



PREPARE. PERSEVERE. PROSPER.

The Resilience of Canada's
Business Community in 2020

 **ANNUAL 20
REPORT 20**



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

Chambre de
Commerce
du Canada

Because Business Matters.

TO OUR MEMBERS



Ten months and counting. We are now only a short time away from marking a full year of dealing with COVID-19 in Canada.

A year of Canadian businesses struggling to stay afloat. A year of us not being able to meet in person. A year of adapting our own business models to adjust to the new realities of our members and our customers.

The economic impact of COVID-19 — the first shutdown, the second wave and the new lockdowns — has been nothing short of devastating to businesses everywhere.

As Canadians, we **prepared** and **persevered** during 2020. In the moment of greatest need, chambers across this country rose to the challenge and found innovative ways to help their members keep their doors open. And many businesses stepped up to help their communities weather this economic storm.

We have come together in a way we have never been asked to before. Our collective voice has been, and

continues to be, focused on the needs of businesses in every community from east to west, north to south. This has brought a singular clarity to our advocacy efforts. Regional, provincial, territorial and federal governments have heard the exact same message from our Canadian Business Resilience Network.

At a time when many other business associations have struggled or have closed their doors, the Canadian Chamber and its chamber network have never had more respect or influence with decision-makers. Governments have sought our advice on how to develop policies that will strengthen Canadian businesses. Together, we have helped shape decisions that truly matter for our economy. Our annual report highlights some of the ways we have delivered change for our members and our communities. We hope you will review all that we have accomplished together in 2020.



We wish we could tell you the hard part is behind us. However, despite the amazing breakthroughs that have resulted in safe and effective vaccines, the massive challenge of rebuilding our economy from the effects of COVID-19 remains. The best hope for a better future is to start planning to build one, and we know it will start with our network of over 200,000 businesses. As business leaders, we don't have the luxury of waiting for a recovery to happen because we are the ones who will help shape it.

Canada's economic recovery couldn't be in better hands. With your input, your insight and your influence from Main Street to Bay Street, we will push forward. Each of us must have a hand in Canada's recovery.

The new vaccines, the safety protocols, and the improvements in personal protective equipment will create the necessary health safety net that Canadians need to move forward. And business will provide the opportunities for Canadians to **prosper** once again. Make no mistake, this recovery will be business-led. We are grateful that you will be part of our network, making it happen from Antigonish to Abbotsford, from Windsor to Whitehorse and every community in between. And our chamber network will be right there beside our members every step of the way.

Your support and your efforts for business over 2020 have made the difference. With your continued commitment, we will build a brighter future for all Canadians.

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Hon. Perrin Beatty, PC, OC
President and CEO

Mario Thériault
Chair of the Board of Directors

OUR PURPOSE AND VALUE

**We help build the businesses
that support our families, our
communities and our country.**

We do this by influencing government policy and by providing the services your business needs. We connect you to information you can use, to opportunities and to a network of local chambers, businesses, decision-makers and peers from across the country, in every sector of the economy and at all levels of government, as well as internationally. We are unwavering in our support for business and the vital role it plays in building and sustaining our great nation.

20 20



A year that started like any other. All of us had plans for our organizations. We were firing on all cylinders. Ramping up.

It was the start of a new decade. A leap year. An election year south of the border. Things to watch. New minority government in place. Much to accomplish.

2020 was the year that business became more than an image — business was personified. No longer was business an abstraction. Instead, we came to see it as an independent café down the street that had to close because not doing so risked lives, or a family-owned grocery store that employs the friends who risked their lives to keep an essential operation open. Small businesses, large businesses — all would find their community and their identity through the COVID-19 crisis. The world changed.

The breadth and depth of the pandemic that broke in mid-March would not be known immediately but, soon enough, we all realized how much our collective way of life relies on goods and services from around the corner and around the globe. We

are interconnected. 2020 brought that interconnectivity and interdependency to light in a multitude of ways — the way we travel, the way we consume, the way we trade and more. It all changed. By having to disconnect, our global economy is challenged like never before, and we have been forced to see the world through a different lens. The year 2020 changed us all.

Because business matters.

Through the challenges, businesses rose to the occasion. Donations from businesses, large and small, were made to communities and causes because businesses are built in communities. New ways of doing business were conceived because that is what was needed to keep Canadians employed. Our Canadian Business Resilience Network urged governments to ensure the right supports for business are in place because our economy can't recover until business recovers.

JANUARY

We charged out of the gate in 2020, ringing the bell on the floor of the Toronto Stock Exchange in advance of our inaugural thought leadership conference, the Canada 360° Economic Summit. At the Summit, we convened some of Canada's greatest business minds, all coming together with a common purpose: to find and develop new ideas to grow our economy. The name of the Summit reflected our understanding that every Canadian and every business leader has a stake in our shared economic future.



Phil Noble, our 2019-2020 Chair of the Board, addresses participants at our Canada 360° Economic Summit.

FEBRUARY

Rail blockades in February closed one of Canada's most travelled rail corridors, effectively shutting down one of Canada's busiest trade routes. At this point, the vulnerability of Canadian businesses and their supply chain management became apparent.

