

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

## ***CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 31, 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.peterborough.ca/recovery-plan](http://www.peterborough.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.

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.peterborough.ca/recovery-plan](http://www.peterborough.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.

The task force has met regularly since it was formed and has helped to identify over 50 separate challenges facing local business as a result of COVID-19 impacts. Those challenges have been elevated to various levels of government through economic development associations, Chambers of Commerce networks, industry associations at the provincial and national level, as well as direct calls with elected officials and formal reports to City and County Councils. A detailed overview of the issues, related actions and outcomes can be found in the report card chart following this executive summary. 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 as well.

COVID-19 has created chaos in every community and business across the globe. Peterborough & the Kawarthas region is no exception as businesses have been reporting similar challenges – consumer confidence, lack of sales, financial stability, managing demand with limited resources, access to PPE, ensuring safety and compliance measures were correct, supply chain management, recalling employees and childcare availability, all of this has come with the realization that it is unlikely there will be a return to normal for the foreseeable future.

Many of the challenges identified earlier on in the pandemic were responded to and significant relief measures were put in place such as, the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA), the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF).

The province and public health agencies assisted to set out safety guidelines for business re-openings to help with consumer and employee confidence, and the municipalities worked with BIAs to help downtowns open while maintaining physical distancing measures. Public transit was maintained, essential services remained open and businesses adapted their business models to the best of their ability as this pandemic evolved over the last six-month time period.

Moving into Stage 3 allowed most businesses to open and adapt their operations, however, the fear of a second wave and increased case numbers continue to be a concern for business and the potential for long term impacts. PKED issued a third survey in August, to better understand local business capacity and try to determine if businesses are anticipating additional changes to their operations as we move into the cooler weather of the fall and winter seasons. 37% of businesses that responded to the survey indicated that they are currently running at full capacity, while 34.5% responded that they are operating at half capacity and 14% indicating that they are currently unable to open. These same businesses reported that 53% will likely be able to maintain their current levels of

service, and 25% indicated the ability to increase service levels to manage increased demand. 12% of respondents indicated that they will need to reduce service levels in the fall/winter and 9.88% indicated that they will need to close.

For those businesses anticipating increased service levels, they indicated the need for additional financial resources to assist with staffing and marketing/promotional efforts. Those businesses that indicated a likeliness to close noted that it was due to a lack of sales.

In January 2020, PKED launched the Future Ready Regional Economic Development Strategy for 2020-2024, and while the plan contemplated the need for flexibility to respond and adapt to ever-changing global economic changes and pressures, it did not anticipate a global crisis to this magnitude. The Board of Directors of PKED recognized that the impacts created by COVID-19 will be felt throughout the duration of this 2020-2024 plan, and that it was appropriate to adapt existing actions and the need to introduce new actions in response to COVID-19. The original Future Ready Plan referred to the need for sustainability, innovation, collaboration and partnerships to grow the economy and it is felt that those key pillars are even more relevant today, as we respond, adapt and pivot this plan to grow the Peterborough & the Kawarthas regional economy into the future.

## Looking Longer Term – Insights and Recommendations from the Task Force

As we approach the 6 month mark of the Taskforce and look to the Peterborough & the Kawarthas COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan to begin considering how to rebuild this regional economy, it is important to acknowledge that while COVID-19 has created unprecedented impact, and that a significant amount of work has been undertaken to remediate business issues caused by the pandemic, there are additional challenges that are impacting business which are specific to the Peterborough & the Kawarthas region, many of which were already existing, but were intensified due to COVID-19.

It is important to note that COVID-19 is continuously changing and as a result causing businesses to continually anticipate and adapt to respond to these ongoing changes. Some businesses can respond, while others are having difficulties, reinforcing the importance of business resilience and ongoing support.

As reported at both City and County Councils by PKED in early September, ongoing challenges which existed before COVID-19 are also continuing to contribute to a lack of retention and growth in this region include:

- **Labour Force:** Currently, Peterborough CMA has one of the lowest participation rates in the province. As of May 2020, only 49.5% of individuals 15+ years are participating in the labour force (62.2% in May 2019). The provincial participation rate for the same period was 60.8% (65.1% in 2019). Persons not in the labour force include people who are unable or unavailable to work. It also includes persons who are without work and had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks. While it may be easy to lay blame with COVID-19, this statistic was also true prior to COVID-19.

