



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce Rolling Out Free Rapid Tests to SMEs

*Ontario Chamber Network distributing rapid tests to help keep businesses and communities safe through
COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative*

North Bay, ON, August 27, 2021 – The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Ontario and Canadian governments, have launched the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative in our district. Through this initiative, the Chamber will begin rolling out free rapid tests for small- and medium-sized businesses in North Bay & District.

“Chambers of commerce and boards of trade have been indispensable resources in their communities since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. Public health and the health of our economy are interdependent. That is why our chamber is proud to distribute rapid tests to small businesses in our district. We hope that through this program, we will be able to curb the spread and continue to reopen our local economy safely,” said Peter Chirico, President & CEO at the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce.

The tests are distributed through participating local chambers of commerce and boards of trade in Ontario. Businesses (including non-chamber members) with 150 employees or less are welcome to participate in this program. The goal of the program is to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in the workplace that might otherwise be missed, helping to curb the spread in the workplace, at home and around the community.

The Initiative builds upon the success of the program that was first successfully piloted in the Waterloo region by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo and Cambridge Chambers of Commerce in partnership with Communitech, the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada. Through this pilot, the chambers have delivered over 300,000 kits to almost 3,000 businesses in the region.

“With vaccinations on the rise and case counts lowering, rapid testing is another critical part of curbing the spread of COVID-19, contributing to the safe reopening of our economy.” said Rocco Rossi, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Interested SMEs can visit www.nbdcc.ca/rapid-antigen-screening-program to learn more about the program, register and order their two-week supply of rapid tests.

“As the indispensable partner of business, we are proud that many of our member chambers of commerce and boards of trade, including the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, are offering this program, distributing rapid tests to small and local businesses across the province” added Rossi.

-30-

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