

July 24, 2023

Sent via email.

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Finance
Member of Parliament, University—Rosedale, Ontario
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5

Subject: Industry Associations Call for More Time to Repay CEBA loans

Dear Minister Freeland:

Industry associations representing hundreds of thousands of businesses across Canada are urging you to extend the current Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) repayment deadline by two years to the end of 2025, or at least by one year, while maintaining access to the forgivable portion.

Almost 900,000 CEBA loans were approved across Canada. Many businesses had no choice but to take on this loan due to circumstances beyond their control. This includes businesses in some of the hardest hit industries such as the retail industry and tourism sector. Mandatory business closures and other government health restrictions left businesses with severe income losses and cash flow issues.

Despite their best efforts, high interest rates, inflation and increased labour costs are making it difficult for small-and-medium size businesses to keep their heads above water, let alone make any dent in the debt many had to take on to survive pandemic restrictions. A recent analysis of over 15,000 Canadian businesses found that inflation, input costs, and interest/debt costs are the three most acute obstacles faced by business (at 56%, 40% and 38%, respectively), and the smaller the firm, the more constrained they are by debt¹.

Moreover, recent surveys focussed on CEBA loan-holder companies reveal that:

¹ Canadian Chamber analysis; Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Business Conditions (June 2023). https://bdl-ldc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023_Q2_CSBC_Report_Final_EN.

- 49% of small businesses are still making below normal revenues²;
- 50% of Canadian foodservice operators are currently operating at a loss or breaking even compared to 12% pre-pandemic³; and,
- 45% of Canada's tourism businesses are likely or somewhat likely to close within the next three years without government intervention into their mounting debt load.⁴

With each passing day, entrepreneurs who collectively maintain a very considerable workforce, face increasingly daunting financial pressure.

Ottawa needs to act now to extend the CEBA repayment deadline.

Unless the federal government acts quickly to postpone the CEBA repayment deadline, businesses that are unable to repay their CEBA loan in time will lose access to the forgivable portion of up to \$20,000, thus further increasing their debt load. Extending the repayment timeline for the CEBA loan without losing access to the forgivable portion would give many small-and-medium size businesses the stability and certainty they need to get back on their feet on a path to prosperity.

We urge you to quickly address this important matter.

Sincerely,

1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce
 Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
 Alberta Chambers of Commerce
 Alliance de l'industrie touristique du Québec (AITQ)
 Allied Beauty Association of Canada
 Amherstburg Chamber of Commerce
 Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce
 Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Inc.
 Bayfield & Area Chamber of Commerce
 Beauty United Council of Ontario
 Better Way Alliance
 Black River-Matheson Chamber of Commerce

Bonnyville & District Chamber of Commerce
 Brampton Board of Trade
 Brandon Chamber of Commerce
 Breton & District Chamber of Commerce
 Brighton-Cramahe Chamber of Commerce
 British Columbia Chamber of Commerce
 British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA)
 Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce
 Burlington Chamber of Commerce
 Burnaby Board of Trade
 Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia

² Canadian Federation of Independent Business. (2023, May 10). The clock is ticking: Nearly three-quarters of small businesses need more time to repay CEBA loans. Press Release. www.cfib-fcei.ca.

³ Restaurants Canada. (2023, June 23). <https://ontheirplate.ca>

⁴ Tourism Industry Association of Canada. (2023, June 23). *Two Out of Five Tourism Operators surveyed in Canada Report Being at Risk of Closing*. Press Release. www.tiac-aitc.ca

Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
 Campbell River & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Camrose & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Canadian Chamber of Commerce
 Canadian Craft Brewers Association /
 Association des microbrasseries
 canadiennes
 Canadian Equipment Dealers Association
 Canadian Federation of Independent
 Business
 Canadian Gift Association
 Canadian Health Food Association
 Canadian Home Builders' Association
 Canadian National Alliance for
 Chiropractic
 Cap-Acadie Chamber of Commerce
 Carleton Place & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Centre Wellington Chamber of
 Commerce
 Chaleur Chamber of Commerce
 Chamber of Commerce Brantford - Brant
 Chambre de commerce Chibougamau-
 Chapais
 Chambre de commerce de Brome-
 Missisquoi
 Chambre de commerce de Gatineau
 Chambre de commerce de l'Île d'Orléans
 Chambre de commerce de la Haute-
 Gaspésie
 Chambre de commerce de la Haute-
 Matawinie
 Chambre de commerce de la MRC de
 l'Assomption
 Chambre de commerce de l'Est de
 Portneuf
 Chambre de commerce de Maniwaki et
 de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau
 Chambre de commerce de Matane
 Chambre de commerce de Mékinac
 Chambre de commerce de Montréal
 Centre Sud Ouest
 Chambre de commerce de Saint-Georges
 Chambre de commerce de Saint-Martin
 de Beauce
 Chambre de commerce de Val-d'Or
 Chambre de commerce du Grand Joliette
 Chambre de commerce du Grand Mont-
 Tremblant
 Chambre de commerce du Haut-Saint-
 François
 Chambre de Commerce du Témiscouata
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 Shawinigan
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie des
 Bois-Francs et de l'Érable
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie Les
 Moulins
 Chambre de commerce et de l'industrie
 du Haut-Richelieu
 Chambre de commerce et de tourisme de
 Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard
 Chambre de commerce et de tourisme de
 Sainte-Adèle
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
 Beauharnois Valleyfield Haut-Saint-
 Laurent
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 la MRC de Montmagny
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 la Rive-Sud
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 Laval
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 Saint-Félicien
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 Thetford Mines
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de
 Vaudreuil-Soulanges
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du
 Cœur-du-Québec
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du
 Grand Lévis
 Chambre de commerce et d'Industrie du
 Grand Roussillon
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
 Nouvelle-Beauce
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
 Région de Mégantic
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
 Saint-Jérôme métropolitain