Our solution was to use our convening capabilities and gather our chamber, business and association colleagues around the table. Many of these organizations represent sectors and businesses affected by these blockades, and we worked together to heighten awareness of the damage these transportation shutdowns were inflicting on businesses and on communities.

The experience of pulling these groups together provided a template that we would follow many times over the coming months.

POLICY WIN

As we brought this coalition of association leaders together, we were able to press for a (peaceful) end to the rail blockades. Later in the year, we again worked with other associations to end a labour dispute at the Port of Montreal that threatened the delivery of goods to businesses across the country.



MARCH

In mid-March, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

Shortly thereafter, the federal government shut down much of Canada. Travel was restricted. Canadians around the world were told to return home. The federal government closed its doors, as did businesses across the country. On March 16, #TeamChamber began working remotely — along with much of Canada.

Unaware of how long this situation would last, we logged into our computers each day. Like so many other organizations,

we became familiar with daily team videoconferences. We reached out to our members, to the government, to the wider business community. All of these stakeholders looked to us to help connect businesses and stakeholders across the country.

The sight of daily Prime Ministerial COVID-19 briefings became familiar. As the government began to roll out programs to help Canadians weather the crisis, we gathered our network via video calls — to hear their concerns and to share information about what was available to help businesses in their sectors and regions.

POLICY WIN

In the *Fall Economic Statement*, the government recognized that the number of Canadians working remotely necessitated creating a simplified deduction for working from home expenses for employees and employers. We estimate this decision eliminated as much as 20 million pages of tax paperwork for Canadian employers in 2021.



We held a number of calls with our chamber network to seek input into our policy and advocacy work, to provide members with updates on government programs and CBRN initiatives and to engage with them about their experiences and the issues that are affecting their organizations and their member businesses.



APRIL

By April, we knew that we had to jump deeper into this never-before-seen critical situation. In a partnership with the Government of Canada, the Canadian Business Resilience Network (CBRN) was born out of a need to help businesses, and all Canadians, through COVID-19. The CBRN allowed us to exchange best practices, gather information about what was happening on the ground across Canada and help business owners and consumers interpret the government supports.

Through the CBRN website and the delivery of a COVID-19 daily bulletin, we provided thousands of business owners, business organizations and individuals with the timely information needed to get them through the pandemic. We did not restrict our communications to our members because all businesses needed to know how they could survive. In particular, we became a hub for information and a lifeline to many small businesses across Canada.

Our daily bulletin was not just telling the government's story. It also shared good news stories from businesses across

Canada. We heard about corporate donations of facemasks for frontline workers, companies supporting local food banks and businesses retooling to produce PPE.

We helped the members of our network get much-needed information. We held weekly calls to provide updates and to hear about government programming being created to help Canadian businesses and their workers.



POLICY WIN

We developed a partnership with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to develop and deliver the Canadian Business Resilience Network's microsite (launched April 2), which became a go-to resource for Canadian businesses over the coming months of 2020.



I am proud to be part of a business association that has no equal in Canada. With a chamber of commerce/board of trade in every electoral riding from coast to coast to coast, we are a grassroots network that is routinely consulted and listened to by governments and other stakeholders. The Canadian Chamber remains an invaluable resource for the local chambers/ boards in taking our concerns to government and in providing the tools for us to keep our local businesses informed and engaged.

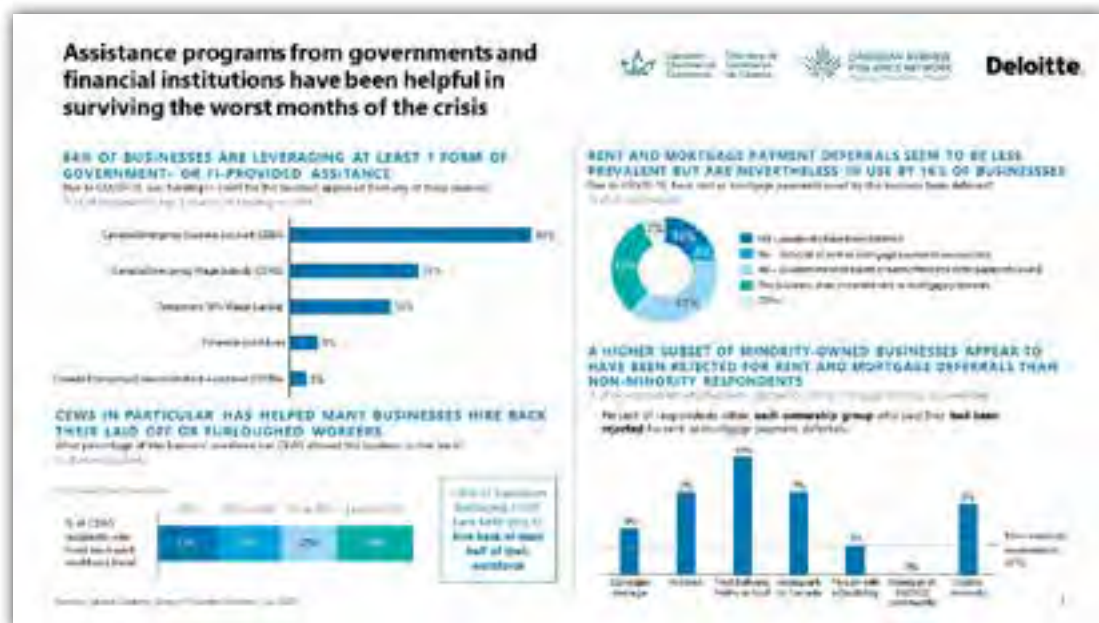
Scott McCammon, ACE, CCE, President and CEO, Milton Chamber of Commerce



