



Atlantic Chamber IMPRESSIONS de la Chambre de l'Atlantique

conversations in context | conversations contextuelles

COVID-19:

Supports For Business Member Survey Results Résultats du sondage auprès des entreprises

Results as at: March 20, 2020 8:00 AST | Résultats au : 20 mars 2020 8:00 AST
{disponible en anglais seulement pour le moment}

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DE L'ANTIQUE

2020

ATLANTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





COVID-19

Support For Business Member Survey Results | Résultats du sondage auprès des entreprises

COVID-19: What Governments Can do to Support Business



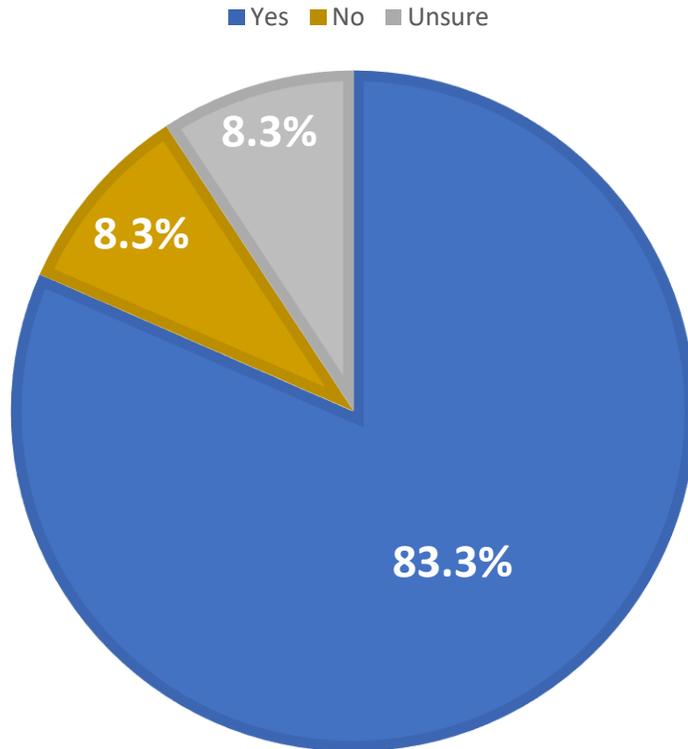
* See Appendix A | voir annexe A



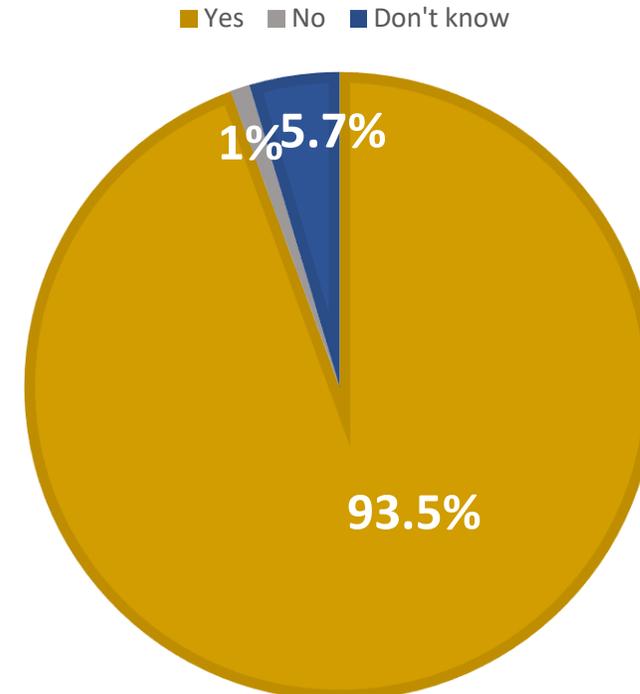
COVID-19

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BUSINESSES CURRENTLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19



