

Dear Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce Members and Supporters.

In the last few days, we've received over 2300 responses to the chamber network's [COVID-19 Business Impacts Survey](#) on BCMindReader.com. ***This survey remains open for at least one more day. Your voice is important. Please share your thoughts.***

Above all else, businesses are asking government for three things:

1. To work with banks and lending institutions to offer zero-interest loans, loan guarantees, or lines of credit
2. To be more flexible around timelines for tax remittances. This includes EHT and other Payroll Taxes.
3. To enhance EI access or wage replacement for employees

Over the weekend we took your feedback to government. They are working to remove red tape and get cash flowing to the business community.

In the meantime, some immediate measures have been announced to assist with your liquidity, operational concerns, and business continuity plans.

Our network has compiled a list of these measures on the [BC Chamber of Commerce website](#), will update this on a regular basis.

Here is a sample of what you'll find there:

- **BC Hydro:** The [COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program](#) provides the option to defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty. Call BC Hydro's customer team at 1 800 BCHYDRO (1 800 224 9376) to discuss options.
- **CMHC** is working to address [mortgage payment difficulties](#). They've said on [twitter](#) that they are collaborating with lenders to allow payment deferral of up to six months.
- **Export Development Canada (EDC).** In partnership with the federal government and Canadian banks, EDC will ensure customers impacted by COVID-19 [have access to credit](#).
- **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** has [resources available](#) including:
 - [Small Business Loan](#): Up to \$100,000 can be obtained online in as little 48 hours from time of approval.
 - [Working capital loan](#): Get extra funds to bridge cash flow gaps and support everyday operations.
 - [Purchase Order Financing](#): Increase your cash flow to fulfill domestic or international orders with very flexible terms.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Please respect the directives of the Health Authorities on Social Distancing other preventative measures.

Bill Collette

CEO Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

And an important ps: GORD JOHNS OUR LOCAL MP HAS REACHED OUT DIRECTLY TO ME WISHING TO ASSURE YOU THROUGH US THAT HE WILL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO ASSIST. If you have ideas or suggestions that you'd like to reach our MP please feel welcome to contact me for relay to him. Mr. Johns is very concerned about our Business Community – that's YOU, and he has assured me that it's "All hands on Deck."

Other Resources that you can use in these trying times:

[BCEDA #COVID19 Resources for BC Businesses Guide](#)

[Update from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says a package of financial supports is on the way to help millions of Canadians and businesses get through the COVID-19 crisis — and he's urging people to stay home to limit spread of the virus.

During a news conference today outside his residence at Rideau Cottage, Trudeau urged Canadians to follow public health recommendations to stop the spread of the virus, saying steps taken now will help to save lives. He said the government is also looking at temporarily recalling Parliament to bring in emergency economic measures.

"Tomorrow we will be making another major announcement on economic actions to support Canadians as quickly as possible. By the end of the week, we will have more to say about changes for the upcoming tax season," he said.

"We're looking at giving more flexibility for people to be able to make payments and for businesses to have more liquidity during this time."

[Destination Development Webinar by Roger Brooks](#)

"Dealing With the Coronavirus: What to do immediately to help save your tourism industry, and downtown businesses."

Register for this special emergency presentation by Roger Brooks today!

Wednesday 18 March 2020

8:30am Pacific; 9:30am Mountain; 10:30am Central; 11:30am Eastern; 12:30pm Atlantic

This workshop is **FREE** to all, so spread the word — this is important for your economic future.

In this workshop we are offering ideas that can still encourage travel while implementing

“social distancing” and “self-quarantine” procedures, ways to shift your tourism marketing to help you weather the storm, what downtowns (and downtown businesses) can do to survive, and programs coming online to help small businesses that make up the bulk of our tourism-industry providers and downtown businesses.

This is an excellent time to invite others in your community, from stakeholders, elected officials, local government staff, businesses, and other local organizations to tune in — which they can do from home, office or remote location to avoid large gatherings. Again, this is free for everyone.