rose@sbdc.ca or Jamie Doherty at Jamie@sbdc.ca for more information or to answer your questions.

NEW PROGRAM: Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provides relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. It offers unsecured, forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners to:

- reduce the rent owed by their impacted small business tenants
- meet operating expenses on commercial properties

Property owners must offer a minimum of a 75% rent reduction for the months of April, May and June 2020.

This portal opens at 8:00 am Monday May 25, 2020

For more information visit: https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business?utm_medium=email&utm_source=cecra-date-eblast&utm_campaign=cecra&utm_content=english

CHANGES: Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

It was announced yesterday that the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will be expanded. These changes are designed to hopefully address some of the concerns raised by small businesses, family-run businesses, and sole proprietors who have limited or no payroll. Previously, those without payroll under \$20,000 were ineligible for the CEBA. The CEBA is delivered through financial institutions.

For more information visit: <https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

6. Minto Recovery Survey

The Town of Minto Economic Development & Planning Committee made up of key stakeholder groups and sector reps from local businesses will be putting together an Action Plan for Recovery. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey prior to June 8, 2020.