

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2020

Re: COVID 19 – Boundary Country Economic Supports For Business and Not-For-Profits

To All Our Partners,

The City of Grand Forks, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, Community Futures Boundary and the Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce are actively working together in following the continuously evolving economic situation around COVID-19. Together we are gauging how to best address the unprecedented impact that this is having, and will continue to have, on our businesses across the region.

We are monitoring all avenues and opportunities available to help support our local businesses and not-for-profits in both the short and long term, and want you to know that our efforts are active and unrelenting – now through the foreseeable future.

The information coming from our government and institutions is rapid and iterative, so **our collaborative goal is to decipher incoming information, and communicate all useful and actionable information in a timely and organized fashion.** The impacts from this are very real, and we cannot avoid that, but working together, we want to try and mitigate things, and ensure our business community is as informed and ready to act as possible.

Resilience is a term our business community has become very familiar with in recent years, and because of this, we are confident in our collective ability to navigate these times and work together towards recovery when that time arrives. For now, we are still learning and responding on a daily basis.

Our Efforts To Keep You Informed Include:

1. COVID-19 Boundary Business/Not for Profit Portal

The Chamber of Commerce has developed a simple landing page aimed at providing the business/not for profit community with organized access to relevant information. This page will be continually updated with links to the most current federal, provincial, local, and institutional resources. As well as links to any actionable pieces like relief funding applications, surveys, and whatever else may become available as the situation evolves.

<https://boundarychamber.com/covid-19-boundary-business-portal/>

2. Business Banking, Capital, and Financial Supports

The primary lending and financial institutions have all announced some form of relief or support for businesses and stakeholders impacted. While all these organizations are working within basic parameters, it is suggested that business owners and/or stakeholders contact the institutions directly at this time.

- Community Futures Boundary – susan@boundarycf.com (Susan Green)
- Grand Forks Credit Union – info@gfcu.com
- Heritage Credit Union- greenwood@heritagecu.ca

- Osoyoos Credit Union- hgill@ocubc.com lwhite@ocubc.com
- CIBC – 250 442 2181
- Business Development Bank of Canada: <https://www.bdc.ca/en/financing/business-loans/pages/small-business-loan.aspx>

3. Social Media Business Feedback Forums

While we are seeing a lot of top down communication from government and our institutions, we are hoping to develop a forum that can generate some constructive upward communication from our business community. As such, the Chamber of Commerce has developed a closed Facebook group for business owners and managers to organize and facilitate such feedback. This platform can be a place to share ideas, and to organize other functions like group video calls, surveys, or whatever it is that our business community feels is appropriate in generating input and building a shared message. Request to join the group here - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/851383488621886/>

We are all proud and honored to be standing alongside such a collaborative, committed and passionate community. Be certain that we are here to support response and recovery to the very best of our ability, and never hesitate to reach out to any of our organizations with questions or additional information.

Sincerely,