- **Job Vacancies:** There are many job vacancies within the Peterborough CMA. As of August 17, 2020, there were 840 active job postings in the City of Peterborough that are posted on the [Workforce Development Boards Job Map](#). This job map is updated daily and offers a diverse range of job openings that are actively posted as available in the region.
- **Services and Infrastructure:** As the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 are realized and remote working continues to be an accepted working option, interest in relocating to this region will grow. Ongoing access to robust broadband will be a key component for remote working. The [EORN project](#) will be key in positioning this region competitively for remote workers. As we position this region as a destination of choice, modern services such as high-speed internet and ride-share transportation will be desired.
- **Available Land and Building:** Peterborough & the Kawarthas also currently has limited options for housing for future remote employees as well as shovel-ready, serviced lands in comparison to our competitor communities. As the City and County develop their official plans this issue should be highlighted.

As we consider ways to rebound and grow our economy, these challenges will need to be addressed through regional collaboration over the long term. Meaningful conversations and collaborations are already underway through the Workforce Development Board regarding labour force and job vacancies, and recommendations have been put forth to City and County Council on behalf of the Taskforce for consideration around development and lands related issues. These challenges should continue to be addressed as the region moves through recovery.

Over the course of the last two taskforce meetings, very few new COVID-19 related issues have been brought forward, and the most challenging issues are being reviewed by working groups that have been formed through the taskforce to review and address them specifically.

It is acknowledged that participation on the taskforce has required additional time and resources on behalf of many businesses who are also working through recovery, and as such **it is recommended that the Mayor and Warden's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force be suspended after the September meeting and that the businesses and agencies that have been providing ongoing input be thanked for their insight and input to help this region recover from the devastating effects from COVID-19.**

It is understood that the task force can be resumed should the Mayor and Warden feel it is necessary in the future.

**It is further recommended that PKED as the regional economic development agency for the city and county of Peterborough transition from the overseeing COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan and begin to implement the Future Ready Economic Development Plan for this region, which has been adapted to incorporate COVID-19 recovery.**


PKED will continue to track challenges brought forward by business as well as the efforts being taken to work through these ongoing challenges, in response to COVID-19. These updates will continue to be shared on the [Recovery Portal](#). As noted above, key relationships have been formed during this task force and additional working groups such as the Student Working Group and Large Venue Working Groups should continue to meet and address the specialized needs of those impacted groups.


## 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	Status
<p><b>1. Workforce/Labour Force Related Issues</b></p>	<p>Challenges related to recruiting workers related to CERB and insufficient information about and access to student job program.</p> <p>Better information required for employers regarding student employment programs and support.</p> <p>Concern was raised by the manufacturing sector that there was no information for summer student hiring and subsidies. It was announced in April that more info would be identified. Manufacturers continue to report difficulty to cover summer staffing needs, in addition to ongoing difficulties to recruit workers, especially in the \$16-18 / hour range.</p> <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 manufacturing jobs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/></p>



	<p>Resort operators also rely heavily on student workforce and were competing with federal funding for students in labour pool. recalling students was a challenge. Many students are declining the offer to work.</p> <p>Specifically for the theatre industry, there are concerns over losing skilled employees such as technicians due to the fact that local theatres are unable to recall workers due to indoor gathering limits, and as such many specialized staff are/will be forced to take other jobs.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation:</b> That PKED and the Labour Force Task Force develop programming to address recruitment and workforce challenges in Peterborough region.</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> The summer student issue has been elevated to the MP's office; however, the summer is now over, and summer jobs information is no longer available.</p> <p>PKED and the Labour Force Task Force continued to discuss possible solutions. PKED and the Workforce Development Board (WDB) are collaborating on a cooperative marketing campaign to promote the jobs hub tool and map to increase awareness of available jobs for job seekers and to support businesses with active job postings.</p> <p>The taskforce agrees there is a need for Peterborough &amp; the Kawarthas specific programming to support local labour force needs.</p> <p>The Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce is actively working on this topic through the Ontario and Canadian Chamber's of Commerce.</p>	
<p><b>2. Increased Costs and Decreased Revenues for Farmers' Market Vendors</b></p>	<p><b>Increased costs for Farmers' Market Vendors</b> due to need for additional space for social distancing.</p> <p>While the issue related to finding additional space to accommodate social distancing measures has been resolved, the addition of space has now resulted in additional costs for the use of the space in the City of Peterborough's downtown core, at a time when sales are low.</p>	


	<p><b>Status Update:</b> The Peterborough Downtown Farmers' Market is requesting financial assistance from the City of Peterborough to help offset additional costs due to increased space.</p>	
<p><b>3. Financial Relief for SME's</b></p>	<p><b>Relief for Resort Operators</b> – cashflow - hydro, insurance, commercial waterfront property taxes – no relief on those items.</p> <p><b>Relief for Small business</b> and farms are feeling an immense amount of stress/pressure due to <b>increased paperwork and administration</b> (and cost to hire help if time is not available)</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b>  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.  *new hydro program may help tourism businesses – a one time, on-bill credit to eligible small business and registered charity customers to help them catch up on their energy bills and resume regular payments. <a href="http://oeb.ca/CEAP">oeb.ca/CEAP</a></p> <p>Some businesses were advising that they did not have the financial statements and requirements for the CF Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)</p> <p>Canada United Fund applications are in – there may be a second round, as there was a lot of interest.</p> <p>Emergency Wage Subsidy extended to December, CEBA accessible until October 21 and Business Credit Availability Program open until June 2021.</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>	