MAY

In partnership with EY, CPA Canada and Imagine Canada, with the support of the Government of Canada, we launched the Business Resilience Service. This free service helped thousands of businesses across the country navigate the pandemic.

We also collaborated with Statistics Canada on creating the very first Canadian Survey on Business Conditions, providing decision-makers with a comprehensive picture of how the pandemic was affecting the country's businesses.



JUNE

While all businesses found this crisis tough, the small businesses that are the faces of our neighbourhoods were struggling. That is why in June, we were pleased to announce a partnership with Salesforce Canada on the CBRN Small Business Relief Fund.

Over the course of a month, the program was planned and executed. More than 1,200 small-sized businesses applied for 62 grants of \$10,000

each. The application process asked businesses to indicate the issues they faced and their turnaround plans. Submissions came in from every province and territory, and the stories were a reality check on the state of independent businesses during this crisis: things were bad. While the stories were heart-rending, the spirit and the ingenuity of Canada's entrepreneurs were evident in the ideas they advanced to reinvent their businesses.

POLICY WIN

The original 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy was insufficient so we fought for and welcomed a more generous wage subsidy. Our input helped the Government of Canada develop the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. We also pressed to ensure changes to government programs reflected the ongoing reality of the pandemic (introduction of a sliding subsidy scale, increasing the rate back up to 75% for the hardest hit businesses after an initial reduction to 65% during the second wave).



◉ JULY

Just after Canada Day, we were able to announce the 62 grant recipients that would each receive \$10,000. The stories of these businesses presented a compelling picture of the resilience of small- and medium-sized businesses.

Over the summer, we were able to continue telling these stories as we checked in with the grant recipients to learn what they had achieved with their grant monies. This small number of business owners shed light on the bigger picture of what was happening to businesses across Canada.

POLICY WIN

Many of the CBRN Small Business Relief Fund grant recipients were small businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector that were hit hard due to the global travel shutdown.

The *Fall Economic Statement* included a new Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) that provides 100% government backed loans at below-market interest rates for the hardest-hit sectors, like tourism, hospitality, hotels, and arts and entertainment, that were finding it challenging to access the Business Credit Availability Program.

CBRN SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND HELPS AGS REHAB SERVICES MOVE FORWARD



// I want to thank you for all your effort during this coronavirus pandemic by supporting Canadian families and businesses. I appreciate your leadership, more specifically the one from the Honourable Perrin Beatty, who understands that businesses and services that support the essential infrastructure are needed and essential to successfully provide guidance and hope during this difficult time. The key is to keep the core of the business intact so that we come back out of this much stronger.

Barry F. Lorenzetti, President, CEO and Founder, BFL Canada

CBRN GRANT HELPS BISCUIT GENERAL STORE FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO SHOP IN A SAFE WAY

As part of the Canadian Business Resilience Network campaign, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, through the generosity of Senator John O'Brien, provided all small Canadian businesses with \$10,000 grants to help their recovery efforts during these unprecedented times. That's how it was for Biscuit General Store.

"When COVID hit our business, we were in a bind, with cash flow at a low point. The grant was a lifeline, and it allowed us to keep our doors open and continue to serve our customers. We were able to implement safety measures and keep our business afloat during these difficult times. The grant was a huge help, and we are grateful for the support."

Business owners like Biscuit General Store are grateful for the support and are looking forward to the future. The grant was a huge help, and we are grateful for the support.



● AUGUST

Working with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, RBC and the larger chamber network, we helped promote the #CanadaUnited campaign that raised the profile of small businesses and encouraged people to support them through a special “shop local” weekend in late August. A social media campaign developed around the hashtag #GOCanadaUnited raised millions of dollars for grants to small businesses across Canada.

The program received applications from over 1,000 small businesses, applying to receive reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses, such as purchases of PPE, physical space renovations and developing website and ecommerce capabilities.

As many jurisdictions wrestled with whether to reopen schools, the debate brought to the fore many concerns, including the threat of a second wave of COVID-19, the safety protocols within the education systems and the toll the pandemic was exacting on women. COVID-19 has had a particularly detrimental effect on women, taking a heavy toll on small businesses owned by women and preventing tens of thousands from being able to return to the workforce.

POLICY WIN



In 2020, our Council for Women's Advocacy developed and advocated recommendations regarding women and the workforce, including the areas of childcare / return to school, female entrepreneurship and job pivots.