BUSINESSES EXPECTING TO BE IMPACTED BY COVID-19 IN THE FUTURE

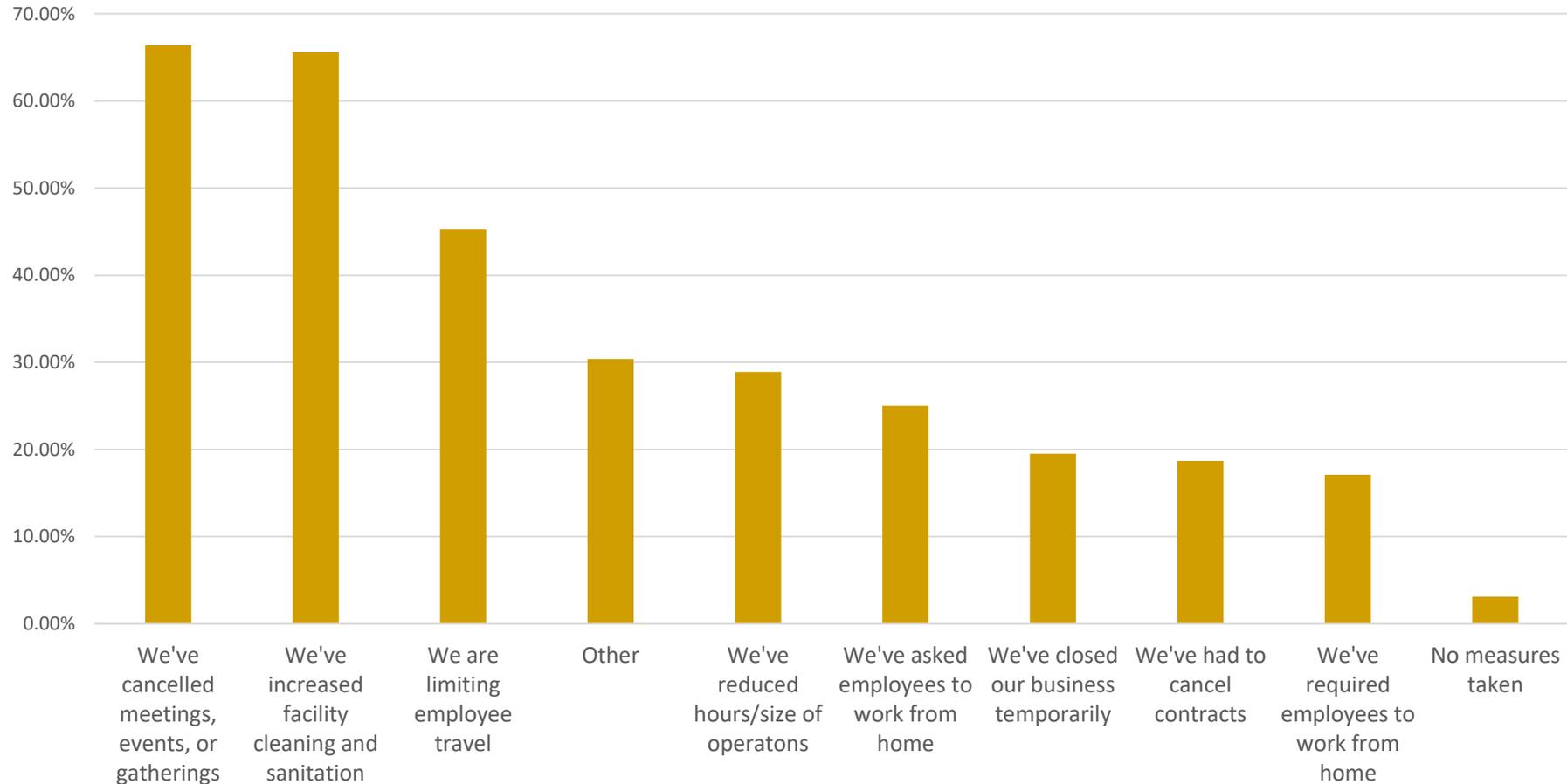




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COVID-19: Steps Businesses Have Taken



