



City of
Peterborough



To: City Council and County Council

From: Sandra Dueck, Board Chair
Rhonda Keenan, President & CEO
Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development

Date: Report Prepared on July 7, 2020

Subject: Update to City and County Council from the Mayor and Warden's
Joint Task Force for Economic Recovery

Purpose

A report from the Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force. This report is intended to provide an overview of the activities undertaken, as well as to submit recommendations from the business community to City and County Council for consideration.

Recommendation

That the recommendations from the Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force be received. And further, that staff review the recommendations and report back to Council on municipal implications of the various recommendations.

Budget and Financial Implications

The economic uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic will have immediate as well as long-term financial impacts to businesses in this region.

Background

COVID-19 is one of the biggest challenges disrupting the local and global economy.

- In April 2020, both City Council and County Council approved an Economic Recovery Plan for the Peterborough & the Kawarthas Region. The full plan and the progress of plan's activities can be found on the [PKED Economic Recovery Portal](https://peterborough.ca/recovery-plan/). <https://peterborough.ca/recovery-plan/>
- The Plan called for the creation of a Mayor and Warden's Economic Recovery Task Force to be comprised of a diverse range of businesses from across the region, as well as economic development and business support agencies. The Task Force also has representation from City Council, County Council, MPP Smith's Office and MP Monsef's office and a staff person from the Ministry Municipal Affairs and Housing. **Attachment No. 1 is a list of active members of the Task Force.**
- The Task Force met every week for the month of May and every other week for the month of June, for a total of 6 meetings at the end of Q2.
- The purpose of the Task Force was to:
 - Gain first-hand knowledge and input directly from the business community;
 - Identify immediate activities that need to be undertaken to help local business to respond and recover from the impacts of COVID-19; and
 - To identify activities and supports needed to adapt and rebuild the Peterborough & the Kawarthas regional economy, in response to this global pandemic.
- One of the key action items of the recovery plan was to report challenges and opportunities impacting businesses to all levels of government and key industry associations. To date, the Task Force has identified over 40 issues and barrier and compiled them in a Report Card.
- Many of those initial issues and challenges have been resolved as Peterborough Public Health, provincial, federal and municipal governments have responded to these ongoing challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, is a fluid situation and while some issues that were identified early in the pandemic have been resolved, new issues continue to be identified as the economy gradually re-opens.
- The Task Force recognized the need for flexibility as well as the need to monitor ongoing progress and created a monthly Report Card for tracking the status on each of the identified barriers and issues, as well as tracking any actions taken to address each of the issues.
- The Task Force has embedded recommendations throughout the Report Card to help address these outstanding issues and barriers. The status and recommendations are found in **Attachment No. 2 June 2020 Report Card.**

- The Report Card is a large document and includes significant details and status updates on the work being undertaken to address each issue raised. A summary of recommendations found within the report card has been created for ease and can be found in **Attachment No. 3** of this report.

Analysis

Business operations are impacted by municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how complex business systems can be as businesses look to re-open in accordance with the appropriate health regulations. Peterborough Public Health, in addition to the province of Ontario, have been very helpful in providing industry sectors with protocols and guidelines to re-open safely.

Ensuring that both employees and customers are able to interact and operate safely has been a priority for Peterborough & the Kawarthas-based businesses. Businesses are working closely with industry associations and public health to ensure that they are operating in a safe manner and following appropriate protocols.

Despite the gradual re-opening of the economy, many businesses continue to struggle to remain viable with ongoing health and safety restrictions in place. Businesses are often operating with a minimal staff and only performing a fraction of the sales and volume they are accustomed to, even if they are deemed to be “open”. Additional cleaning costs and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) expenses, while necessary, are new and significant expenses to bear with smaller revenue anticipated. The long-term impacts to the regional economy are yet to be fully known.

The input from the business community has been invaluable in highlighting their initial and ongoing challenges. Each sector has raised unique challenges associated with their industry and each week new challenges are identified. It is important to note that all levels of government are working hard to assist the business community as they re-open. Many of the issues identified are complex and are more difficult to resolve quickly.

Some recommendations consist of creating smaller working groups to tackle specific industry problems, such as finding new uses for large venue spaces and engaging post secondary students as examples. These smaller working groups will meet independently outside of the Task Force meetings but will provide ongoing updates and recommendations as they develop.

The issues raised in Peterborough & the Kawarthas are consistent with other communities across the province: access to PPE, developing protocols, childcare, financial burdens, training staff, physical distancing, managing demand with limited supplies, to name only a few. Peterborough & the Kawarthas was one of the first communities to respond and create an active recovery plan and bring business together to provide input towards recovery.

The recommendations are not limited to the City and County. In fact, the recommendations are collaborative and identify a number of agencies, partners and various levels of government working together. In some circumstances, the Chambers of Commerce are elevating the concerns to the Ontario Chamber and Canadian Chambers of Commerce for a larger voice at the provincial and national level. In other circumstances the issues are more localized and are requesting support from staff and Councils. Issues identified are also raised regularly with MP Monsef and MPP Smith.