Since the late summer, the federal government has:

- Put \$2 billion through the Safe Return to Class Fund (August 26, 2020).
- Prioritized childcare as an issue of national importance, and in the *Fall Economic Statement*, focused on / provided support for the early childhood educator workforce.
- In its *Speech from the Throne* and its *Fall Economic Statement*, committed to accelerating its assistance to women, given women's vital role in Canada's recovery.



SEPTEMBER

In September, the government delivered its *Speech from the Throne*, the content of which provided some greater clarity on its plans, particularly on some of the government's health policy. But given the damage being done to the health of the Canadian public and the economy, we called on the federal government, in collaboration with other levels of government, to develop a national strategy to manage and defeat the virus.

One of the biggest shifts for businesses of all sizes during COVID-19 has been the rapid adoption of online business. What would have taken years of encouragement to do has literally taken off in a matter of months. We asked senior officials to use the *Speech from the Throne* to demonstrate that the government understands the critical need for access to high-speed Internet and connectivity services for all Canadians.

POLICY WIN

Shortly after the *Speech from the Throne*, the government announced *the* Universal Broadband Fund. We welcomed the additional \$750 million investment in the fund to complement our accelerating broadband needs and to meet the increased speed at which businesses, citizens and services have moved online since the pandemic hit.



OCTOBER

At the start of Small Business Week, the federal government injected \$12 million into the Canada United program for additional grants for small businesses across Canada.

Our AGM and Convention was like none we have ever held before. An online event with 900 delegates, it marked the largest attendance at an AGM in our history. The event also featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Official Opposition Erin O'Toole and Ontario Premier Doug Ford.



NOVEMBER

The government delivered its *Fall Economic Statement* on the last day of November — offering the clearest picture of federal finances and economic assumptions in over a year. Some of the policy wins in the statement are described in this report.

Safeguarding the health of Canadians must remain our highest priority, which is why we advocate a comprehensive COVID-19 management strategy. In addition, the government needs to develop a long-term plan for the delivery of programs and support, bearing in mind the cost to future Canadians and their ability to pay for the expenditures.

POLICY WIN

One of the issues the business community continually raised throughout the year was the need for an effective rent subsidy program, which had become particularly critical for businesses that had been forced to close because of lockdowns.

We fought for a rent support program, which was initially rolled out in April as the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA). We pushed for changes to CECRA, including removing arbitrary revenue caps and calling for funds to flow directly to tenants rather than through landlords. This work resulted in the announcement of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), which flows directly to tenants, has no revenue caps and is more generous than the previous program for businesses that were required to shut down due to COVID-19.

DECEMBER

With the rollout of effective vaccines we look ahead to 2021 with hope. The process will be long and there will be setbacks, but we can finally see the prospect of an end to the pandemic and a return to more normal lives.



For the past several years I have sat on the Chamber's National Indigenous Advisory Board. I found the meetings valuable and engaging. Internally our company began to question our commitment to reconciliation and so, based in part on the leadership of the Chamber, we partnered with Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band to become a minority partner in an Indigenous controlled company named IndigenousTech.ai Corporation.

Today, we are winning technology contracts, employing Indigenous youth in communities such as Yellowknife, NWT and addressing issues such as northern supply chain sustainability with partners such as BlackBerry and Dun & Bradstreet.

I wish to thank Perrin Beatty and the Chamber for their leadership on this topic and for encouraging our firm to partner with Indigenous leaders such as Chief Clarence Louie. Together we will get through this pandemic and build a stronger Canada.

Murray Rowe Jr. UE, President and CEO,
IndigenousTech.ai Corporation



IN OTHER NEWS...



The COVID-19 pandemic has kept our team busy. However, the need to deliver COVID-19-related programs and activities was not our only focus.



NEW INITIATIVES THROUGH 2020

The Business of Business

The Business of Business is a series of video interviews with our President and CEO Perrin Beatty and various business, government and thought leaders. The interviews cover wide-ranging issues, including very topical discussions related to the pandemic and the effects of the pandemic on current business outlooks and future strategies.

Essential Business Services

We increased our support to Canadian businesses this year with our program offers under the umbrella of Essential Business Services. This hub created channels for our value-add programs. Our Essential Business Services include 15 programs for our members that offer savings, professional services and import/export services.

Policy Campaigns

In mid-2020, we hired a campaign director who oversees a number of policy initiatives themed and ready for action. Over the course of the year, members can take part in the campaigns related to their sector, community and membership.

Our campaigns include:

- CBRN
- Pan-Canadian Strategy to Manage COVID-19
- Think Growth
- Our Restaurants
- Fresh Fuel Standard
- Freeze the Alcohol Tax
- Inclusive Growth



CHAMBER BY THE NUMBERS

 84

webinars and virtual roundtables offered to our network of businesses and organizations

