

# A D V O C A C Y

## Highlights

### NBDCC – JUNE 2021

#### Local

- On May 27th, the NBDCC hosted a virtual Townhall with Mayor Al. The event was an opportunity for the Mayor to outline the vision for growth for our City and answer questions from members and comments provided from members in the Member Survey. A total of 49 people registered for the event and 36 participated at the actual virtual event.

#### Provincial - OCC

- We continue to advocate for supports to keep businesses going during the stay at home orders.
- On May 13th, the Ontario Government announced the much-anticipated opening of the *Ontario Tourism & Travel Small Business Support Grant* application process was open. Applications are due June 25, 2021.
- The OCC network called on the provincial government to provide evidence based metrics on a reopening plan and to provide clarity on the AstraZeneca vaccine issues.
- The Ontario Chamber Network continued to advocate the need to update the colour coded COVID-19 operating framework and create a Responsible Business Protocol. A letter that was sent to Premier Ford from our Northern Chamber Network asking for an update on our recommendation to the province.
- The OCC launched a policy brief entitled *Capital is Key: Financing Entrepreneurship in Ontario After COVID-19*. Ontario's economic recovery will largely be driven by entrepreneurs engaged in launching and scaling their enterprises. Yet small business owners encounter challenges at various stages of growth. Real progress will come from eliminating barriers and advancing creative solutions to improve access to capital and other resources.

#### Federal - CCC

- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce requested the federal government establish a travel restart strategy sooner rather than later.
- The CCC Parliamentary Affairs and SME Policy appeared at the Senate National Finance Committee. Speaking on behalf of Canada's hardest hit sectors, including tourism, travel, food services and accommodation, the presentation underscored the need for targeted support while these industries work to recover from COVID-19 shutdowns and explained why supports may need to continue longer than currently planned.
- Business groups from across the country, including the Canadian and provincial and territorial chambers, have written the Prime Minister to urge him to take a leadership role in developing a clear and consistent roadmap out of lockdown.

