



The Pelican

Your Best Source for Local Business News and Information | June 2020

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Gene Wesley, General Manager, Community Futures Lac La Biche

Life can be confusing at the best of times, let alone in our new normal where the rules of social distancing, personal engagement, coupled with return to work guidelines are complicated and at times confusing. As much as we try to stay on top of what's going on, there seems to be a new program for this group or that business announced every day. It can be overwhelming to study all the supports that are now available to determine which one makes the most sense for you or your business. There are a few websites that summarize many of programs available including the Government of Alberta's www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx-#guidance or the Government of Canada's www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/covid-19-benefits-credits-support-payments.html/. The BusinessLink also curates an excellent list of resources at: <https://businesslink.ca/covid-19/government-support-services-resources>. Yet, even with these listings of all the resources available it still can be

a challenge to know where to start; but there is a service that can help.

The Business Resilience Service (BRS) in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Government of Canada allows you to connect with experienced business advisors from across Canada for guidance on which government relief programs will be most appropriate to support your small to medium-sized business, not-for-profit or charity on how to respond and reshape amid uncertainty. The program, delivered to your organization free of charge, provides:

- Guidance on COVID-19 financial support program options and eligibility
- Accessing the most appropriate support organizations
- Help to make decisions to support recovery plans
- Real time insights and feedback to policymakers

Call 1-866-989-1080 to connect with a business advisor. The service is available 7 days/week from 6am – 6pm MT. ■



Photo: Chris Wheeler

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REGIONAL RELIEF & RECOVERY FUND

Apply online



The Government of Canada and Community Futures organizations (CFs) understand the difficulties the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the small business community throughout the West. As a result, the Government of Canada has made funds available to the CFs to provide support and assistance to SMEs through the rural stream of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF). Small business owners impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for loans up to \$40,000 through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF).

The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund provides short-term funding to support businesses that have not been approved for supports through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) or the Emergency Loan Program delivered through Aboriginal Financial Institutions.

General Details:

- Maximum loan of \$40,000;
- 0% interest until December 31, 2022;
- No principal payments until December 31, 2022;
- Principal repayments can be voluntarily made at any time without penalty;
- 25% up to a maximum of \$10,000 in loan forgiveness is available, provided the outstanding balance is paid back by December 31, 2022;
- If any part of the balance is not paid by December 31, 2022, the remaining

balance will be converted to a term loan effective January 1, 2023; and,

- The full balance must be repaid no later than December 31, 2025.

Eligible Uses for Loan Funding:

Costs for capitalization support such as rent, salaries and benefits will only be considered if the applicant is rejected and/or not already receiving assistance for these costs from other federal and provincial funding measures.

- salaries, and benefits (will only be considered if not receiving funding from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy);
- property taxes;
- rent (applicants are expected to pursue with their landlord access to the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses);
- utilities;
- cleaning supplies and additional safety measures;
- bank interest/charges;
- office supplies and vehicle operating expenses;
- lease payments for existing equipment and machinery;
- professional fees;
- insurances; and
- other eligible expenses associated with retooling, rethinking workflows, automation, robotics, developing new markets, etc.

Use of funds for the repayment of existing loan debt, including but not limited to CF organizations, is prohibited.

Eligibility of Businesses

As per Terms and Conditions of the Community Futures Program, SMEs are defined as having less than 500 employees and annual sales revenue of less than \$20 million, and produce goods and services for the market economy, regardless of their business structure (e.g. sole proprietorships, social enterprises, cooperatives, etc.);

- Established before March 1, 2020;
- Must have been adversely impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The SME must have been viable as of March 1, 2020;
- Ineligible, rejected, and/or not already receiving other federal relief supports for the same expenditures.

**To start your
application,
please visit:
www.cflfb.com**

Please note: Once you submit your application, you will receive an email notification that is confirmation we have received your application and are working on your request. Rest assured a CF representative will contact you as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. ■



Please join us for a

#LLBCOnline WORKSHOP

Monday June 8, at 1 pm

Learn how to participate in the #LLBCOnline Festival, tips for smartphone video/photo production, and how to reach your customers, clients, or audience online.



A virtual workshop on how to participate in the #LLBCOnline Festival and valuable insights on how to reach your audience online.

About this Event

Monday June 8, 1:00 PM

One thing is for sure, spring and summer are different in many ways. This difference is causing disruption in how many of us think. Lac La Biche County thinks disruption is a time for action. A time where some education and inspiration can help go a long way in seeing our community thrive. By joining us for this workshop, you are committing to improving your online existence. Gain tools and tricks that will help your business evolve and perhaps even capitalize on the differences in peoples lives.

More then ever locals are shopping online, and for us here in Lac La Biche, locals are looking to support local businesses, now. Be there for them to support. Even if your skill set in social or digital media is light, this workshop will help you take it to the next level. For those with advanced skills, learn how to kick it up a notch.