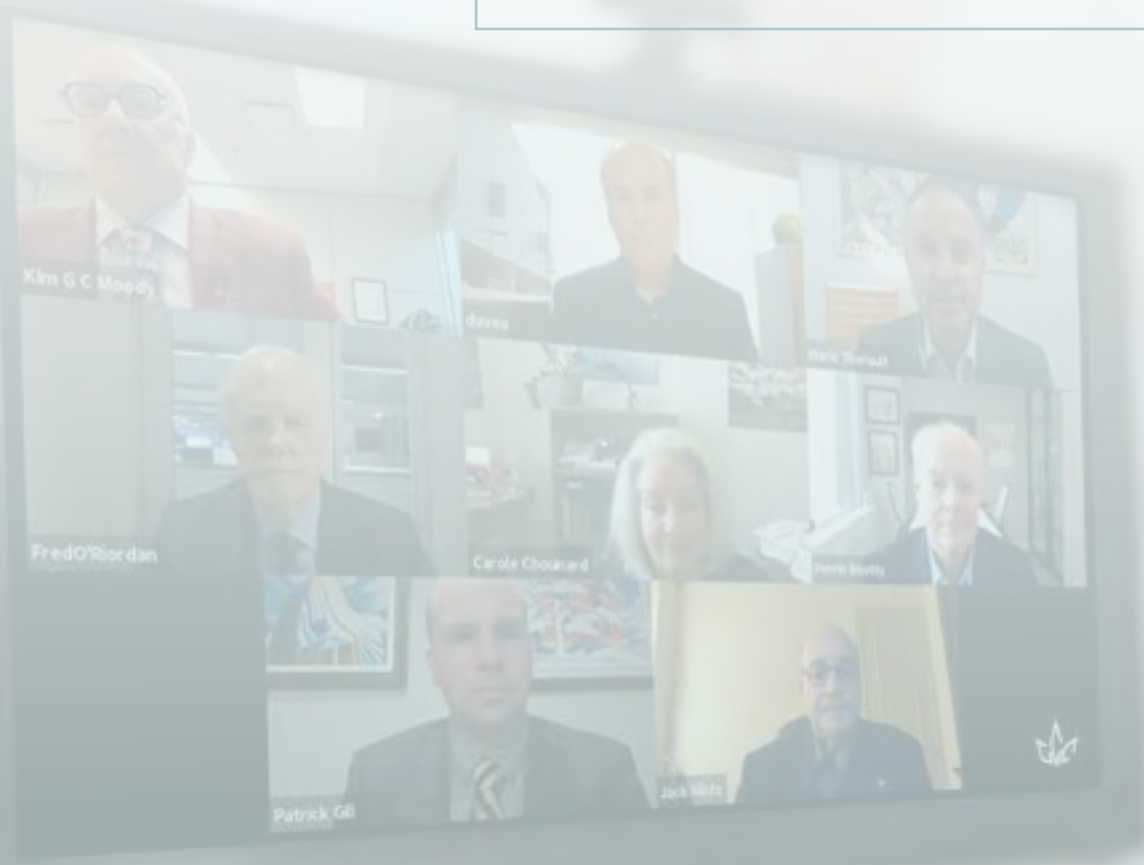
6,500

members and their members reached through virtual events



7

policy campaigns





 **900**
attendees at our
AGM and Convention

47 
resolutions passed
on the floor of our
policy debates



210,125
Unique visitors 

425,266
Page views 

Canadian Business Resilience Network (cbrn.ca) Statistics

SOME POLICY WINS FROM 2020



Agriculture

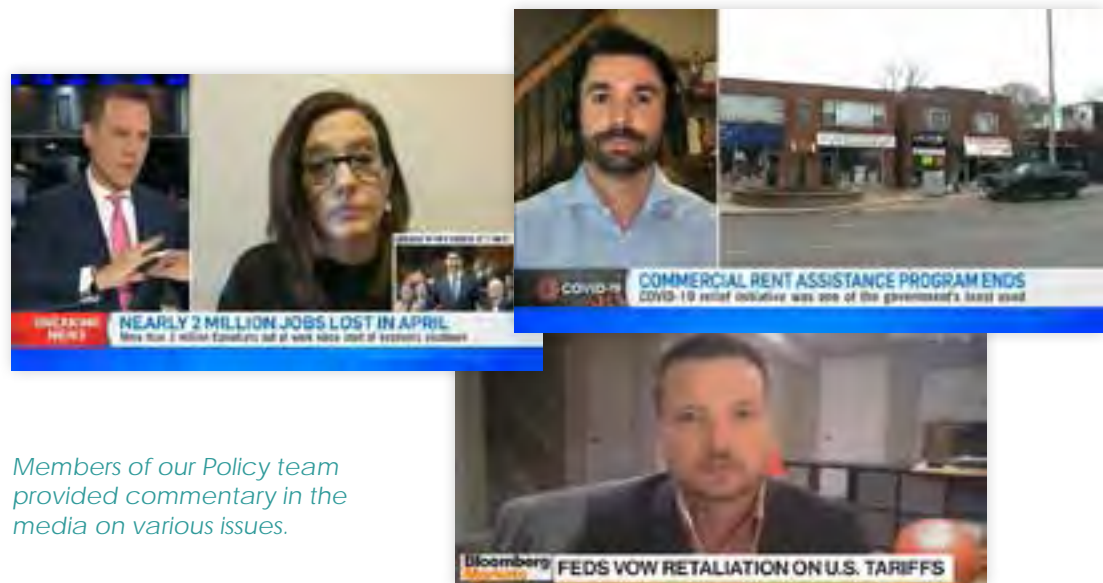
Realizing that so many of our community-based chambers are in rural communities with agriculture as a key economic driver, we were pleased to be able to launch our National Agriculture and Agri-food Working Group this year. An important win was fast-tracking the application process for Temporary Foreign Workers under the agriculture stream to help them arrive in Canada quickly and safely under the Quarantine Act.