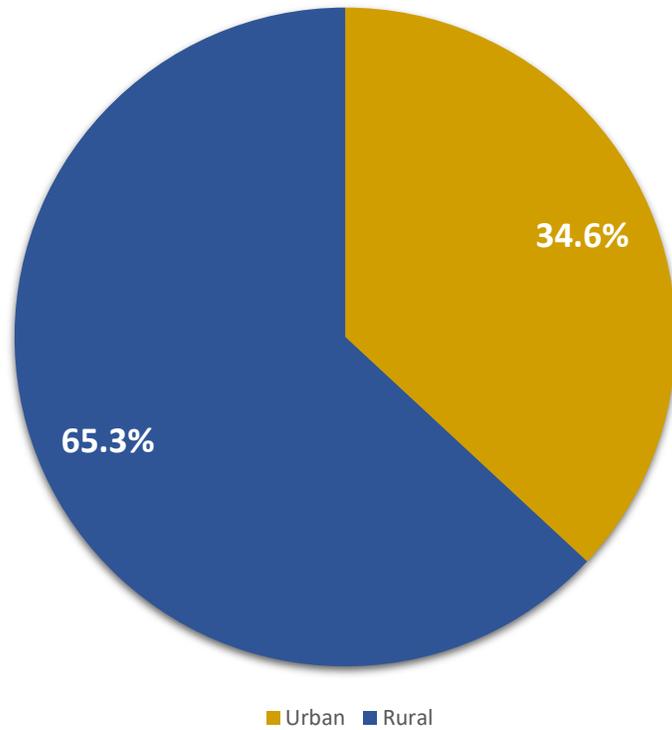
Other includes: limited customer traffic/access, encourage over phone payments, cancelled appointments, layoffs, delayed opening, reduction in staff and services, no call back of seasonal workers.



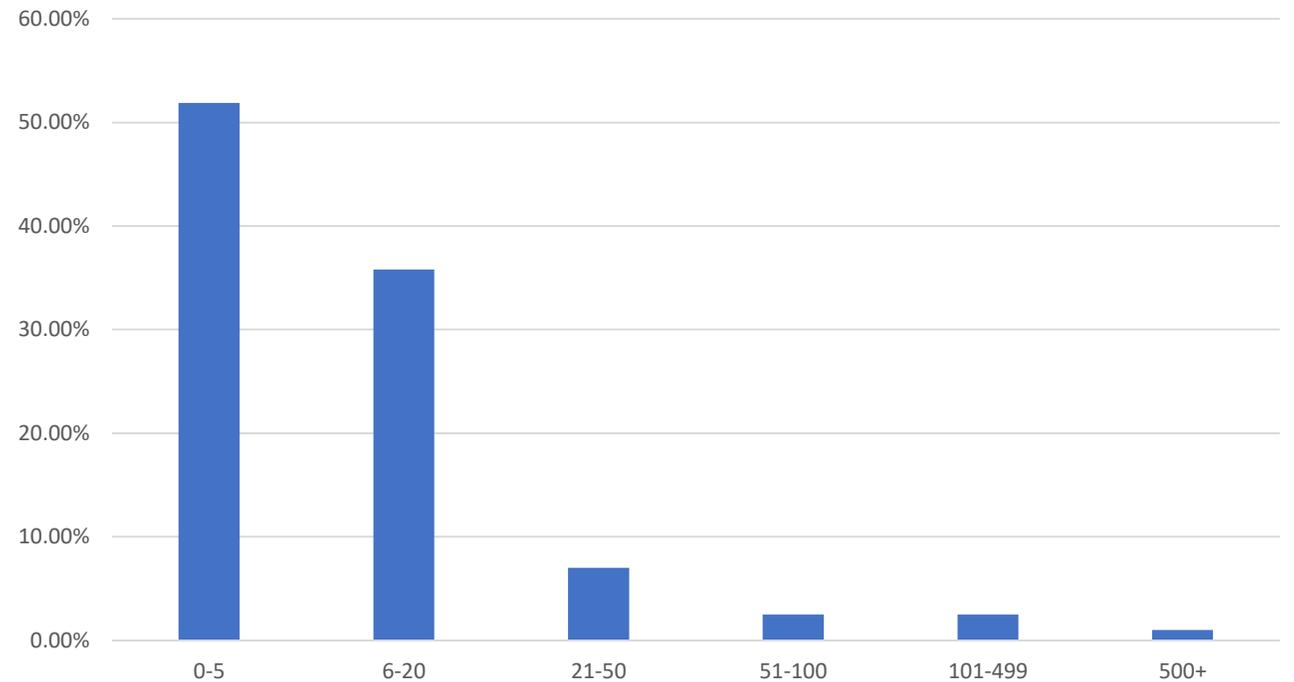
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Business Location



