

## COVID-19 Task Force Business Conference Call

March 23, 2020

2pm

- 24 participants

### Main Topic: Business Leases

Jaimie Malmgren: Prairie Sky Chamber of Commerce

Chamber members and other businesses have contacted the chamber with concerns over the ability to make monthly lease payments with the closure of their businesses. Jaimie brought this to the attention of the task force and Josh and Dillon will be emailing some of the landlords in their respective cities asking if they have corresponded with their tenants, any concerns they have and what arrangements they are making with the tenants. Businesses are encouraged to reach out to the chamber or task force committee with any concerns or arrangements they have made with their landlords.

Jaimie advised she connected with Nancy Heppner over the weekend to express the concerns she has been hearing from businesses regarding lease payments. Nancy advised that she is compiling feedback and forwarding to Premier and cabinet and will include this feedback. She also contacted other MLA's and advised we are not alone with these concerns. Discussions included that some other provinces are banning evictions during this time as a result of COVID-19.

Jaimie also reached out to Steve Mclellan, CEO with the Saskatchewan Chamber. Steve recommended we gather information from local landlords and business tenants and forward on. The Sask Chamber will be doing the same as well as reaching out to SK Rental Association and advocating on our behalf.

Discussion was then opened up to conference call attendees.

Questions posed included:

Has anybody heard from Affinity if they have joined the big 6, on personal and landlord mortgages?

Yes, they have

Will the City of Warman be offering any assistance to their tenants in the city owned facilities?

Advised council had a brief discussion when they closed the legends but nothing solid yet. City of Martensville hadn't reviewed it yet as well.

How are businesses doing with their online sales, deliveries etc?

- Quiet.
- We have had clients order hair care product, e-transfer me and i am dropping of in the mail box.
- We shut down completely as of today unfortunately. It was quiet last week as most people are now laid off.

- I'm seeing under \$200 a day with instore. Online traffic but not amounting in very many sales.
- We are offering a Covid-19 Local Survival Guide in the newspaper for businesses needing to communicate with their customers that are either not on social media or are casual users. A good way to cut the clutter and be seen.

Any law firms available to provide guidance should businesses need it with their lease agreement and possible evictions?

- Miller Thomson and The W Law Group are both chamber members and contact information will be forwarded.
- The lease question might be different from tenant to tenant depending on terms.

Do chamber benefits have to be terminated should employees be laid off and ROE's issued?

- Jaimie to send out that information

Does anyone know how to apply for the The Self-Isolation Support Program that the Sask Gov't is offering? I can find the criteria, etc. but no instruction on how to apply.

- Applications are not available until April.

Is there word on how long we will be shutting down businesses for? Is it still indefinitely? Or is there some type of potential timeline?

- That is the million dollar question. From what we are hearing it could be months not weeks. Possibly end of May or June.

Are there extensions for government remittances

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses>

Jaimie Malmgren  
Executive Director  
Prairie Sky Chamber of Commerce  
Phone: 306-292-7066  
Email: [contact@prairieskychamber.ca](mailto:contact@prairieskychamber.ca)