Funding for Foreign Credential Recognition

Aligning with our 2019 policy resolution “Expedite Foreign Credential Recognition for New Immigrants across Canada,” the government has said it will spend \$15 million in 2021-22 on the Foreign Credential Recognition Program. Up to 15,000 skilled newcomers in high demand sectors, including health, IT and skilled trades, are expected to benefit from this investment.

Advocating for a Coherent and Aligned Privacy Framework across Canada

There were delays in getting the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) reforms enacted, and a growing patchwork of provincial initiatives had developed. We worked with stakeholders to create a Joint Statement on a Coherent Privacy Framework and in mid-November, Bill C-11, the Digital Charter Implementation Act was tabled. If passed, the bill will replace the privacy provisions of PIPEDA and introduce new obligations for private-sector organizations and new enforcement regimes.



Members of our Policy team provided commentary in the media on various issues.



The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is Canada's voice of business. The Surrey Board of Trade and Canada's business community greatly valued the leadership, ideas and actions that Perrin Beatty and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce team have delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic. As CEO of one of Canada's top 10 largest chambers of commerce/boards of trade, the Canadian Chamber's government advocacy and member benefits, before and during the pandemic, enhance our value as a local city-building business organization.

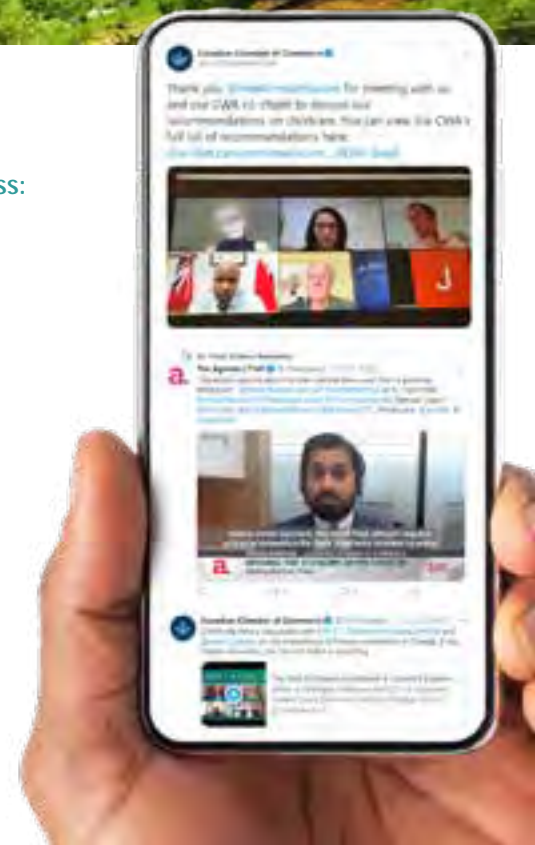
H. Captain (Royal Canadian Navy) Anita Patil Huberman, Chief Executive Officer,
Surrey Board of Trade

Climate Strategy

An important, yet difficult, task is mapping out an effective climate policy for a resource-producing nation like Canada. At the end of 2020, the federal government issued its long awaited announcement on how it would achieve its ambitious 2030 climate targets. Thanks to our advocacy efforts, the government developed a forward-looking approach that also considers the needs of Canada's industries. We ensured Canada's Clean Fuel Standard would be more cost effective and in line with other jurisdictions by advocating the removal of gaseous and solid fuel streams from the regulation. We successfully advocated for the nuclear industry and the development of small modular reactors to produce electricity, which the government committed funding to support, providing a pathway to scale this industry. We ensured public policy support for Canadian companies as they pursue net-zero through greater federal support for carbon capture and storage and the \$1.5-billion net-zero accelerator fund, among other policy commitments.



For a more robust list of our policy accomplishments on behalf of business:



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Our sponsors have generously supported our network over the last 12 months. Their support has enabled us to deliver on our commitment to Canada's businesses and communities throughout this challenging year. Thank you. Your confidence in our network has made a real difference.

Our Excellence Level Sponsors



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Freightcom
GardaWorld
GE Canada
George Weston Ltd
Get Ready



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 Global Public Affairs
 Goodman Sustainability
 Google
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 Gowling WLG
 Grant Thornton
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 GSK Inc
 GTAA
 Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada
 Hoffman- Laroche
 Husky
 IBC
 Imperial Oil
 Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada / Government of Canada
 Innovative Medicines
 Johnson & Johnson
 Johnson Inc.
 Johnston group
 KPMG
 Labatt Brewing Company Ltd.
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 Nutrien
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 Sherrard Kuzz LLP
 Spirits Canada
 St. Louis Bar and Grill
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 TC Energy

TD
 TEC Canada
 TELUS
 The Beer Store
 The Mosaic Company
 University of Toronto
 Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (POV)
 Wex
 Wine Growers Canada



The COVID-19 crisis calls for Canadians to stand together. Through its strong network, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce connected many business leaders, experts and government officials in sharing their insights and recommendations to accelerate the economic recovery. As Chair of the Industry Strategy Council, I would like to thank the Chamber for its valuable contribution and for its remarkable commitment to support Canadian businesses in these unprecedented times."