<b>4. Development/ Construction industry support measures</b>	<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"><li>1. Waive all building permit fees and planning application fees for new construction/demolition/renovation(s) for PKHBA members who enter into 3<sup>rd</sup> party contracts within Peterborough.</li><li>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.</li><li>3. Defer Area Specific Development Charges payment(s) until such time Building Permit(s) are issued.</li><li>4. Mobilize senior staff immediately to proceed with virtual public meetings as required under the Planning Act.</li><li>5. Planning and Building Departments be working at all levels to receive and approve expeditiously.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Official Plan/Re-zoning/Planning applications/Demolition/Building permit applications.</li><li>b) Residential Subdivision Developments, Site Plan Agreements, Letter of Credit Reductions.</li><li>c) To enable the local industry to be in a position of:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) "permit ready"</li><li>ii) "shovel ready"</li><li>iii) "workers ready"</li><li>iv) "Building the Road to Recovery"</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>	
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	<p><b>Task Force Recommendation: That the City and County municipalities adopt these recommendations from PKHBA.</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> This recommendation was presented to City and County Council in July and August respectively. Staff are reviewing these recommendations and will be reporting to council in September on these matters.</p>	
<p><b>5. Access to financial support and increased marketing and promotion to drive sales</b></p>	<p>Through the Taskforce and ongoing calls with local businesses concerns were raised over the available capacity of small to medium sized businesses who were open but operating at with limited staff or lower capacity (i.e. outdoor patio vs. indoor restaurant). PKED issued a survey in August to obtain data related to capacity forecasting, which revealed vital information, but most importantly, indicated that for businesses that are anticipating increased service levels in the fall and winter there is a need for additional financial resources to assist with staffing and marketing/promotional efforts. Those businesses that indicated a likeliness to close noted that it was due to a lack of sales.</p> <p><b>Business Capacity Survey Results</b> (81 responses): 37% of businesses that responded to the survey indicated that they are currently running at full capacity, while 34.5% responded that they are operating at half capacity and 14% indicating that they are currently unable to open. These same businesses reported that 53% will likely be able to maintain their current levels of service, and 25% indicated the ability to increase service levels to manage increased demand. 12% of respondents indicated that they would need to reduce service levels in the fall/winter and 9.88% indicated that they will need to close.</p>	

<p><b>6. Commercial Rent subsidy</b></p>	<p>Needs 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 noted 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. 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><b>Landlords</b> also highly leveraged, so rent abatement/relief a challenge on both ends.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Concerns elevated to MP and MPP as well as Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The current program has been extended for an additional month, until the end of September. Changes made so no commercial evictions can take place until end of September to encourage landlords to take advantage of Canada’s Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program.</p> <p>Those businesses accessing Commercial Rent Assistance Program can access it for September as well. Last extension for this program but the federal government has repeatedly said that they are looking at different options to help businesses with fixed costs.</p> <p>Program Stats: 106,000+ small business tenants have been supported, representing 994,000 employees. Over \$1.32 billion in rent support approved</p>	
<p><b>7. Cost increases in business insurance</b></p>	<p>Several businesses across the restaurant, resort and venue community are reporting significant increases in insurance costs upon renewal. Some businesses have reported as high as 300%+ cost increases and have indicated that these costs will result in closures before year end.</p> <p>Peterborough &amp; the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED) completed outreach to MPP Dave Smith’s office to forward along correspondence from local business owners, and connected with the local Ontario Restaurant, Hotel, Motel Association (ORHMA) to elevate local concerns.</p>	

	<p>PKED also elevated this concern to the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council through the Mayor and Warden to be raised at Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference with provincial representatives.</p> <p>Director of Tourism for PKED updated TIAO with specific examples from this region and concerns for risks related to business survival, including Meetings, Conferences and Sports Tourism portfolio should this be cause for large venues to close.</p> <p>The Chambers of Commerce have also elevated this concern through their Chamber networks and advocated for reform to the provincial government.</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Some businesses are reporting that there has been some relief experienced. Insurance renewals are being completed on a case by case basis, where some businesses have been able to negotiate a lower premium increase.</p>	
<p><b>8. Concerns over disparity between businesses who are following the rules vs. those who are not/Ambiguity around guidelines</b></p>	<p>Call for Health &amp; Safety Audits/Certification like restaurants. Currently 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>Concern has also been raised from the local agriculture community over ambiguity and uncertainty around social distancing/public health guidelines – specifically with respect to offering ongoing or longer term events such as pumpkin festival, maple festival etc. – there is word in the industry that some farms are being fined for allowing pick your own, while others are successfully running farm events citing that it's dependent on each health unit.</p> <p><b>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</b></p>	