Summary

The Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force has helped to identify several barriers and challenges facing business. Each issue is being tracked and will continue to be reported on as per the Economic Recovery Plan. A number of recommendations do call for work to be completed at the local level. The list of recommendations is included in summary, as well as a more detailed Report Card. It is recommended that County and City staff review the list of recommendations and report back to Councils on the Task Force recommendations.

Sandra Dueck
Board Chair
Peterborough & the Kawarthas
Economic Development

Rhonda Keenan
President & CEO
Peterborough & the Kawarthas
Economic Development

Attachment No. 1 List of Task Force Members

Attachment No. 2 Task Force June Report Card

Attachment No. 3 Summary of Task Force Report Card Recommendations

Attachment No. 1

Mayor & Warden's Economic Recovery Task Force

PARTICIPANTS LIST:

Sector	Representative
Co-Chair	Mayor Therrien
Co-Chair	Warden Jones
City of Peterborough	Sandra Clancy
County of Peterborough	Troy Speck
Economic Development	Rhonda Keenan
Government of Ontario	MPP David Smith
City Councillor	Don Vasiliadis
County Councillor	Andy Mitchell
Ontario - Ministry of Municipal Affairs	Eric Thibaudeau
Manufacturing Sector	Terry McCullough
Manufacturing Sector	Tony Ambler
Aerospace Sector	Kate Ahrens
Tourism Sector	Dana Empey
Retail (non-downtown)	Sam McKnight - McKnight's
Retail County	Susan Mattucci - Lockside Trading Co.
Small Business	Lori Neill
Cleantechology	John Gillis
Agriculture	Erin McLean
Agriculture	Tim Klompmaker
Innovation Cluster	John Desbiens
Culinary/Restaurant	Brad and Kate Watt - Publican House
Professional Services	Bob Gauvreau
Arts and Culture Sector	Emily Martin - Showplace
Main Street (County)	Deanna Bell-Hall - Pastry Peddler
Main Street (City)	Anna Eidt - Watson & Lou
Real Estate Development (Commerical)	Paul Bennett
Real Estate Development (Residential)	Paul Dietrich
Events	Jennifer Goheen - Havelock Jamboree
	Tracey Randall - Ptbo Musicfest
Marina	Jessica Ambler - McCrackens Landing
Resort	Jennifer Craig - Burleigh Falls Inn
Associations/Institutions	Representative
Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce	Stu Harrison
Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce	Sandra Dueck
Kawartha Chamber of Commerce and Tourism	Sherry Boyce Found
DBIA	Terry Guiel
County BIA	Christine McCullough (Millbrook BIA)
Innovation Cluster	Mike Skinner
Community Futures	Gail Moorhouse
Fleming College	Tom Phillips

Trent University	Asaf Zohar
PKED Business Development	Suzanne McCrimmon
PKED Tourism	Tracie Bertrand
PKED Marketing/Communications	Kelly Jessup
Workforce Development Board	Jennifer Lamantia
BDC	Dawn Hennessey
Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough	Jennifer Debues
Support Team	Representative
PKED	Aleks de Oliveira
City of Peterborough	Ashley Webster
County of Peterborough	Karla Sampson
City of Peterborough	Brendan Wedley
County of Peterborough	Sheridan Graham

MAYOR & WARDEN'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASKFORCE REPORT CARD

CURRENT AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

The task force is tracking issues and challenges identified by the business community and reporting regularly on these issues. This Report Card will be updated regularly following meetings of the Mayor and Warden's Economic Task Force, will be posted online at www.peterboroughed.ca/recovery-plan and will capture information in three main ways:

- 1) Issues**
- 2) Actions**
- 3) Outcomes**

This report card will also serve as a regular update to the public at large including City, County and Township Councils and key municipal staff as well as members of the business community, including those on the task force and those organizations that work with and/or support local businesses and industries. The report will be updated on a monthly basis with a running list of concerns found in a detailed chart, and the top concerns of local businesses being communicated through an updated executive summary. This report card will serve as the primary communication tool to capture actions 5 & 6 in the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan which include proactive outreach to local businesses across all sectors to identify challenges and opportunities and reporting those challenges and opportunities to all levels of government and key industry associations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April, both City and County Council unanimously approved a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan for Peterborough & the Kawarthas, which was developed by Peterborough & the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED) as the lead regional economic development agency for the City and County, in consultation with other local business organizations and the local business community. It includes a series of immediate, mid-term and long-term actions to support regional economic recovery.

As of June, 2020 the Economic Recovery Task Force being led by the Mayor and Warden includes 43 business leaders in the community representing the City and County of Peterborough covering virtually all sectors of the economy. The status of these actions can be viewed at any time by visiting www.peterboroughed.ca/recovery-plan.

The purpose of the task force is to:

- Gain first-hand knowledge and input directly from the business community;
- Identify immediate activities that need to be undertaken to help local business to respond and recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and;
- To identify activities and supports needed to adapt and rebuild the Peterborough & the Kawarthas regional economy, in response to this global pandemic.

Throughout the month of June, the task force has been meeting virtually to discuss issues and challenges that are being experienced by local businesses in an effort to identify possible solutions and positive outcomes to transition towards economic recovery. Over the past 6 meetings, 40 issues impacting local business as a result of COVID-19 have been identified. Many of the initial issues and challenges have been resolved as Peterborough Public Health, provincial, federal and municipal governments have responded to these ongoing challenges. It is important to note that a number of issues were also pre-existing challenges that have been exacerbated or made more complicated as a result of COVID-19 and are expected to require action over a longer period of time.