Monique F. Leroux,
 Vice Chair, Fiera Holdings

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Andy Lodge
Former Chair
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Inc.

Dave Lye
Canadian Government Relations and
Sustainability
Ovintiv Inc.

We hosted a variety of webinars to raise awareness and understanding across the business community of the measures they can take and programs that are in place to help them navigate through the COVID-19 crisis and spur economic activity beyond the pandemic.



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Penny Wise
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Rogers Communications Inc.

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George Addy
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Umberto Delucilla
Partner, Enterprise Risk and Innovation
Deloitte Management Services LP

Craig Hougen
President
Hougen Group of Companies



At Canada Life, our mission is to improve the financial, physical and mental well-being of Canadians. That includes businesses and their owners, who are core to the Canadian economy and communities we call home. It's been a pleasure to work closely with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce this year—in particular, through the Canadian Business Resilience Network. This campaign demonstrated tangible support for businesses as they tackled new and unexpected challenges. Our relationship with the chamber, both as a member and supporter, is extremely valuable and one we're looking forward to building on in the future.

Jeff Macoun, President
and Chief Operating
Officer, Canada,
Canada Life

OUR STAFF



President's Office

Honourable Perrin Beatty, PC, OC
President and Chief Executive Officer

Gayla Brock-Woodland
Chief Operating Officer

Janet Boden
Executive Assistant to the President and
CEO and Board Secretary

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Chief Economist and Vice President,
Policy

Mark Agnew
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Ulrike Bahr-Gedalia
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Technology and Innovation

Jarred Cohen
Policy Advisor

Alla Drigola
Director, Parliamentary Affairs and
SME Policy

Patrick Gill
Senior Director, Tax and Financial Policy

Aaron Henry, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Natural Resources and
Sustainable Growth

Leah Nord
Senior Director, Workforce Strategies and
Inclusive Growth

Harrison Ruess
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Chamber Network

Ian Faris
Senior Vice President, Chamber Network
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Vice President and General Manager, GTA

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Administrative Coordinator, Corporate Relations and Services

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Kristy Murray
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Emily Walsh
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Officer, Internal and Member Communications

Human Resources

Catherine Long
Manager, Human Resources and Payroll

Finance

Manuela Lacroix, BBA
Chief Financial Officer

Evans Aihoon
Manager, Accounts Receivable and Financial Systems

Marilyn Aitken
Accounts Payable Analyst

Sundus Al-Kubaisi
Accounting Clerk

“ Our partnership with the Chamber is a win-win. We have the privilege of benefiting from the expertise and experience of leaders across Canada. We also have the opportunity to share our knowledge with other members. Together, we are building a stronger Canada.

Martin Daraiche, President, NATIONAL Public Relations

OUR COMMITTEES



Business at OECD

Business at OECD is the platform for Canadian businesses to shape policies being developed at the OECD before they are enacted domestically.

Canadian Services Coalition

The Canadian Services Coalition is Canada's only cross-service sector association voice on international issues affecting Canadian service companies.

Financial Policy Committee

Our Financial Policy Committee provides advice and direction on issues related to monetary and fiscal policy and financial services.

ICC Canada Arbitration Committee

Our ICC Canada Arbitration Committee raises the profile of Canadian international arbitrators and arbitration counsel both within Canada and abroad.

Indigenous Affairs Policy Committee

Our Indigenous Affairs Policy Committee examines the relationships between Canada's businesses and Indigenous peoples and advocates opportunities both can use to ensure private sector projects can move forward in a way that meets the competitive priorities of business while respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples.



Our ICC Canada Arbitration Committee holds an annual conference. In 2020, the conference was held in conjunction with Canadian Arbitration Week.

Innovations and Intellectual Property Committee

Our Innovations and Intellectual Property Committee monitors and responds to international and domestic policy issues related to the digital economy, telecommunications, emerging technologies, health innovation, data governance and privacy as well as international developments that could affect the intangible economy and the intellectual property rights of our membership.

International Affairs Committee

Our International Affairs Committee leads on policy development and advocacy related to international trade and investment issues, bilateral economic relations and responsible business conduct.

Natural Resources and Environment Committee

Our Natural Resources and Environment Committee considers and reports on matters relating to Canada's natural resource and environmental policies.

Ottawa Liaison Committee

Our Ottawa Liaison Committee meets with senior federal officials, politicians and opinion leaders on policy issues of relevance to Canadian business.

Taxation Committee

Our Taxation Committee monitors and responds to matters of federal concern in the field of taxation.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advocates for wealth-generating infrastructure investments and a competitive transportation sector.

SME Committee

Our SME Committee examines federal policy issues of importance to small- and medium-sized businesses and develops proposals to improve opportunities for them.



