

COVID-19 Task Force Business Conference Call
April 1, 2020
3pm

- Businesses should be prepared for physical distancing restrictions and business closures to be months not a few more weeks.
- We held our first Takeout Tuesday. Encourage all people to get involved and help spread the word about this initiative.
- Friday will be Feel Good Friday.....encouraging people to take time to review some businesses on social media.
- We will continue to feature local businesses who are adapting to these challenging times.

- Chamber updated attendees on federal programs for businesses:
 - o CERB
 - applications will open April 6. Payment will be within 3-5 days or by mail.
 - o Wage Subsidy
 - 6 week wait time
 - Businesses have to apply each month
 - Must prove a minimum of 30% reduction in revenue
 - Government is recommending using previous year's financials, however, questions over what businesses that have operated less than a year should be using.
 - o CEBA Loan - \$40,000
 - Businesses that do not own property are being denied. In these situations these businesses are recommended to contact their financial institutions.

- Josh Welz, City of Warman provided an update on the recently announced SREDA Small Business Emergency Continuity Grant Program
 - o Applications accepted until April 6, 2020
 - o Businesses that operate in the Saskatoon region, have been in business for more than 6 months and less than 5 years; and have 10 or less employees.

- Feature business:
 - o Refuge Coffee & Baking Co, Anthony & Jocelyn Tucker
 - Have shifted their operations to offering liter soups and baking for delivery and pick up. Response has been very positive.
 - Using social media to market what they are doing. They have had a strong social media following and presence and that has been huge for them. They couldn't afford right now to do paid advertising and due to product availability inconsistencies they can't plan ahead that far.
 - Using online payment which allows them to avoid physical contact
 - Challenges: Supplies – their kitchen is not set up for large scale production, they are not able to store large quantities of food items, some availability of supplies is inconsistent so having to adapt to that.

- Given there is a shortage of yeast, they are unsure how long they will be able to offer their cinnamon buns but have reached out to another bakery to share supplies.

Next conference call will take place Friday, April 3 at 3pm.

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