

May 1st, 2020

Hon. Carla Qualtrough, PC, MP for Delta
Constituency Office
7511 120th Street
Delta, BC V4C 0C1

RE: Feedback on Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Program

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

We want to thank you the work you and your staff have been doing on behalf of Delta during this crisis. We appreciate your ongoing advocacy; not only for the residents of our community, but also for our businesses, many of which have sacrificed significantly and stepped up to find new and innovative ways to support their fellow Canadians.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is regularly connecting with our member businesses, and with businesses across all of Delta. We share updates and resources daily on our website and social media and via e-newsletters; host webinars; meet one-on-one with businesses owners over the phone and via video conferencing; and also participate in business surveys through our BC and Canadian Chambers of Commerce. Through all these avenues we are able to “keep our finger on the pulse” of what’s happening with businesses here in Delta. As such, we want to share with you some timely feedback on the newly announced Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) Program. As you know time is of the essence; both in bringing this program forward to become legislation, and in ensuring that funds get to businesses in need right away.

We have two recommendations for changes we would like to pass along:

1. The application process needs to come through the tenant, similarly to BC’s Temporary Rental Supplement (BC-TRS) Program. This would allow the motivated party (the tenant) to do the legwork of the application and increase the likelihood of participation by property owners.
2. If the landlord (property owner) chooses not to participate in the CECRA Program, that there be a mechanism by which the tenant could still be eligible for the remaining 50% of funding through the federal government, with eviction protections by the provincial government during the three-month (April, May and June, 2020) timeframe for the program.

Expediency is critical for this financial relief. In the most recent findings of our BC Chamber of Commerce Pulse Check survey, 43% of business respondents said that they expected they could only remain in operation for a further 60 days given the current circumstances. We ask for your continued advocacy to make these changes to the CECRA program so that the 43% of businesses that are running out of time can have a chance to rebound from this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson
Chair – Board of Directors, Delta Chamber of Commerce

cc: Mayor George V. Harvie, City of Delta & Council
Jill McKnight, President, Ladner Business Association
Randy Scott, President, Tsawwassen Business Improvement Association
Garry Shearer, Executive Director, Delta Chamber of Commerce