

A D V O C A C Y

Highlights

NBDCC – MAY 6, 2021

Local

- At our monthly meeting with the City administration, we presented the findings of our member survey to shine light on some of the top issues facing our business community.
- Re-iterated our goal to work together for the betterment and recovery for our small businesses.
- Confirmed date for *Mayors Townhall* will be *May 27, 2021 at noon to 1:30pm*. Pre-registration will be required. Free for members and \$15.00 for non members.

Provincial – OCC

- Continued lockdowns and stay at home orders are hurting our members. We continue to advocate for supports to keep businesses going.
- *Ontario Small Business Support Grant* applicants across the province were having issues receiving their grant funds and other processing issues. There has been lack of communication with applicants, lack of clarity with appeals and issues with the system. OCC Network has communicated these concerns with Minister Fedeli and Minister Sarkaria (Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction).
- *COVID-19 Putting Workers First Act* – This legislation passed on April 29th and will provide up to three paid sick days per employee. This program will be retroactive to April 19, 2021 and effective until September 25, 2021, the date the federal Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) will expire. Employers will be reimbursed up to \$200 per day for each employee, and the program will be administered through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).
- The OCC launched a report entitled *Growing a More Resilient Food Supply Chain in Ontario*. During the COVID-19 crisis, Canada's food supply chain experienced numerous pressures, ranging from panic buying to temporary shortages to the rapid shift to e-commerce for grocery stores, farmers, and restaurants. The objective of the report is to highlight the need to strengthen the food supply chain and grow a more resilient, globally competitive, and just system better positioned to withstand future disruptions.

Federal – CCC

- The government of Canada released its federal budget on April 19th. The Budget 2021 included a number of announcements and proposals to support business, economic growth and job creation, as well as others that will be relevant for Canadian business. Essential support programs for business have also been extended to help members recover.
- *Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)* – To accompany the recent government of Ontario Paid Sick Days program, the proposed provincial top of the CRSB is encouraging but is contingent on federal government participating and does not necessarily address the shortcomings of the CRSB program, such as processing delays. We would like to see all levels of government open to further adjustments to their programs to ensure programs meet the needs of workers.

