

The **Dauphin & District Chamber of Commerce** is here to support and advocate for the local business community as they navigate the new challenges that Covid-19 has created.

We are cognizant of the current risks that the Covid-19 pandemic is presenting and the need for the restrictions. The Chamber recognizes that the current Covid-19 restrictions set in place by Manitoba Public Health, and the Province of Manitoba have caused an unequal impact on small to mid-sized business compared to large businesses. We understand there may be friction, and discomfort in seeing some businesses open and another close.

Hopefully these measures are very temporary but know that the conversations of inequality is being brought up with decision makers. The Chamber will, in addition to continuing to promote shop local initiatives, continue to advocate for the Province to address the inherent business inequality created by the restrictions, however necessary for the health of the public.

During this time, we are asking the business community to continue to engage with us. Please reach out, tell us your stories, and respond to our surveys. It is very important to hear from you so we can understand how to best advocate for a strong economic future for the Parkland Community. We will continue to do our best to keep you safe both health wise, and business wise. At this time we have our Parkland Business Connection open so business leaders can also fill out a few simple questions – found at <https://bit.ly/ParklandBizConnection2020>

We are working alongside the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and other Chambers across the province to advocate to our provincial government to ensure that those businesses that are forced to close are heard. Thanks to the influence of the MB and Winnipeg Chamber, Manitoba businesses that were forced to close their doors or alter their business due to health orders saw the recent creation of the \$5,000 Bridge Grant announced in the week of Nov. 9/2020. We understand that the Bridge Grant Program may ease some temporary financial burden but doesn't help if current restrictions on small businesses are not lifted soon. Starting now, we strongly encourage business owners to investigate ALL available financial relief programs and take advantage when eligible. (Please see below for some links to applications and resources)

We have seen how quickly things can change in Manitoba. Currently, the reality is that Manitoba is leading the nation in Covid-19 cases on a per-capita basis. Doctors and nurses are calling for an entire shutdown, schools included. The clear message from Chief Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, is that this is a critical time/tipping point for Manitoba. He is encouraging Manitobans to stay home and only go out to get the essentials. We now are seeing even further restrictions enforced so hopefully we can slow and stop the drastic spread of the virus. This is supposed to be a short term solution so one day the health orders can allow all businesses to be back open.

To the public, we want to shed further light on supporting local businesses during this time is critical. Many local businesses are relying on the holiday rush to carry them through. The orders are saying to only go out for the essentials but you can still get your other items by other means. The orders are very important and they aim to keep us safe but the restrictions impose a major threat to our local economy. This burdens the livelihoods of our small and medium sized business owners, or those employed by local businesses. We are a community that supports one another and we do this very well. The biggest thing we can promote right now to the public is please skip the “Amazon’s” and focus on what’s available in our area.

We are asking, if you can, please order takeout from local restaurants, follow and share posts from your favourite shops on social media and do a little extra research on who locally provides the goods you’re looking for. Many of these businesses have and are now selling their products online via their websites or social media. Some are even offering free local delivery, and most are doing curbside pickup. Purchasing gift cards to use at a later date or buying your holidays gifts from local makers is a great way to support one another during this time. If you learn of a unique promotion or idea from a local business, share it online and with your friends and family! If you are able, continue to pay your memberships and subscriptions, even if the service has paused.

Now more than ever support each other and remember that we are truly
#StrongerTogether.

Resources

<https://bit.ly/ParklandBizConnection2020>

Share with the Chamber how your business is operating and any future plans you may have. This will help us know where supports may be needed.

<https://bit.ly/ParklandAreaBusinessUpdates>

If you haven't joined this group personally or through your business, please do so. This Facebook group is a convenient spot for businesses and the public to come together for updates. Your business can share it's current operating status, special deals and other news that the public can view.

Manitoba Bridge Grant

The Manitoba Bridge Grant will provide an immediate non-repayable one-time grant of \$5,000 to small and medium-sized businesses, not-for-profit and charitable organizations that were forced to temporarily cease operations or close their publicly-accessible physical locations by Manitoba COVID-19 public-health orders in effect on Nov. 12.

Canada Emergency Business Account

The CEBA provides interest-free loans up to \$60,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits. CEBA is intended to support businesses by providing financing for their expenses that cannot be avoided or deferred as they take steps to safely close their doors during the shutdown period.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is available for employers who have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a business owner you may be eligible for a subsidy to cover 75% of your employee wages, retroactive to March 15. This program allows you to re-hire your workers, help prevent future lay offs and ease you back into your operations.

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy

The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy will provide direct relief to businesses, non-profits, and charities that continue to be economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new rent subsidy would be available retroactive to September 27, 2020, until June 2021.

Innovation Canada

Innovation Canada provides an easy-to-navigate and fully customizable directory which businesses can search through to find all the grants and supports in place for their business. This is a great and easy-to-use resource for all businesses!

Work Integrated Learning Opportunity

Federal funding is available through a program delivered by Magnet. This opportunity is being presented to Chamber's to administer. The Dauphin & District Chamber is working on having this opportunity available to members. Wage subsidy up to 75% of total wages for employers to hire post-secondary students.

ICTC's WIL Digital Subsidy

ICTC's WIL Digital is an innovative Work Integrated Learning program that helps employers grow their businesses by providing financial assistance for hiring post-secondary students. WIL Digital is funded by the Government of Canada's Student Work Placement Program (SWPP). Subsidies of 75% of wages paid to a maximum of \$7500 to provide students with meaningful WIL opportunities that develop foundational and entrepreneurship/business skills.

Back to Work in Manitoba Wage Subsidy Program

The Back to Work Manitoba initiative is a hiring program designed to support Manitoba's economic recovery by encouraging Manitoba employers to bring back their employees or take on new hires. The program covers 50% of wage costs between July 16 and December 31, 2020. Employers can be supported to hire up to 20 employees.

Additional Financial Resources

[Government of Canada: Managing your business during COVID-19 \(Resources\)](#)

[Support Programs for Individuals and Businesses \(Province of Manitoba\)](#)