

Chamber urges federal Government to act quickly on business stimulus programs

COVID19 Effects on small business could be particularly devastating

For Immediate Release

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Saint John, NB – The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce today urged the federal government to act quickly with business stimulus programs.

“Business, particularly small business, cannot wait. Cash flow and debt management are immediate challenges for business. As distance interaction becomes the norm, retail, hospitality and sectors that rely on personal interactions will be in difficult situations,” says David Duplisea, CEO of the Chamber.

With respect to business, The Chamber urges the federal government to:

- Allow delays to filing of all taxes (payroll, HST and income tax) and offer flexibility in payment arrangements
- Set up funds that allow business to access for short to medium term cash flow issues and debt management
- Waive waiting periods for EI and potentially decrease number of weeks necessary for qualification
- Work with banks and lending institutions to ease policies as required to assist small business when appropriate

The Chamber is encouraging members to continue to support local business through the purchase of gift cards, take out and online orders. “This will be a challenging time for everyone. We need to help one another out and support our neighbours, friends, and fellow businesses. the economy needs to keep going,” added Duplisea.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, The Chamber has set up a Resource page at www.TheChamberSJ.com that is updated regularly and contains information to help business with their pandemic planning and contains important resource links



*The **Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce** is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With close to 800 businesses, representing the interests of approx.35,000 people, The Chamber is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.*

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