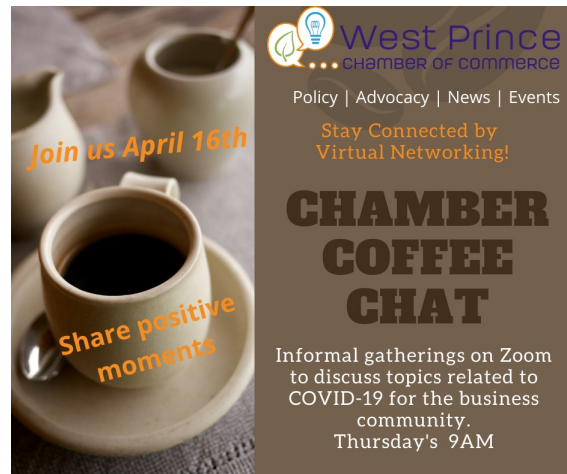




Western E-News & Covid Updates

As your Chamber, we share your concerns and feedback with government officials and are communicating relevant information as soon as it is made available. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to us. We are here for you and with you during this time of uncertainty.

In the meantime we will be holding an *informal virtual coffee chat session via Zoom on Thursday, April 16, from 9-10 a.m.* If you are interested, and would like to join, please let us know and we will send you the log in details. *Stay connected by networking with our local businesses and partners.*



Provincial Updates

The provincial government announced a series of funded programs intended to help those growing and transporting our food to overcome challenges created by COVID-19.

- \$750,000 for **adaptation to new business requirements** (e.g., distancing, on-line);
- Enhancement of the Farm Team **Student bursary** and job-matching services;
- Support for Farmers Talk **counselling services**;
- Support via **Business Risk program** for agri-insurance, investment and stabilization;
- Increasing the availability of \$20 **hotel rooms for truckers** (including from other provinces) to self-isolate between trips.
- Announced today April 14th : 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through the expansion of the Skills PEI Post-Secondary Employment Program and Team Seafood Program, as well as enhancements to the Jobs for Youth Program.

Federal & Other Updates

- The government recognizes the challenges faced by businesses and non-profits, and in order to qualify for support programs, businesses now need only show a 15% drop in revenue in March, rather than 30%, and can compare their revenues to previous months rather than the previous year.
- Prime Minister announced temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program to help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 to 30 years of age:
 - Increase to the wage subsidy to help cover the cost of student hiring;
 - Allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services;
 - Allowing employers to hire part-time staff.
- Air Canada plans to rehire over 16,000 laid-off workers after the federal government confirmed it would qualify for the wage subsidy program.
- The car insurance industry is promising rebates and relief for customers struggling to keep up with their bills amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada says it will add up to \$600 million worth of rebates and discounts, while other major insurance companies, including Allstate, La Capitale and Desjardins, have also released their own relief programs.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce News

- More responses from Island business owners are needed for the Canadian Survey of Business Conditions to have a viable sample size from the province. This survey will directly inform the federal government on future resources and supports for businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.
- The Canadian Chamber is hosting a virtual e-commerce roundtable with Shopify on Wednesday, April 15, at 3:00 PM Atlantic. All chamber members are welcome to attend, however, space is limited. Register [here](#).

Visit our Website

Government Support

For the most reliable and up-to-date information and resources on COVID-19, visit the website:

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Government of PEI](#)



Business Adaptation Advice Program \$2500



- This assistance will contribute to the costs associated with
- obtaining business, human resources or financial planning and advice
 - obtaining advice on transitioning to digital or IT solutions
 - obtaining advice on exporting, marketing, and logistics
 - obtaining other professional services which may be of assistance in adapting or recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, determined in consultation with Innovation PEI

[Apply Now!](#)

Please keep you local chamber members in mind when looking services!

Welcome New & Returning Members

Brian Howard CPA, CA (New)
MacAusland's Woolen Mills Ltd.
MacLean Farms Ltd. (New)
Maple Leaf Curling Club
Markan West Inc
Martin's Machine Shop Inc.
McCain Fertilizer
McCarthy's Woodworking Inc.
McInnis Home Improvements
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy #327 Alberton
Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy #232 O'Leary
Melioray Creative Services Inc
Mikes Rebuilders
Mi'Kmaq Confederacy of PEI
Mill River ExperienceMNP Ltd.
Morrison's Truck Salvage
Moth Lane Brewing
MRSB Group



**Important notice:
Letter to our members
regarding membership
dues!**

[Membership Dues Letter](#)

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organizations and individuals to
focus on the things that matter,
redefine workplace productivity
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each stage of the Covid response.
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