



Nunavut Chamber of Commerce
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Member of Parliament for Nunavut
Mumilaaq Qaqqaq
Ottawa, Ontario
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Emailed: Mumilaaq.Qaqqaq@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Qaqqaq:

Fortunately, Nunavut has zero confirmed cases of Covid-19 and for this we thank the Government of Nunavut for their quick and decisive actions and Nunavutmiut for being responsible. Unfortunately, the effects of the pandemic have hit many Nunavutmiut and their businesses hard.

While some businesses are doing reasonably well, some are barely surviving, and many have been forced to close due to lockdown measures. No matter what the state of the business though, overhead costs are quickly depleting financial reserves and even those doing reasonably well will begin to struggle to survive.

Last week we sent a letter to the Government of Nunavut to communicate problems, solutions, and future preparedness recommendations. Here is an excerpt from the letter:

“We have all been hearing good announcements but where is the real help. Financial aid is supposed to be available but:

- 1) Application processes are challenging
- 2) Eligibility criteria are restrictive
- 3) Ending up with additional debt instead of real recovery
- 4) The time from application to cash in hand is too long or non-existent

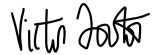
The mental, physical, and financial toll on Nunavutmiut is excessive.”

Much of what has been lost will never be recovered (hotel stays, outfitter’s trips, hair cuts etc.). Now is the time for real help. Nunavutmiut, for the most part, will help Nunavutmiut but this crisis goes beyond us. Nunavut needs Canada to understand the North and act accordingly. As such, we recommend:

- 1) Waive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program’s 30% reduction in gross revenue requirement for any Nunavut businesses that have incurred losses as a result of the Covid-19 and government-imposed restrictions.
- 2) Fast track the flow of cash related to the Northern Business Relief Fund (NBRF) administered through CanNor to provide up to \$100,000 to SMEs, with 100 employees or less, impacted by Covid-19.
- 3) Fast track the announced expanded eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Bank Account (CEBA).
- 4) Fast track the implementation of the announced support through the Community Futures Network that will allow Northern Businesses to access expanded but similar terms to CEBA.
- 5) Expand the eligible time frames to help ensure all effected business has a chance to be helped.

We commend the federal government for quickly creating and launching several programs. However, they do not effectively assist in our Northern reality where operational costs and employment and contracted compensation are significantly higher than other jurisdictions.

Yours truly,



Victor Tootoo
President
Nunavut Chamber of Commerce

Cc

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