



Correspondence to Local MPs

From: Todd Letts

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 2:21 PM

To: Sonia.Sidhu@parl.gc.ca; Sonia.Sidhu.C1B (Sonia.Sidhu.C1B@parl.gc.ca)

[<Sonia.Sidhu.C1B@parl.gc.ca>](mailto:Sonia.Sidhu.C1B@parl.gc.ca)

Cc: kamal.khera@parl.gc.ca; Ruby.Sahota@parl.gc.ca; maninder.sidhu@parl.gc.ca; ramesh.sangha@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Thank you Sonia - got your call and thank you for COVID response

Hi Sonia,

Thank you for your call. I will try to return it as soon as possible.

Yes – we are dealing with a lot of business client requests right now. We have established a landing page on our site bramptonbot.com/covid19 to assist Brampton business owners. Because trade continues, BBOT continues to serve its members including certificate of origin clients. Combatting COVID19 and ensuring that the economy continues to move forward is our mutual objective.

Thank you for the actions that the federal government has made already including support to workers in quarantine who will claim Employment Insurance sickness benefits by waiving the mandatory one-week waiting period; introducing enhancements to the Work-Sharing program to help support employers and their workers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19; making \$10 billion available to Canadian businesses through Export Development Canada and Business Development Bank of Canada, in addition to the Bank of Canada Governor cutting the interest rates; and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions announcing an additional \$300 billion in lending capacity by the major banks.

With respect to what more the federal government can do, possible policy measures to support Canadian businesses and workers through the COVID-19 Pandemic include:

1. Defer tax deadlines, audits and payments (both for individuals and businesses) to both assist with short-term liquidity and allow them to focus on dealing with the pandemic
2. Offer flexibility on remittance payments (e.g. consider eliminating interest penalties)
3. Reduce tariffs on essential goods and medical supplies needed to deal with the pandemic

4. Build upon previous announced measures (March 13/20) to help impacted businesses of all sizes access credit and capital swiftly
5. Help businesses, SMEs particularly, pay furloughed employees and finance remote work options. While not all businesses have the capability of introducing remote working, those that do may be faced with considerable costs. Assisting businesses to transform in this way may actually provide significant long-term advantages for Canada, in addition to the immediate benefits
6. Accelerate government payments owed to private sector and non-profit vendors
7. Postpone government consultations that are not germane to COVID-19 and place a moratorium on the introduction of new regulations and policies that are nonessential to avoid forcing businesses to divert their attention from dealing with the crisis at hand
8. Provide provisional extensions for temporary foreign workers already in Canada
9. Identify and support front line workers for essential goods and services

Thank you again for your genuine concern and positive action.

Please be safe and healthy during these trying times.

Sincerely,



Todd Letts | Chief Executive Officer

The Brampton Board of Trade | 36 Queen St. E. Suite 101
Brampton, ON L6V 1A2

T: 905-451-1122 ext. 206 | C: 416-457-4331

[WEBSITE](#) | [NEWSLETTER](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [BBOT NEWS](#)

Connect with us on social media for updates, news and events!