Space is limited. Please register online at: bit.ly/LLBCOnline

The webinar is delivered via the online meeting platform Zoom. Those registered will receive the details on how to join the meeting online from your desk the morning of June 8, the day of the workshop. ■

Upcoming Webinars

Webinars (or online seminars) are a great way to take part in professional development from your desk at home or at the office. Here are two that may interest you:

These free webinars are offered by Explore Local, presented by Marissa Brewer, new venture specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Register online at the link provided.

June 18 11:30 - 12:30 pm.

Know your costs and Break Even
<https://bit.ly/2ZOk6DT>

June 25 11:30 - 12:30 pm.

Adjusting for Change
<https://bit.ly/2ZOBQID>

Didja KNOW?

According to **TripAdvisor**, the top attractions to visit in the Lac La Biche region are:

- Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park
- Lakeland Provincial Park
- Lac La Biche Museum & Visitor Information Centre
- Lac la Biche Mission
- Bold Center



It's Official!

- Alberta's Official Flower – Wild Rose
- Alberta's Official Rock – Fossilized Wood
- Alberta's Official Bird – Great Horned Owl
- Alberta's Official Animal – Rocky Mountain Big Horned Sheep
- Alberta's Official Tree – Lodge Pole Pine
- Alberta's Official Fish – Bull Trout

Alberta Chambers of Commerce Surveys Impact of Covid-19 and Falling Oil Prices

A report to prepared by The Strategic Counsel for the Alberta Chambers of Commerce surveyed businesses in Alberta to assess how they have been affected by the one-two punch of low oil prices and covid-19. Here is a brief summary of what they found:

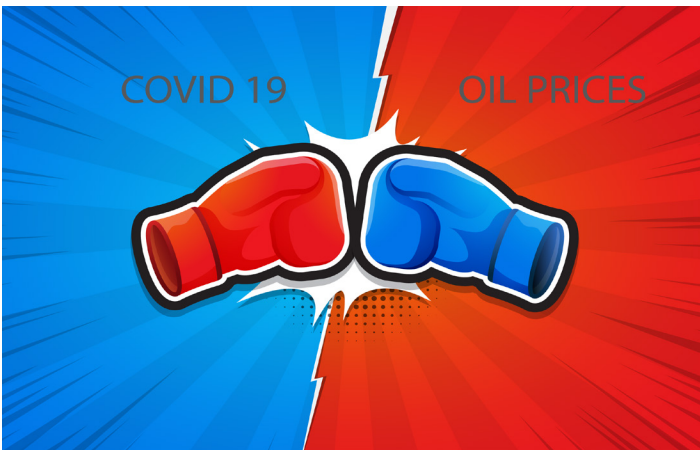
Almost all (90%) businesses report that COVID-19 is negatively impacting their business, with seven in ten (69%) saying the impact is 'significantly' negative. At the same time, three quarters of businesses say low oil prices are also having a negative impact and almost half (47%) describe this as 'significantly' negative.

- Small businesses of five or fewer employees and those most reliant on the oil and gas sector report the highest level of negative impact. In many ways, those 30% of businesses that are most reliant on the oil and gas sector appear to be hardest hit by COVID-19 (77% report a significantly negative impact), likely due to the combined effect of both crises.
- Further, most fear that any recovery will be slow as a result of the twin threats facing the province.

The take-up of various government and related support programs has been somewhat mixed. Approximately half of businesses say they have applied or plan to apply to defer a payment of some kind, seek a working capital loan from a financial institution and use the wage subsidy program.

- Those seeking to access these programs are generally the businesses that have seen the largest revenue declines or the steepest employee layoffs.
- The exception is the wage subsidy program, where the take-up is greatest among businesses of six or more employees and where the revenue decline and layoffs have been less severe.

To see the complete report summary and more, visit:
www.abchamber.ca ■



Among those businesses that have had to lay off employees, 57% report they have laid off half or more of their employees while 42% say they have laid off three quarters or more. However, this response has not eased their challenges as those laying off the largest proportion of employees are also the ones reporting the greatest financial challenges and concerns for their survival.



Put your business on the map and be part of the App by registering it on the Lac La Biche Region Business Directory at: www.llbbusiness.com

Download the phone App on iTunes or Google Play.
Search "Lac La Biche Region."

FUNNY Things You Hear...

A man went into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The pet shop owner points to three identical looking parrots in a cage and says, "The parrot on the left costs \$800 dollars." "Why does the parrot cost so much?" asks the man. The owner says, "Well, that parrot knows how to use a computer."

So the man asks about the next parrot. He learns that it costs \$2,000 dollars. It can do everything the first parrot can do plus it knows everything about accounting.

The customer was very surprised at the price, so he asks about the third parrot, only to be told that it costs \$5,000 dollars.

Needless to say, the man asks about the last parrot, "What does the third parrot do?" The pet shop owner replies, "To be honest, I've have never seen it do anything, but the other two call him boss!"

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