Number of Employees

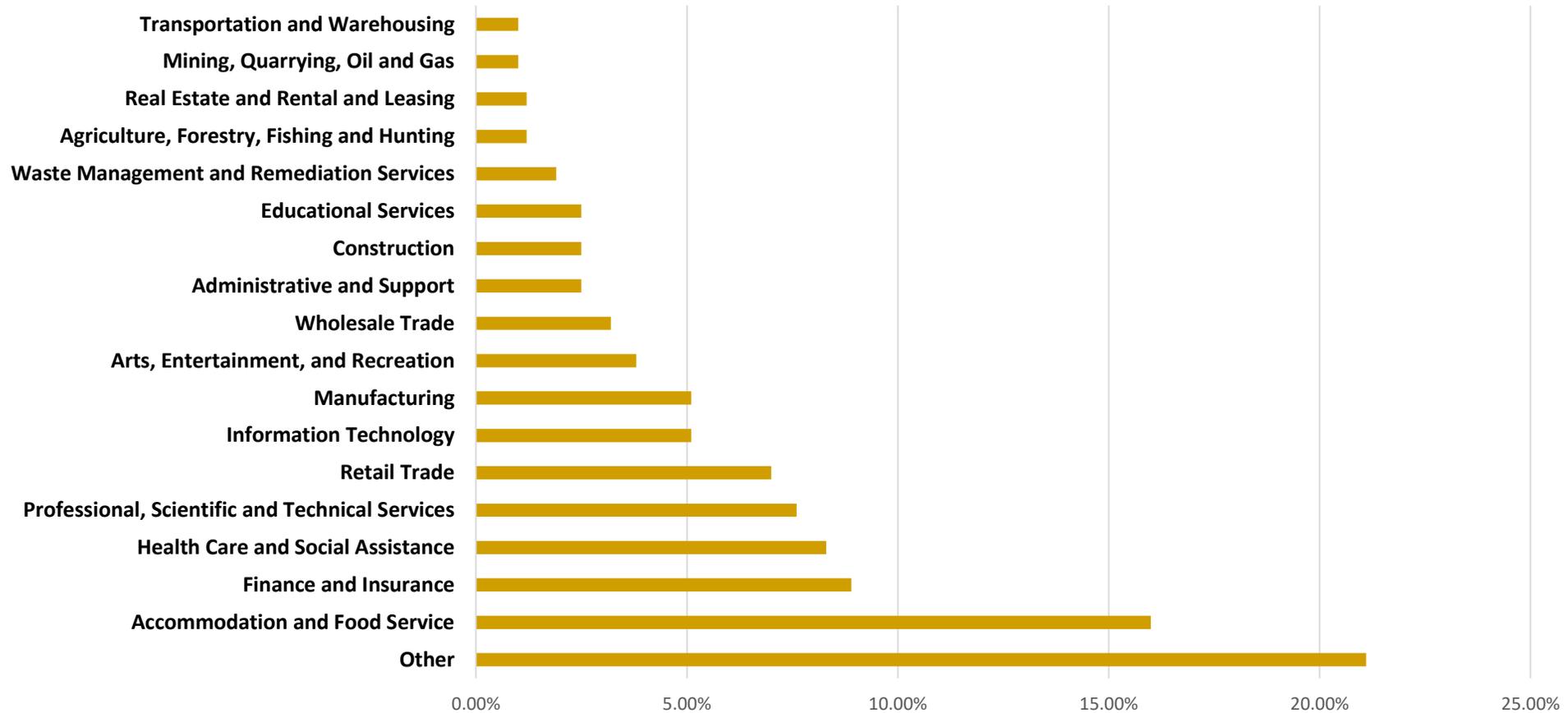




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Business Sector



Others include: engineering, esthetics/spa, business consulting, tourism, advocacy/non profit, manufacturing, retail and wholesale, non-profit/recreational, and distribution





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions:

We're at the tip of the iceberg-once businesses that had decided to be open are mandated to close, it will be hard to justify opening them for a Long time. I can't wait until some light commerce and flow is encouraged for ALL of our financial and mental health. It's as important as US-Can trade to sm. Bus.

Providing the ability for small business owners to access EI or some other benefit program - many of us don't qualify for EI and have very little ability to pay personal bills, because we are trying to leave money in company.

Self employed seasonal tourism operators who do not pay into EI and have to delay opening will soon be having problems paying bills etc. The tourism sector is going to be hit hard. If there is no travel for months there will be no money coming in and will need help to survive.

Other impacts include: Commercial Mortgage, Equipment Leases, Credit card, Phone, electric, oil, town H2O&sewer bills

I am in an industry where people only come when they feel they have "extra money" to spend...this is significantly decreasing on a daily basis. If I get too far behind I may have to close.

My company has cancelled our largest event of the year... 75% of revenue gone that provides huge profits that get us through the year.

Support for small business owners by way of delaying mortgage payments or offering EI benefits to owners.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

I had to temporarily lay off 4 of my employees today as we closed our Taproom.

The new minimum wage increase will further impact small business on top of the COVID-19. Not feeling positive about the future of small business in the Annapolis Valley and other rural communities.

I am self employed without EI. How will the government help me out? My work involves me being in person with clients which is not possible right now.

Tourism bookings for the spring are already dropping off significantly. How can small tourism operators start to ramp up operations in the spring with no cash flow?

