Good Morning Everyone,

I wanted to take this time to share some more information with you that has become available in in the last 24 hours.  The **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce** is leading an initiative with for an Economic Recovery Working Group. This consolidation of resources should be extremely helpful as a starting point.

**Economic Recovery Working Group**

<https://www.hamilton.ca/government-information/news-centre/news-releases/hamilton-launches-economic-recovery-working-group>​

**Chamber of Commerce COVID-19 Resources**

<https://www.hamiltonchamber.ca/covid19/>​

This website has just been launched and provides an up to date summary and important business resources that will be extremely valuable to your memberships.

If there are additional questions you are being asked or information that is missing, please let me know or connect directly with the Chamber of Commerce to advise. They will work diligently to keep this as up to date as possible and keep the business community informed.

One question that has come forward is how to apply for many of these new programs - the applications will be available in April for the federal programs, just under 2 weeks from now and as soon as they are I will make sure that I am sharing with you.

A few other resources that I have come across and want to share:

**Facebook Small Business Grant Program**

<https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grants?ref=eml>

**Webinars (offered from US affiliates)**

**Coronavirus and What you Need to Know about Postponing and Cancelling Events**

<https://www.charityhowto.com/nonprofit-webinar/covid-19-and-what-you-need-to-know-about-postponing-and-cancelling-events?list=Upcoming+Live+Webinars>

**Business Survival Strategies** **Webinar**| Friday, March 27 at 10:00am EDT | Hosted by Rutgers University |

RSVP via [cueed@business.rutgers.edu](mailto:cueed@business.rutgers.edu) via your name and email.

**Centralized Business Promotion**

We are also considering working with a local firm for an opportunity to consolidate and promote gift card offerings and possibly e-commerce from local businesses - a one stop shop. Please let me know if you feel that a centralized resource for customers would be valuable? We want to make is as easy as possible, businesses would just need to fill in a form with what they have available and it would be posted to a directory. That page would then be promoted to all customers so that they have an avenue to continue to support locally.

Any feedback or ideas you have on this please share with me. I'm not sure if your members would want something like this or would take advantage of it? We want to do all we can to provide information, support and promote during these unprecedented times.

I welcome any ideas and feedback you have.

Thanks to all and I hope you are all keeping well.

Warm regards,

Cristina Geissler

Executive Director

Concession Street BIA

534 Concession Street

Hamilton, ON

L8V 1A6

289 933-8899

[concessionbia@gmail.com](mailto:concessionbia@gmail.com)