



The Voice of Business.

The Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, volunteer-led organization, proudly representing the interests of businesses in our region, and working diligently to stimulate 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 and most influential business organizations locally, provincially and federally, the Chamber network is the most unified, valued and influential business network in Canada and works together to shape policy and programs that will make a difference to businesses in our region.

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CHAMBER PAGE

or for more information contact:

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ALBERTA'S OPEN FOR SUMMER PLAN (STAGE 3):

Alberta's open for summer plan is a three-stage road map to lifting health restrictions and safely getting back to normal as vaccine targets are met. The province is planning to enter Stage 3 on July 1st. Two weeks after 70% of Albertans 12+ have received at least one dose. Changes in the Stage 3 summer plan include:

- All restrictions lifted, including ban on indoor social gatherings
- Isolation requirements for confirmed cases COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remain.
- The general indoor provincial masks mandate will be lifted, but masking may still be required in limited and specific settings.
- More information will be shared prior to the start of Stage 3.

For a list of all changes please visit: <http://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=7934477F07AEA-A035-C928-08F2CE679254D785>

New Canada Recovery Hiring Program

The proposed Canada Recovery Hiring Program would help hard-hit businesses hire the workers they need to recover and grow as local economies reopen. The program would provide a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of eligible salary or wages. The Hiring Program is designed to interact with the Wage Subsidy. The programs overlap so that, as Wage Subsidy rates gradually decline, eligible employers would still be able to receive the maximum support from the Hiring Program this summer if they hire more workers or increase workers' hours or wages.

There has also been a proposed extension of business support programs that have served as a lifeline to Canadian businesses through the pandemic such as the Wage Subsidy, Rent Subsidy, and Lockdown Support. These programs are set to expire in a month however this proposed extension changes the support dates to September 25th, 2021. Both the Hiring Program and proposed extensions are part of Bill C-30, the Budget Implementation Act, which is currently before Parliament. The Business Credit Availability Program and Highly Affected Credit Availability Programs are being extended to December 31, 2021. Both programs were set to expire on June 30th, 2021. This will provide businesses with the liquidity support they need to invest in recovery.

New Prairie-focused regional development Agency Investment announced in Budget 2021:

Budget 2021 is the Government of Canada's plan to finish the fight against COVID-19 and ensure a robust economic recovery that is inclusive for all Canadians. Budget 2021 is an investment to address the impacts of the COVID-19 recession, put people first, create jobs, grow the middle class, set businesses on track for long-term growth, and ensure that Canada's future will be healthier, more equitable, greener and more prosperous.

Budget 2021 will establish a new agency for the Prairie provinces to play an enhanced role as convenor, pathfinder, partner, investor, and advisor to support economic development in more communities. Growing Western Economic Diversification Canada into two new separate agencies focused on the Prairies and British Columbia is recognition that economic drivers and conditions are different in each of the two regions, and entrepreneurs, innovators, institutions, and communities have unique needs linked to where they are located. Budget 2021 is a plan to fill the gap between Canadians and Canadian businesses through the crisis and to a prosperous recovery and puts Canada on track to meet its commitment to create a million jobs by the end of the year.

MONTHLY NEWS TUNE UP:

Apply for the UFA Rural Communities Foundation Community Grant Program:

Groups who are eligible to apply include registered charities under the Canada Revenue Agency, registered non-profit organizations who are registered with either their provincial or municipal government and community service cooperatives. The application deadline is August 31, 2021. (ADD MORE)

Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program

The Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program (SREPs) provide up to \$964 million over four years for smart renewable energy and grid modernization programs. This program is set to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the replacement of fossil-fuel generated electricity with renewables that can provide essential grid services while supporting Canada's equitable

transition to an electrified economy.

The SREPs administer direct financial support to eligible renewable energy and grid modernization projects during the construction phase. Projects are required to use market technologies and apply workplace diversity, equity and inclusion. The projects that are eligible for this funding include Established Renewables, Emerging Technologies, and Grid Modernization. A quantity of this funding will be reserved for Indigenous-led projects, these projects may qualify for increased funding.

Black Entrepreneurship Program:

The Black Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) is a partnership between the Government of Canada, Black-led business organizations, and financial institutions. With investment of up to \$350.8 million over four years, it will aid Black Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs grow their businesses and succeed now and in the future. It provides loans up to \$250,000 to Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country.

The Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund seeks to address the specific systematic barriers Black business owners have too often faced when seeking financing. It also displays the government's commitment to addressing these barriers with long-term solutions by co-developing programs to better support Black entrepreneurs on their road to success.

To learn more visit: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/150.nsf/eng/h_000000.html

BECOME A SPONSOR OF OUR 2021 BUSINESS AWARDS: CELEBRATING HEROS WITHIN

You can help us recognize the businesses that have displayed the superhero powers of resilience, generosity, kindness, adaptability, and leadership! Join us on October 22, 2021, as we celebrate the everyday heroes within our business community and be inspired to discover the hero within all of us. Reach out to events@medicinehatchamber.com to discuss sponsorship.

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