A detailed overview of these issues, related actions and outcomes can be found in the report card chart following this executive summary. A number of recommendations have been received by members of the task force. Many of the recommendations extend beyond the scope of PKED as an organization and call for a variety of organizations, leaders and municipal staff across the region to work together to advance. A summarization of the top concerns is captured below, and the current status and accompanying recommendations from members of the task force where applicable are captured in the report card chart below:

Top Local Business Concerns






In Peterborough & the Kawarthas, the top local business concerns remain similar to previous months since the pandemic started, however, there has been a shift towards businesses seeking more recovery support vs. relief measures, save and except the continued call for rent relief for commercial tenants. As businesses begin to reopen in phase 2, the need for access to funds and support measures to open safely are a top priority.


Childcare continues to be an issue to return to the workplace, and businesses are still struggling to recall workers who are on the CERB program, which has recently been extended. There are also concerns regarding the economic viability of running daycares and day camps due to strict health guidelines which are calling for lower ratios of children to childcare workers and increased costs due to the need for additional staff, PPE and frequent sanitization measures.



As more businesses are able to gradually reopen, there are still significant concerns related to uncertainty. Businesses are challenged by the lack of notice being given to prepare for re-opening, finding clear and easy to understand information on health and safety guidelines, specifically with respect to the differences between Federal, Provincial and Municipals regulations (for example, allowing patios to open, but having to navigate municipal by-laws, permits and accompanying requirements) and lack of clarity around travel restrictions (border crossing, promotion of non-essential travel etc.).

COVID-19 Task Force Issue Tracking


Status Key


-  Item in discussion/investigation phase
-  Progressing well, no barriers to provide outcomes or solutions
-  Progressing with some minor challenges or barriers impeding a positive outcome or solution
-  Stalled, unable to find outcome or solution to the issue or challenge, not resolved
-  Resolved


Issues identified by Task Force	Details, Updates & Recommendations	Outcome
1. Space at Farmers' Markets – need access to municipal roadways to spread out and provide proper physical distancing procedures. Farmers' Markets are struggling with restrictions around access to space, public land etc. to effectively sell. For many small farms, markets are the primary method to sell to consumers – hampering only sales season. 4-6-week period coming up will be a huge problem	Vendors at Farmers' Markets are not able to sell their products as they need additional space for physical distancing. Need assistance from municipalities to allow for use of streets, roadways, road closures to allow for distancing.	
	Task Force Recommendation: Municipalities work with Farmers' Markets to establish additional space for physical distancing. Status Update: Many local markets have begun to open up throughout the region. Some municipalities are starting to open public spaces with guidelines. Selwyn Economic Recovery Plan has funding for farmers markets. City of Peterborough continues to work with markets to provide space	

<p>2. Relief for Resort operators – cashflow - hydro, insurance, commercial waterfront property taxes – no relief on those items.</p> <p>Relief for Small business and farms are feeling an immense amount of stress/pressure due to increased paperwork and administration (and cost to hire help if time is not available)</p>	<p>Status Update: Tourism operators encouraged to consider CEBA with its new rules and CEWS programs. Regional Relief and Recovery Fund – Community Futures (CF) Many small businesses in tourism have already applied for and received \$40,000 through financial institutions, while there are still a number of businesses indicating that they don't want to take on more debt with cashflow being a serious concern.</p> <p>Some businesses are advising that they do not have the financial statements and requirements for the CF Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) Grants: Small Business Relief Fund through Canadian Chamber – Applications open June 1st https://bit.ly/BizReliefFund</p> <p>TIAO survey 5.0 asked this question “is current Covid-19 gov't aid sufficient to ensure that your tourism operation will remain viable and ready to open when restrictions are lifted?” – in RTO8 region 55% said no - the survey results are provided to Provincial and Federal Gov'ts (note: 33% of respondents of TIAO surveys are accommodations)</p>	
<p>3. Recalling workers with children is difficult with schools closed down - childcare options are needed. Calling back employees on CERB is a challenge – comfortable with \$2000 payment, likely to hang on due to childcare and health concerns.</p> <p>CERB program and Wage Subsidy program at odds with each other – employers wanting to take advantage of wage subsidy having a hard time recalling</p>	<p>Childcare is a major challenge. Premier Ford has said that opening childcare centres will be part of Stage 2.</p> <p>Local childcare providers are looking at lower ratios, more staff on site, two-person provider for in-home, strict disinfecting protocols Manitoba offering \$3000 grants to Early Childhood Educators (ECE's) to start their own home day offering – must be certified.</p> <p>Consider redeploying ECE's from school boards to childcare.</p> <p>New Brunswick helping childcare centres with extra cleaning costs and require centres to have a COVID operating plan Challenges: returning to normal clientele; currently families being served under the emergency order may not have been connected with the centre pre-COVID</p>	