Prior to leading the Atlantic Chamber, I was a private sector member at several chambers. I can unequivocally say that from every angle of involvement, the Canadian Chamber and chambers across the country are simply unmatched in their passion, dedication and support of business in communities across Canada. This is exceptionally true for 2020. Our incredibly dynamic colleagues at the Canadian Chamber provided leadership, collaboration and support for our provincial and local chambers—they were our North Star amid devastating conditions affecting thousands of businesses. Thank you #TeamChamber for leading the charge during this most difficult time and providing such tremendous assistance.

Sheri Somerville, President and CEO,
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce

OUR WORKING GROUPS

National Agriculture and Agri-food Working Group

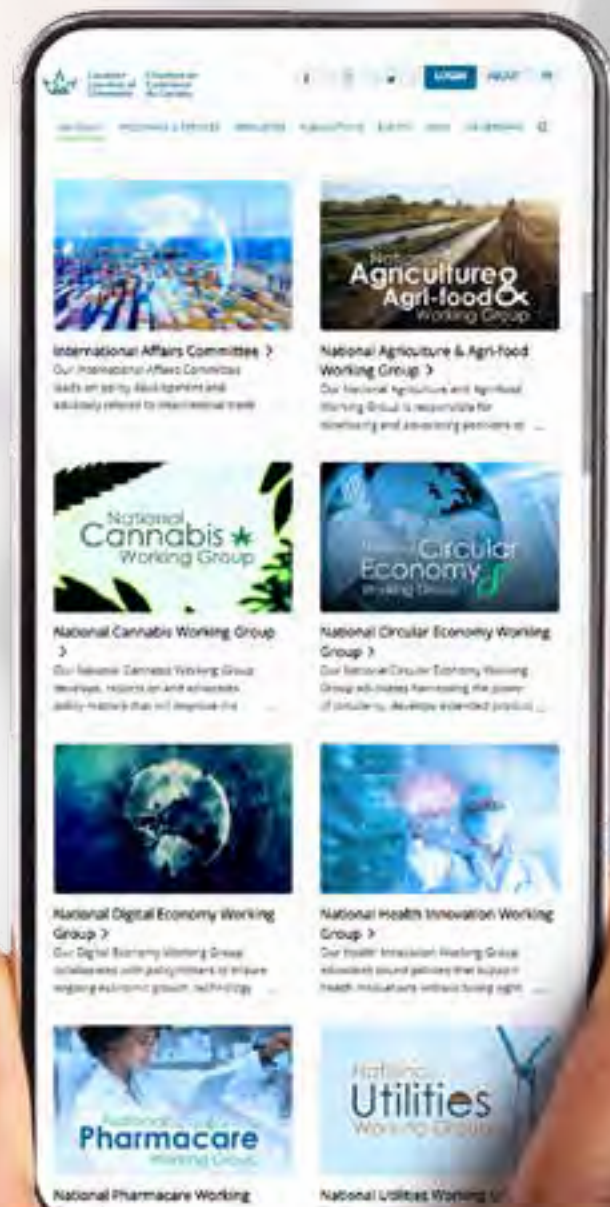
Our National Agriculture and Agri-food Working Group is responsible for developing and advocating positions to advance the agriculture sector's interests both across the agriculture sector and along different segments of the value chain.

Council for Women's Advocacy

Our Council for Women's Advocacy is responsible for driving meaningful action to address the barriers facing women in the workforce while ensuring the perspectives of women are integrated into national public policy development.

National Digital Economy Working Group

Our National Digital Economy Working Group collaborates with policymakers to ensure ongoing economic growth, technology adoption and digital inclusion.





The Canadian Business Resilience Network launched by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce helped us provide small and medium businesses with resources and advice to thrive in the new reality created by the epidemic, in order to keep the engine of our economy running.

Omar Zaibak, Marketing Lead, Small Business – Canada, Cisco Systems Canada Co.

National Food Services Working Group

Our National Food Services Working Group is behind the highly successful Our Restaurants campaign. Our Restaurants raises awareness of the restaurants and food services industry, the contributions they make to each community and the country as a whole and the challenges they are facing as a result of the pandemic. As cornerstones in our communities, we want to encourage governments at all levels to take measures to allow restaurants to survive.

National Health Innovation Working Group

Our National Health Innovation Working Group advocates sound policies that support health innovations without losing sight of patient data privacy and protection.

National Cannabis Working Group

Our National Cannabis Working Group develops, reports on and advocates policy matters that will improve the growth and competitiveness of the Canadian cannabis industry.

National Circular Economy Working Group

Our National Circular Economy Working Group advocates harnessing the power of circularity, develops extended product responsibility strategies and influences government policy on circular initiatives.

National Pharmacare Working Group

Our National Pharmacare Working Group convenes employers interested in shaping Canada's national pharmacare system to ensure it works for all Canadians.

National Utilities Working Group

Our National Utilities Working Group serves as a strategic foresight group to develop a five-year outlook for the utility sector, focusing on key regulatory trends in climate policy, technology and regulatory challenges.

National Workforce Strategies Working Group

Our National Workforce Strategies Working Group serves as a strategic advisory and foresight group focused on key trends in workforce recruitment, retention and productivity.





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