I am self employed and work alone so I am concerned about how the government will have support for individuals that are experiencing clients canceling and work opportunities diminishing.

Because small businesses do not qualify for EI, we can not use the EI benefit offered. We are left out to fend for ourselves. We can not just sit home and hope for money to show up.

Up-to-date, practical information is really helpful. If we're in this for a long time, we need to know we're supported (and that the most vulnerable financially are supported). I'll weather this OK, but many may not.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

We are a seasonal business based largely on tourism. We are hoping the govt will support COVID financial relief not just in the short term but over the next 6 to 8 months as the tourism sector goes through a summer tourism season

These are very uncertain times and we need immediate support from our government or our businesses will not survive this.

I hope that we can get through this difficult time without the need to perform any layoffs.

Encourage rapid response to decisions made at government levels

Our business is impacted greatly by other businesses having to close, unfortunately nothing we can do about it Anonymous

Sales, we will need sales or free money. We cannot spend money sustaining the business and then sell our way out of the debt. That will not work, I'll close the business before taking that path.

Our non-profit recreational facility has gone from fully booked to having no bookings for 3 weeks due to PSO's and school boards eliminating organized practices, games and gatherings.

I have not heard anything concerning small self employed people whose salary income will be dramatically affected by this event. Self employed people have payroll, loans, credit card payment, etc. and if there is little or no income they will not be able to meet their financial obligations or pay themselves.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

Financially this has a huge impact to not only our business but our employees and the community; senior walkers do not have access to a safe walking environment.

Cascading impact with U.S. customers delaying paying for goods, thus adding cash flow concerns on top of the plethora of other impacts to business. We are not an essential front-line service but what we manufacture is essential to front-line health care workers.

