



GREATER KITCHENER WATERLOO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS BUILDING COMMUNITY



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Chambers offering experts to help businesses access COVID-19 supports

(WATERLOO REGION, Ont.) - If you're having trouble accessing COVID-19 government support programs to assist your business, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Chamber Check, can help through the launch of their 'Ask the Expert' initiative.

Held online every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3 p.m., Ask the Expert provides business operators the opportunity to receive free advice and guidance from a variety of professionals surrounding issues they may be having trying to steer their way through Federal and Provincial support programs.

"When a small business owner is busy trying to keep their business going, especially now that they are shut down and trying to co-ordinate curbside pickup and home deliveries, all of their energy is focused on doing business," said Cambridge Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Greg Durocher. "They don't have the time to try and fill out online government forms that can be very challenging to navigate."

Ask the Expert will utilize a group of people – who will take turns each week – to provide general advice and some guidance regarding a variety of issues pertaining to such programs as:

- Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
- Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)
- Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)
- Ontario Small Business Support Grant
- Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebate Grant
- COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business
- Ontario's Main Street Relief Grant: PPE Support

"Having this additional resource in place is very important right now since so many of our businesses are facing such a critical time," said Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber President &

CEO Ian McLean. “We need to provide our business community with as much cash flow support as possible.”

Ask the Expert, which is free to all businesses not just Chamber Members, has also received approval from many of the Chambers’ economic partners. These include Communitech, Explore Waterloo Region, Waterloo Region Small Business Centre, Waterloo EDC, as well as the Economic Development departments of the City of Cambridge, City of Kitchener, City of Waterloo, the Region of Waterloo, and surrounding townships.

To access Ask the Expert, which launches Tuesday, Jan. 12, visit: www.chambercheck.ca

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The Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce is a strong advocate for continued development of our community and a partner for prosperity. By working together and focusing on initiatives that support growth, members use the services of the Chamber as an important catalyst for their business success. Recognized as a leader in one of Canada’s most forward-thinking business communities, the Chamber is committed to serving, leading and supporting the business community in Kitchener Waterloo.

The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce is committed to the enhancement of economic prosperity and the quality of life in Cambridge. A non-partisan organization funded solely by memberships, the Chamber works hard to address concerns of business, provide access to information resources and represent members at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government. With more than 1,800 member firms, the Chamber's strength is clearly in its hardworking volunteers and committees addressing issues affecting local business and providing practical solutions.