and most influential business organizations locally, provincially and federally, the Chamber network is the most unified, valued and influential business network in Canada and of Commerce (ACC), which represents over 25,000 businesses and the Canadian Chambers of Commerce (CCC), which represents over 200,000 businesses. With the largest

A strengthened and vibrant economy through our connections, support and influence. For more than 115 years, the Chamber has stood for promoting business, monitoring
government and championing managed growth in the local economy. The Chamber represents over 800 businesses in our region and is aligned with both the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC), which represents over 25,000 businesses and the Canadian Chambers of Commerce (CCC), which represents over 200,000 businesses. With the largest

Easing of restrictions for outdoor gatherings, personal services and funeral attendance will take effect Jan. 18. While indoor gatherings remain prohibited, up to 10 people will be allowed at outdoor social gatherings. Personal and wellness services will be allowed to open by appointment only.

Funeral ceremony attendance will be increased to 20 people, with mandatory masking and two-metre physical distancing. Funeral receptions are still not allowed.

Businesses are encouraged to use the Chamber’s Covid 19 website page for resources, to make sure they are aware of funding and to update plans in order to sustain business and remain competitive and live risk that could result from closures or further enhanced restrictions due to increased case counts.

Here are the supports available to your business or organization:

1. Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant (SMERG): This grant provides up to $20,000 to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or reduce operations, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 30% due to public health orders. Alberta’s government is expanding eligibility to ensure new businesses have access to the supports they need. New Alberta businesses impacted by public health orders will need to demonstrate a 30% reduction of revenue using revenue figures from November or December 2019 compared with any prior month between March to October 2020. The payment is 15 per cent of their monthly revenue, for a maximum of $15,000 in funding available for each business.

2. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS): Depending on your revenue, you may be eligible for a subsidy of up to 75% of employee wages retroactive from March 15, 2020 to June 2021.

3. Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS): Businesses, non-

Canada’s economic recovery program, the Canada Emergency Response Account (CEBA), provides interest-free loans of up to 40% of which is forgivable, to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover their operating costs.

5. Employment Insurance, Canada Recovery Benefit, Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, and Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit. These supports can help your employees if they are impacted directly by COVID-19.

6. The ShopHERE program, a partnership between the Chamber, APED, Community Futures Entre-Chef, Invest Medicine Hat and the City of Medicine Hat, launched earlier this year on July 13th to help businesses shift to an online format. This program was launched in recognition that businesses would need to build up their resiliency and find ways to enhance services and continue to operate and sell their products regardless of public health measures or restrictions.

The Chamber also developed a one-stop shop of tools and resources and has continually been updating this information on the Chamber COVID-19 Information & Resources website page since the start of the pandemic. In addition, the Chamber has been posting weekly blog updates and e-newsletter communications. Businesses and non-profit organizations on supports and funding can reach out to the Chamber by phone, email or through the website and subscribe to the e-newsletter.

MONTHLY NEWS TUNE UP

Home Office Expenses update and information from the CRA

The Centre has posted information in follow up to the question and answer sessions held. Employees who worked from home more than 50% of the time over a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19 will now be eligible to claim the home office expenses deduction for 2020. A new temporary flat rate method will allow employees to claim a deduction of $2 for each day they worked at home in that period, plus any other days they worked from home in 2020 due to COVID-19 up to a maximum of $400. Under this new method, employees will not have to get Form T2020 or Form T2025 completed and signed by their employer. To simplify the process for employees choosing the detailed method, the CRA has launched simplified forms (Form T2025 and Form T7775) and a calculator designed specifically to assist with the calculation of eligible home office expenses.

The CRA has also published a number of resources to assist both employers and employees, including the Home office expenses for employees web pages, Simplifying the process for claiming a deduction for home office expenses for employees working from home due to COVID-19. Employer-provided benefits and allowances: CRA and COVID-19 backgrounder, as well as Frequently asked questions – Home office expenses for employees, and an Infographic: Working from home?

The CRA also encourages organizations who haven’t already done so to sign up for My Business Account or Represent a Client, as well as for Direct deposit. Please also refer to CRA’s YouTube channel for a video on Working from home.

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Welcome to our newest members:

- Atlantis Custom Creations
- Little Rhino & Co.
- Mutt Cuts
- Uniquely Custom Gifts & Design
- Unlimited Characters

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