We have already received calls from very worried customers.

I feel over all the authorities are on the right path. Things are moving quickly and I feel that the response in Canada has been as good as other jurisdictions. I am confident that more will be announced very soon.

This will impact small businesses for who knows how long. More information on how small businesses will be helped would be so great and reduce stress.

Include specific options for non-profits

Nous embauchons des personnes sous des contrats indépendants, il serait important de penser à une solution pour ces personnes car ce seront les premiers impactés!

The \$10 billion in more loans is not really accessible.... need a clear channel to access loans, grants etc.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

We really need the government to mandate no service interruptions for non payments, and no penalties for insurance, mortgage, rent, power, water, internet, phone, cell, and any other essential services. For individuals, for businesses, for non-profits, and everyone.

I'm lucky to operate a business that can move forward remotely. I've invested a lot of \$\$ in technology in the last 2 years so my business can be mobile for the health of my staff

As a food manufacturer we already have self isolation policies in place & will remain open (encouraging hand washing & social distancing) until the gov orders us to remain home. Closure would have a negative financial impact on us and our customers; however we assured our employees wages will continue if we close.(Hopefully the gov will subsidize)

We've had a significant contract cancel because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a new business owner it is especially disconcerting as we were just starting to gain momentum prior to the outbreak and now we are concerned about whether we'll be able to pay the bills if there's an extended period of isolation.

Solar PV installations are expensive and we expect a big downturn in sales which will curtail our ability to keep people employed in the business. The government could consider a payroll credit to aid companies in keeping their people employed.

We grow fresh fruit and vegetables for local sale. Our retail markets have been closed indefinitely. We rely on 25 seasonal foreign workers. The first two were to arrive tomorrow. Without them(and following our worst 2 years on record) there is a very real chance that we will not recover regardless of compensation packages. Food sovereignty is at risk.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

Since the news of Covid-19 our business has already suffered as some of our clients are in self-isolation therefore we cannot clean their homes. Also, other clients are cancelling cleanings due to not wanting anyone bringing the virus into their home. Also, some clients cannot afford their cleanings due to loss of work.

I am self-employed. My business is year-round but the bulk of my work occurring between June and October (wedding season). Many of my couples and their guests will travel from outside of the province for their wedding in New Brunswick. Should the pandemic persist and people begin to cancel their weddings, my entire income will be lost for 2020.

Work with small businesses directly affected to help pay staff rather than lay off and sending them all to EI
Small business will take the economic brunt of this pandemic as self-employed people do not have the social safety nets available to employees and larger corporations.

No business no pay.

Recent announcements indicate LOANS. Our margins are razor thin. Once we start to recover (if we can) there will be no additional money to repay a loan, we need grant money to survive.

We are very small, only two owners and no employees, and we have only been open for one year. We cannot access E.I. We provide essential mobility aids to people with disabilities. If we don't get the resources (ie: loan suspensions, tax breaks) to sustain this clinic it will harm some of the most vulnerable people in NS, as well as us.





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Other feedback about business impacts or proposed solutions (Cont'd):

As artists, for now, we work in isolation to a great extent. However, we need to sell our work. Social distancing makes this impossible to do in the traditional physical setting. With government support we need to think outside the box and encourage ways in which we can exhibit and sell our work.

Stay Safe - we are Newfoundlanders. We need an income to survive, but we know how to come together when in times of need. Lets do everything we can to prevent this from spreading and to find a cure.





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APPENDIX A | Annexe A





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*Other ways Government can support your business during COVID-19?

- Help new business owners with subsidies to carry through this period of closure
- Support solo entrepreneurs who have no EI or other income streams
- Self employed people in my clinic
- Provide EI or other options to self employed.
- Support for the self-employed business owners
- Support self-employed people like me with no EI
- Provide financial assistance for solo-preneurs who are not eligible for EI
- Provide additional funding for small tourism businesses - spring will be hard
- Delay but don't cancel current projects
- Financial compensation for non-profits who have a substantial financial loss