Chambre de commerce et d'Industrie
 Saint-Laurent Mont-Royal
 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie
 Vallée-du-Richelieu
 Chambre de commerce et industrie
 Mont-Joli-Mitis
 Chambre de commerce Memphrémagog
 Chambre de commerce Mont-Saint-
 Bruno
 Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce
 Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce
 Clarendville Area Chamber of Commerce
 Cold Lake Regional Chamber of
 Commerce
 Collingwood Chamber of Commerce
 Conseil du patronat du Québec
 Consort & District Chamber of Commerce
 Crossfield Chamber of Commerce
 DQOJ Association of Canada
 Drayton Valley and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Dryden District Chamber of Commerce
 Eastern Prince Edward Island Chamber of
 Commerce
 Edmonton Chamber of Commerce
 Electrical Contractors Association of
 Alberta
 Erin Chamber of Commerce
 Estevan Chamber of Commerce
 Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Fédération des chambres de commerce
 du Québec
 Fédération des pourvoires du Québec /
 Quebec Outfitters Federation Inc.
 Fitness Industry Council of Canada (FIC) /
 Conseil canadien de l'industrie du
 conditionnement physique (CCICP)
 Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce
 Fort Nelson and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Fort Saskatchewan & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce
 Fort St. John and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Fredericton Chamber of Commerce
 Grande Prairie & District Chamber Of
 Commerce
 Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Saskatoon Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Summerside Chamber of
 Commerce
 Greater Toronto Hotel Association
 Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Westside Board of Trade
 Grimsby & District Chamber of Commerce
 Hagersville & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce
 Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
 High River Chamber of Commerce
 Hinton & District Chamber of Commerce
 Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador
 Hospitality Saskatchewan
 Humboldt & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce
 Kamloops & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce
 Kimberley & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce
 La Chambre de commerce de Charlevoix
 Labrador West Chamber of Commerce
 Lacombe & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Leamington District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Leduc, Nisku & Wetaskiwin Regional
 Chamber of Commerce
 Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce
 Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce
 London Chamber of Commerce

Madoc & District Chamber of Commerce
 Manitoba Chambers of Commerce
 Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Associations
 (MLOA)
 Manitoba Restaurant &
 Foodservices Association (MRFSA)
 Melfort Trade Alliance Chamber of
 Commerce
 Melville & District Chamber of Commerce
 Milton Chamber of Commerce
 Minto Chamber of Commerce
 Mississauga Board of Trade
 Moose Jaw & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Morinville & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce
 Nelson and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Newcastle and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Newmarket Chamber of Commerce
 Nipawin & District Chamber of Commerce
 North Bay & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 North Perth Chamber of Commerce
 North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
 Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters
 Association (NOTO)
 Oakville Chamber of Commerce
 Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce
 Ontario Chamber of Commerce
 Ontario Professional Hairstylists
 Association
 Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel
 Association (ORHMA)
 Ottawa Board of Trade
 Owen Sound & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Oyen & District Chamber of Commerce
 Parkland Chamber of Commerce
 Parksville and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of
 Commerce
 Perth & District Chamber of Commerce
 Picture Butte & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of
 Commerce
 Pincher Creek & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Port Hope and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Prairie Cannabis Ltd.
 Prince Albert and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Prince Rupert and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Quinte West Chamber of Commerce
 Red Deer and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Reflexology Association of Canada
 Regina & District Chamber of Commerce
 Regroupement des bijoutiers GEMME
 Regroupement des SDC du Québec
 Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia
 (RANS)
 Restaurants Canada
 Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce
 Rocky Mountain House and District
 Chamber of Commerce
 Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce
 Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce
 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
 Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce
 Scugog Chamber of Commerce
 Sherwood Park & District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Simcoe and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Smithers District Chamber of Commerce
 Smiths Falls and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce
 South Surrey and White Rock Chamber of
 Commerce
 St. Andrews Chamber of Commerce
 St. John's Board of Trade
 St. Paul and District Chamber of
 Commerce
 St. Thomas & District Chamber of
 Commerce

Surrey Board of Trade
 Sussex & District Chamber of Commerce
 Swan Hills Chamber of Commerce
 Sylvan Lake Chamber of Commerce
 Taber & District Chamber of Commerce
 Taxi Lévis 9000
 The Burin Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
 The Calgary Chamber of Commerce
 The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Moncton
 The Edson and District Chamber of Commerce
 The Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce
 The Parry Sound Area Chamber of Commerce
 The Peace River Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce
 The Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce
 The Stettler Regional Board of Trade & Community Development
 The West Island of Montreal Chamber of Commerce
 The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce
 The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
 Thorsby & District Chamber of Commerce
 Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
 Tourism Industry Association of Alberta (TIAA)
 Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia (TIABC)
 Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC)
 Tourism Industry Association of Manitoba (TIAM)
 Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick (TIANB)
 Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS)
 Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO)
 Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island (TIAPEI)
 Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIAY)
 Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce
 Timmins Chamber of Commerce
 Tourism NWT
 Tourisme et Commerce Rocher-Percé
 Traditional Chinese Medicine Association of Canada
 Travel Nunavut
 Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce
 Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce
 Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce
 Valley Chamber of Commerce de la Vallée
 Valleyview Chamber of Commerce
 Vegreville & District Chamber Of Commerce
 Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce
 Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce
 Weyburn Chamber of Commerce
 Whitby Chamber of Commerce
 Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Woodstock Chamber of Commerce
 Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce
 Yorkton Chamber of Commerce
 Yukon Chamber of Commerce

c.c.:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable François-Phillippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development

The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

The Honourable Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board
John F.G. Hannaford, Clerk of the Privy Council