<p>workers on CERB</p> <p>Clarification needed re: “unable to work due to COVID-19”</p>	<p>Task Force Recommendation: That the City of Peterborough and County Municipalities as well as area providers such as YMCA to reconsider cancellation of summer camps and provide childcare options for returning workers.</p> <p>Status Update: Discussions underway to identify potential ideas/solutions. The City of Peterborough is leading conversations about childcare for this region and working with local childcare providers.</p>	
<p>4. Strict health guidance restrictions on childcare /daycare and summer camp providers requiring significant health measures, additional staff is will increase expenses and lower ratios/smaller numbers of registrations makes safe operation a significant concern.</p>	<p>Status Update: The City’s Children’s Services has a working committee that is working with childcare and day care operators to work through these identified challenges.</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: That the province consider additional funding measures to support childcare centres and summer camps to operate under these significant health measures to assist employees to return to work.</p>	★
<p>5. Restaurants/Patios – space, permitting to do so, road closure challenges due to lack of access to retail/storefronts.</p> <p>Additional costs associated with operating a patio with less revenue potential.</p> <p>Surrounding Townships may benefit from lessons learned from City of Ptbo experience</p>	<p>The City and DBIA surveyed the downtown restaurants for feedback and have submitted a draft plan to respond to restaurant concerns for space allocation. The plan is still being vetted and must take into account – emergency services access, encroachment and use of lands, insurance costs, PPE.</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: That the City prepare a patio plan in consultation with the DBIA and restaurant operators that will safely allow the patios to open but that are mindful of the additional costs associated with operating a patio/restaurant under these significant health measures.</p> <p>And further, that the City of Peterborough share best practices with Economic Development Officers in the Townships at their bi-weekly meetings through PKED.</p>	★


	<p>Status Update: Plans are in place for Downtown Peterborough and the City continues to work with emergency services, PPH and the DBIA on this. As guidelines are developed and solidified, the City will share best practices with the County.</p>	
<p>6. Concerns over disparity between businesses who are following the rules vs. those who are not.</p>	<p>Call for Health & Safety Audits/Certification like restaurants. Currently and police services are responding to complaints about non-compliance.</p> <p>Many accommodations voicing concern over lack of compliance for Air BnB properties and vacation rentals by owner (VRBO, also known as private cottage rentals) who are direct competitors, but not governed in the same ways that hotels, resort etc are. These concerns were pre- existing prior to COVID-19 and will continue – longer term action will be required, and significant discussions are taking place at all levels of government.</p>	
	<p>Task Force Recommendation: That the Province consider province- wide rules and regulations for Short-Term Rental accommodations such as Air BnB and VRBO style businesses. That the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, Kawartha Chamber of Commerce and Tourism write letters of support to encourage the province to provide provincial wide standards to address AirBnB style accommodations, to ensure that are operating fairly with licenced accommodations such as inns, motels, hotels and resorts.</p> <p>Status Update: Cleaning guidelines have been released by Air BnB (June 16)</p> <p>This has been elevated to MPP, TIAO, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (not a local issue)</p>	

<p>7. Commercial Rent subsidy need to focus on tenants as well. Commercial rent is often the largest fixed cost that most businesses have for businesses with physical spaces.</p> <p>CFIB notes that only small number of members who are landlords are willing to participate – eligibility guidelines far too restrictive, accessibility to process is difficult making less incentive to apply</p> <p>Landlords also highly leveraged, so rent abatement/relief a challenge on both ends.</p>	<p>Suggestions include allowing loosening requirements to make it easier for landlords to apply, Tenants/Subtenants to apply directly, adding a rent abatement program for small business.</p> <p>Status Update: Changes made so no commercial evictions can take place until end of August in an effort to encourage landlords to take advantage of Canada's Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program.</p>	
	<p>Task Force Recommendation: That this concern be elevated to MP and MPP as well as to Ontario Chamber of Commerce requesting that this program be amended and assist Tenants and Landlords.</p> <p>Status Update: Concerns elevated to MP and MPP as well as Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The current program was extended for an additional month.</p>	

