



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City connects local businesses to support amid new restrictions

(Barrie, ON) The City of Barrie continues to work with local businesses to connect them with provincial and federal assistance programs as a result of the provincial direction to move Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, which includes Barrie, to Grey lockdown.

"Local businesses are feeling overwhelmed, and many need help navigating what these restrictions mean and what support is available to them," said Mayor Jeff Lehman. "We want to do everything we can to connect businesses to the supports available and help them with the process of applying."

The City encourages businesses to take advantage of available provincial and federal support, including the Ontario Small Business Support Grant. Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant provides businesses with funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. In addition, the Federal Government announced today it intends to extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support for Businesses programs until June 5 of this year.

MPP Doug Downey and MPP Andrea Khanjin have also invited feedback on changes to business restrictions imposed by the Provincial government under the colour framework. Barrie businesses are encouraged to visit the survey webpage at <https://www.dougdowney.ca/> to provide feedback.

The City's Small Business Centre team is available to help guide businesses through support program options and can be contacted by phone at 705-720-2445 or by email at smallbusiness@barrie.ca. To learn more about financial assistance for businesses, visit barrie.ca/SupportForBusiness

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