<p>8. Development/ Construction industry support measures</p>	<p>The Peterborough and the Kawarthas Home Builders' Association (PKHBA) has noted the significant impact of residential construction industry as one of the largest employers in the region and has proposed a series of recommendations for consideration of the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough and Mayor and Warden's Economic Recovery Task Force under the rationale of enabling the City and County to provide the industry with tools to promote/invest/bootstrap the local economy which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waive all building permit fees and planning application fees for new construction/demolition/renovation(s) for PKHBA members who enter into 3rd party contracts within Peterborough. 2. Temporarily increase the Schedule "J" boundary as per the City of Peterborough Official Plan and all associated benefits to include the built-up boundary to encourage new development and residential growth. 3. Defer Area Specific Development Charges payment(s) until such time Building Permit(s) are issued. 4. Mobilize senior staff immediately to proceed with virtual public meetings as required under the Planning Act. 5. Planning and Building Departments be working at all levels to receive and approve expeditiously. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Official Plan/Re-zoning/Planning applications/Demolition/Building permit applications; b) Residential Subdivision Developments, Site Plan Agreements, Letter of Credit Reductions; c) To enable the local industry to be in a position of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) "permit ready" ii) "shovel ready" iii) "workers ready" iv) "Building the Road to Recovery" 	
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	<p>Task Force Recommendation: That the City and County municipalities adopt these recommendations from PKHBA.</p> <p>And further, that a working group be established consisting of City/County Planning staff, elected officials, Development Industry (residential and commercial) and economic development staff to be mandated to find ways to create shovel-ready sites and streamline the development approvals process.</p>	
<p>9. Restaurants – access to plexiglass and other protective barriers to separate tables inside restaurants. Concerns over local supply to accommodate all restaurants</p>	<p>Clearer guidelines needed to inform what materials and measures are required to safely distance tables inside restaurants if/when opportunity to open up indoor spaces takes place.</p> <p>ACTION: PKED to reach out to Kawartha Manufacturer's Association to determine supply challenges/opportunities as well as to PPH to create a webinar that will assist restaurants to prepare.</p>	★
<p>10. Concerns over safety as a result of inbound visitors</p>	<p>Consumer confidence is a local challenge with the influx of cottagers, visitors and students from larger centres and international destinations and the potential to cause spikes in COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>Continued public education for locals and visiting consumers will continue to be an important part of communications.</p> <p>Status Update: This topic will be addressed as part of PKED's recovery marketing and communications efforts</p>	★
<p>11. Testing turnaround times to assist businesses with quickly identifying positive cases. Gov't having difficulty getting the testing swabs in mass quantities</p>	<p>Status Update:</p> <p>This issue has been elevated to MP, MPP</p> <p>Government of Ontario is working on mobile units going out to large employers such as manufacturers to do bulk testing.</p> <p>Mobile testing has been completed. PPH continues to seek funding to continue mobile testing but this project has been deemed successful for the region.</p>	★
<p>12. Access to PPE – how to pay for it in bulk</p>	<p>Downtown kits - unavailable outside of Downtown</p> <p>https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/</p>	★

	Selwyn Township Economic Recovery Plan – partnering with CFPeterborough to provide subsidy for costs to businesses	
13. Operational cost increases – costs of PPE, costs for infrastructure improvements (i.e. HVAC systems) increased cleaning costs, few spaces to generate revenue: restaurants - fewer spaces	<p>Asking Provincial and Federal government for grants and or tax credits to address this. However, there are also gov't loan programs that can be accessed for these items such as Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) and Community Futures loans. Understand that debt is a concern, so we will continue to encourage different methods of achieving help</p> <p>Programs currently available: CEBA Link: https://ceba-cuec.ca/</p> <p>Community Futures Link: https://communityfuturespeterborough.ca/</p> <p>Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP): https://www.edc.ca/en/covid-19-business-resources.html</p> <p>Grants: Small Business Relief Fund through Canadian Chamber – Applications open June 1st https://bit.ly/BizReliefFund</p> <p>City of Peterborough Council will be reviewing tax relief measures in June</p>	★
14. Potential loss of students if there is no return to College/University in the fall – impact on local businesses	<p>This will have an impact on the economy. Discussions underway to identify ways to engage with students in an effort to keep them connected to businesses through e-commerce and online Fleming College has created a Chief Recovery Officer position and plan</p> <p>Economic Recovery Taskforce received presentations from Trent University and Fleming College on challenges/opportunities related to expected low enrollment in the fall.</p>	★

	<p>Opportunity to connect this work with PKED's investment attraction, recruitment and relocation work planned for 2020-2021</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: That a working group of the Task Force be created to explore opportunities to engage students, find work placements and create a community wide effort to retain and attract students and keep talent in the area.</p> <p>Status Update: Working group is being formed and initial meetings have taken place to determine scope.</p>	
<p>15. Inability to do large group and mass gatherings prohibiting performance venues, events, museums, attractions etc. from occurring – unable to do so with social distancing in place.</p>	<p>This issue is dependent on the status of the emergency orders and can only be adjusted when the government deems it acceptable to do so. Discussions are underway to identify possible solutions for alternative uses of unused venues. It was reported to the task force that the latest industry stats are forecasting that up to 93% of venues could be out of business if not allowed to open. Access to funds to offset costs with no revenue, as well as costs for PPE, Staff etc. a concern.</p> <p>Director of Tourism is meeting regularly with Ontario Museum Association's (OMA) local Ptbo/CKL/Northumberland Chapter. Resources are updated in the Resources for Tourism Businesses page: https://peterboroughed.ca/tourism-industry-resources/</p> <p>Ontario Museum Association working on reopening guidelines and museums are able to open as part of Phase 2. Many are determining if it makes fiscal sense to open with capacity restrictions and increased costs. New research from Ontario Museum Association noting that cultural activities will likely come back approx. 5 months post stage 3.</p> <p>Need to consider further CERB extensions for these kinds of industries that are still not able to open, or that might not have opportunities to earn revenue right away due to consumer confidence issues.</p>	





	Task Force Recommendation: That a working group be created to strategize and find ways to support large venue spaces during COVID-19 closures.	
16. Potential downturn in commercial real estate as companies move to remote work environments. Opportunities for repurposing traditional spaces, increased need for warehousing, e-commerce fulfillment etc.	<p>Identified as a possible concern, also identified in the opportunities section below. PKED records land and property availability. Any new commercial real estate properties should be shared with PKED to assist with filling vacancies or navigating rezoning/reuse options.</p> <p>The 2020 Business Count Survey will help to identify vacancies and opportunities. Interim updates will be provided as they become available by PKED.</p>	★
17. Traffic concerns regarding curbside pickup – on street parking, backlog of cars in parking lots, additional stress on businesses managing complaints	<p>Many businesses still offer curbside pickup. However, there is the potential for this to slow down as the economy picks up. Could potentially advocate for curbside spots or allowances for delivery spaces as marked on street.</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: That this item be referred to the appropriate City working group and request that business be able to provide input into City plans for managing this backlog.</p> <p>Status Update: This issue has been elevated by businesses and DBIA and City is making appropriate changes to road closures to address these concerns.</p>	★
18. Recruiting workers is a challenge (especially in the \$16-18 / hour range)	<p>This is an issue that existed pre-pandemic, however access to CERB is causing additional pressure. Targeted recruitment efforts will be resumed later this year regarding challenges for vacant engineering jobs.</p>	★
19. Need advance notice to prepare when each sector is given the option to open. Need additional ramp up time for staff, procurement	<p>Good example of this was golf courses and marinas. They were told to start preparing to open and then about a week and half later given the go ahead. Retail didn't have that same leeway; the two-week time frame is acceptable.</p> <p>During the MPP Round Table discussions this was highlighted by many seasonal tourism operators</p>	★




	<p>TIAO survey 5.0 asked this question “what other forms of aid/resources do you require? - in RTO8 region 63% of respondents said they need information on when and how they will be able to open their business – the survey results are provided to Provincial and Federal Gov’ts</p> <p>Status Update: The need for advanced notice has been elevated to MP, MPP and municipal staff.</p>	
<p>20. Development community needs help to push developments through and get started to increase housing supply. Need help from the municipality to get shovel ready projects ready to go as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Discussions underway at City, County, Townships to alleviate pressure – Expected June/July.</p> <p>Development approvals are necessary and need to be processed. Public meetings can occur virtually. Need to figure out a new way to complete these approvals safely</p> <p>Status Update: The Task Force Received recommendations from CHBA/OHBA/BILD and PKHBA at its meeting of June 11 and while some of the issues have been resolved such as virtual meetings, some remain outstanding. See Item 8</p>	★
<p>21. Preparedness for potential resurgence of cases in the fall – are we prepared if measured are re-introduced?</p>	<p>A variety of pandemic planning resources are available at https://peterboroughed.ca/pandemic-preparedness-resources/</p>	★
<p>22. Municipalities trying to manage with increased costs and decreased revenues. Many orgs that rely on municipal funds. Municipalities cannot run a deficit</p>	<p>City of Peterborough’s current report on the impact of COVID 19: https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/uploads/4/2/5/0/42505955/clsfs20-026_covid-19_response_and_financial_impact_update_1_.pdf</p> <p>Finance Committee will be meeting in early June to talk about the budget.</p>	★
<p>23. Employers need more information and support on what to do next and what is coming next with regards to government programs and announcements.</p>	<p>PKED staff have reached out to major manufacturers and have brought in the provincial Ontario East representative to assist The end of the line for new government programs might be nearing. Recent expansions of CEWS and CEBA eligibility.</p> <p>With regard to reopening Ontario there have been three stages presented with approximately 2-4 weeks between stages.</p> <p>Ontario Framework: https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-</p>	★




Employers still need more		
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<p>information on how to re-open. 8% prepared, 40% nearly prepared, 48% somewhat prepared Conference Board of Canada)</p> <p>Business still reporting that Government programs are complicated and small businesses are having a hard time navigating/understanding them.</p>	<p>covid-19</p> <p>It's going to take a lot of time and investment on each employer to decide what's right for their businesses. PKED has resources for recovery here at www.peterboroughed.ca/recovery</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: PKED to continue to support local business needs in the City and County through programming and partnerships with professional services</p>	
<p>24. Mental Health Concerns, especially in non-profits and creative industries – flagged as an issue that need to be managed</p>	<p>Mental Health Resources: https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/being-healthy.html General resources.</p> <p>PKT/Resorts Ontario/Campgrounds of Ontario/TIAO have heard from tourism operators (accommodations, trailer parks, campgrounds) that they may play a role. This was also suggested at the MPP Round Table discussions as a possible solution as operators with access to nature and space may provide an “escape” a “mental health break”. Operators feel they can put proper protocols in place to protect guests.</p>	★
<p>25. Better information required for employers regarding student employment programs and support.</p> <p>Resort operators rely heavily on student workforce and are now competing with federal funding for students in labour pool</p>	<p>Canada Summer Jobs program information still coming out. Some businesses have heard on original applications and not updated applications from the COVID period. Issue has been elevated to Minister Monsef's office</p> <p>Canada Summer Jobs approvals have been received, however recalling students has been a challenge. Many students are declining the offer to work.</p>	★
<p>26. Issues of racism regarding migrant workers is happening across Ontario in the agriculture industry</p>	<p>Issue also a challenge pre-pandemic, has been elevated due to COVID-19. Premier Ford and Prime Minister addressed this in their recent remarks. Strictly not tolerated. Please be kind and notify authorities.</p> <p>The New Canadians Centre created “Welcome packages” that have been made available for Foreign Workers that are working in the agriculture sector. PKED communicated this to local farmers the first</p>	★

	packages (15) have been delivered to a local farm.	
27. Seasonal businesses in general (construction) have a limited time frame to generate revenue.	<p>On many calls, including Minister Joly, Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and others who recognize the challenges of the short season. On a call with Minister Joly on May 25, 2020 she also referenced that CEWS and programs like CEBA are options for seasonal businesses. Gradual lifting of measures to allow more essential businesses is beginning to alleviate some of this pressure.</p> <p>TIAO and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) are also heavily advocating Provincial and Federal Governments</p> <p>#TourismWeek TIAC has been heavily been communicating this via a shared communications plan</p> <p>Director of Tourism prepared a letter to businesses and a video to elevate the message during #TourismWeek</p> <p>Continued concerns from seasonal operations about the impact of loss of short summer season = loss of nearly an entire year of revenue – different consideration is needed for these businesses.</p> <p>With Canadian/US border closure being extended to July 21st, those seasonal accommodations who were postponing dates for visitors from the US and moving them into July dates, will now have to either cancel and return deposits or hope to postpone the travel into August. They were hoping that July would see the US visitors able to visit and will now need to pivot and find ways to market to the domestic market at additional cost.</p>	★
28. HST Relief Measures were helpful but need to be extended beyond June 30	<p>Task Force Recommendation: That HST relief measures be extended past the current end date of June 30.</p> <p>Action Taken: The Mayor and Warden as well as Chambers of Commerce have elevated this comment to MP Monsef and members of MP Monsef Team were present for the discussion at the Task Force.</p>	★

<p>29. Restaurants/Patios – challenges with licensing</p>	<p>Outreach to MPP Smith and AGCO. A number of temporary supports and measures have been put in place, such as pausing increases to beer and wine taxes, allowing restaurants to create additional outdoor patio space.</p>	
<p>30. Seasonal accommodations are unclear what is permitted</p>	<p>Concerns have been elevated to MPP Smith</p> <p>Concerns have been elevated to Tourism staff for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport</p> <p>Concerns have been elevated to the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO)</p> <p>Allowance for reopening has removed this as an issue.</p> <p>Peterborough Public Health (PPH) has been running webinars for accommodation businesses to help with this.</p>	
<p>31. Challenges navigating all of the programs - need a local advisor to help access provincial and federal programs. Programs are confusing and difficult to manage. Significant wait times for service through hotlines</p>	<p>PKED staff have reached out to major manufacturers and have brought in the provincial Ontario East representative to assist</p>	
<p>32. Consumer & employee confidence: Challenge to instill confidence in workers that the work environment is safe and maintaining operations while 6ft apart, challenge to instill confidence in consumers that businesses are safe places to visit</p>	<p>Protocols have been developed at the province to help each industry segment. https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace Education will be built into recovery marketing plan for region</p>	

<p>33. Training for businesses who are not set up with e-commerce – many small businesses not currently using e-commerce</p> <p>New training requirements for staff is a challenge – it is taking long, and new training is required for staff that are already on board</p>	<p>Digital Main Street programs are available throughout the region. Community Futures Peterborough in collaboration with Innovation Cluster: Bring Your Business Online Funding Program</p> <p>PKED is collecting all wide selection of resources for employers regarding health & safety training related to COVID-19 found here: https://peterboroughed.ca/health-resources/</p> <p>Recent announcements through Digital Mainstreet Program to support e-commerce/digitization.https://digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere/</p> <p>Task Force Recommendation: For PKED to apply for and launch the Digital Mainstreet /ShopHERE program on behalf of the region in cooperation with local partners.</p> <p>Status Update: PKED successfully applied for the program and it is now available for businesses in the City and County of Peterborough.</p>	
<p>34. Need for hyper local promotion – buy local, support local. Loss of revenues will mean lack of available marketing dollars a concern.</p>	<p>Several support local campaigns are underway: DBIA Gift cards, Chamber gift card program. Planning underway for regional recovery marketing plan via PKED.</p> <p>PKT updated Tourism Website to encourage local residents to buy local: https://thekawarthas.ca/</p> <p>PKT has applied for the RRRF DMO specific funding to assist with marketing efforts and is planning a phased approach in line with Destination Canada's recommendations.</p> <p>Status Update: PKT was successful and is in the process of completing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan</p>	
<p>35. Need for information, but no one is consuming information from one place - difficult to keep everyone informed. Need centralized information.</p>	<p>Status Update: a communication framework to share information to broader business community has been completed</p>	

<p>36. Access to funding - many are not qualifying for programs through Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Financial Institutions</p>	<p>Status Update: Community Futures and FedDev have launched programs to support small business financing May 14, 2020</p>	
<p>37. Access to PPE – where to find it (including signage, printables, etc.)</p>	<p>Information collected and stored on https://peterboroughed.ca/local-ppe-suppliers https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/business-resources-for-recovery.html https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/ Peterborough Paramedics/Innovation Cluster/Trent University decontamination project A number of local companies are creating kits for businesses</p>	
<p>38. Agriculture - has very short growing season - opportunity for physical distancing but Pick Your Own (PYO) is required for some producers. Unique challenges for these businesses, huge demand on certain supply chains</p>	<p>Status Update: PYO is now permitted</p>	

<p>39. Access to reliable and consistent information on business reopening protocols and procedures and resources to open safely</p> <p>Standardized protocols - different sectors have different needs and different concerns</p>	<p>https://peterboroughed.ca/how-can-we-help/covid-19-information/ https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace</p> <p>https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace</p> <p>https://www.tiaontario.ca/cpages/covid19</p> <p>https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/resources/toolkits/toolkit-for-reopening-canadas-economy/</p>	<p>✓</p>
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COVID-19 Opportunities

- Start-ups, Angel Investors and innovation-based businesses ready and able to help with challenges
- Likelihood that people will consider leaving larger centres, people and companies likely to be more open to remote working – may be opportunity to improve workforce, draw residents etc.
- Opportunities for partnerships to form in the arts community – the economic impact on retail, restaurant, accommodation positive – public art installations outdoors, outdoor performances (drive in) etc. Creative ideas surfacing.
- Potential re-use of performance venues for temporary PPE distribution centres, student virtual learning centres (quiet spaces), additional spaces for childcare
- Positive news from MP Monsef's office – concerns of taskforce being taken directly to Prime Minister's office, concerns from Peterborough-Kawartha riding being heard and helping to inform discussions
- Opportunities for landlords to repurpose spaces into virtual learning environments for students that will need socially distanced, quiet and connected spaces to work
- Opportunities to attract Remote Workers to live in this region via virtual connections.

Additional Business Community Engagement – Business Survey Data (March-April)

Prior to the commencement of the economic recovery taskforce, two local business surveys were conducted in March and April through the collective efforts of #TeamPtbo. Those surveys revealed the top concerns of local businesses included:

Survey #1: Business Impact Survey March 16th – 22nd (335 Responses)

- Financial continuity and financial support
- Customer declines
- Workforce related issues

Survey #2: Business Adaptation & Continuity Survey March 26th – April 7th (227 Responses)

As a follow up to the first survey, a second survey was released to better understand what financial resources would be required to support local business. The survey revealed that top concerns of local businesses included:

- Loan servicing

- Rental payments

Many of the issues that were identified in the early weeks of this pandemic have been addressed through government programs and local initiatives. The Economic Task Force will continue to monitor and address business concerns as they develop throughout this pandemic.

Attachment No. 3

MAYOR AND WARDEN'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASKFORCE

Summary of Task Force Report Card Recommendations

These recommendations are embedded throughout the Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Report Card. The Report Card was created to track and respond to issues that businesses are facing as they look to re-open and kick-start the re-opening of the local economy. The Mayor and Warden are looking to the Task Force to create a list of recommendations so that they may consider and respond to each of these challenges.

At the June 25 Task Force meeting, the Task Force committee members confirmed these recommendations.

The summary of recommendations received as of June 25, 2020:

- 4) That municipalities work with Farmer's Markets to establish additional space for physical distancing.**
- 5) That the City of Peterborough and County municipalities as well as area providers such as YMCA to reconsider cancellation of summer camps and provide childcare options for returning workers.**
- 6) That the City prepare a patio plan in consultation with the DBIA and restaurant operators that will safely allow the patios to open but that are mindful of the additional costs associated with operating a patio/restaurant under these significant health measures.**
- 7) And further, that the City of Peterborough share best practices for patios and restaurants with EDOs in the Townships at their bi-weekly meetings through PKED.**
- 8) That the Province consider province-wide rules and regulations for Short-Term Rental accommodations such as AirBnB and VRBO style businesses. That the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, Kawartha Chamber of Commerce and Tourism write letters of support to encourage the province to provide provincial wide standards to address AirBnB style accommodations, to ensure that are operating fairly with licenced accommodations such as inns, motels, hotels**

and resorts.

- 9) That Commercial Rent Relief challenges be elevated to MP and MPP as well as to Ontario Chamber of Commerce requesting that this program be amended to assist both Tenants and Landlords. Note: The current program was extended for an additional month but still does not address the main challenges experienced by commercial tenants.
- 10) That the City and County municipalities adopt the recommendations submitted by PKHBA for financial relief.
- 11) And further, that a working group be established consisting of City and County Planning staff, elected officials, Development Industry (residential and commercial) and economic development staff to be mandated to create shovel- ready sites and streamline the development approvals process.
- 12) That a working group of the Taskforce be created to explore opportunities to engage students, find work placements and create a community wide effort to retain and attract students and keep talent in the area.
- 13) That a working group of the Taskforce be created to strategize and find ways to support large venue spaces during COVID-19 closures.
- 14) That traffic concerns regarding curbside pick up be referred to the appropriate City working group and request that business be able to provide input into City plans for managing this backlog.
- 15) That PKED apply for and launch the Digital Mainstreet /ShopHERE program on behalf of the region in cooperation with local partners.
- 16) That PKED continue to support local business needs in the City and County through programming and partnerships and bring necessary professional services to aid business as required.
- 17) That HST relief measures be extended past the current end date of June 30th.

For more details and actions that have been undertaken to date for all items identified, please refer to the Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce Report Card.