	<p><b>style accommodations, to ensure that are operating fairly with licensed accommodations such as inns, motels, hotels and resorts.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Cleaning guidelines have been released by Air BnB (June 16) This has been elevated to MPP, TIAO, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport This recommendation was presented to City and County Council. County Council has written a letter to the Province as recommended. The City will consider staff's recommendation at its meeting in September on this issue.</p>	
<p><b>9. Strict health guidance restrictions on childcare /daycare and summer camp providers</b> requiring significant health measures, additional staff will increase expenses and lower ratios/smaller numbers of registrations makes safe operation a significant concern.</p>	<p><b>Status Update:</b> 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>The province has announced the reopening of daycares, elementary and secondary schools in September with protective measures in place.</p> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation: That the province consider additional funding measures to support childcare centres to operate under these significant health measures to assist employees to return to work.</b></p> <p><b>The province has announced \$1.3 Billion safe schools opening plan and has launched a website to report COVID-19 cases in schools and Licensed Child Care <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres">https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres</a></b></p>	●
<p><b>10. Operational cost increases</b> – costs of PPE, costs for infrastructure improvements (i.e. HVAC systems) increased cleaning costs, few spaces to generate revenue: restaurants - fewer spaces</p>	<p>Increased costs for PPE and upgraded cleaning measures will be in place for the foreseeable future. These increased costs at a time when consumer spending is lower and fewer opportunities to generate sales will continue to negatively impact businesses bottom line.</p> <p>Asking Provincial and Federal government for grants and or tax credits to address this.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Understand that debt is a concern, so we will continue to encourage different methods of achieving help</p>	●

Programs currently available:

CEBA Link: <https://ceba-cuec.ca/> Available until October 31, 2020

Community Futures Link: <https://communityfuturespeterborough.ca/>

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP): <https://www.edc.ca/en/covid-19-business-resources.html> Available until June 2021

**Status Update:** City of Peterborough Council reviewed tax relief measures in June – extended to September tax bill Municipal Impact on the City: Council will consider a report for information on the COVID-19-related financial impacts estimated until December 31, 2020 that shows projected net financial impact of \$10.3 million with potential funding sources of \$7.7 million to offset the impact, leaving about \$2.5 million to be funded.


The impacts reflect lost revenues of \$15.3 million, direct costs of \$5.7 million, cost savings of \$2.5 million, and program specific provincial funding, related to Transit and Social Services, in the amount of \$8.2 million for a net financial impact of \$10.3 million.


To help pay for the \$10.3 million in estimated net financial impacts, the City has identified potential funding sources of \$7.7 million, including funding from City reserves and \$4.4 million of Safe Restart operational funding received from the Province. There would be about \$2.5 million in financial impacts remaining to be funded.


City staff are recommending that the City apply for Phase 2 funding through the Province's Safe Restart program. The Province is offering a second phase of funding to those municipalities that can demonstrate that 2020 COVID-19 operating costs and pressures exceed their Phase 1 per household allocation. To be considered for Phase 2 funding, municipalities will be required to submit reports outlining their COVID-19 operating costs and pressures.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have significant financial impacts on the City of Peterborough in 2020. Certain impacts will carry over into 2021.

<https://pub-peterborough.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=27702>



<p><b>11. Potential loss of students in the fall</b></p>	<p><b>Potential loss of students</b> if there is no return to College/University in the fall – impact on local businesses</p> <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</p> <p>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 2021</p> <hr/> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Working group has been formed and initial meetings have taken place to determine scope. This working group of the task force has met several times and is focusing on several key issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to engage students to feel part of the school environment and the local community while attending school online.</li> <li>2. Finding suitable safe spaces for students to conduct their online learning and studying. (Potential for adaptive re-use of underutilized large venue spaces.</li> <li>3. How to work with employers for job placements and experiential learning opportunities.</li> </ol> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Peterborough City Council will consider entering into agreements with the Trent Central Student Association and Fleming Student Administrative Council for the implementation of <a href="#"><u>interim Universal Transit Pass Agreements</u></a></p> <p>Students have begun to return to school for the fall semester in limited capacity, the majority are attending virtually. The taskforce is looking at ways to integrate and welcome the students to the community.</p>	
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	<p>Trent University 4<sup>th</sup> year business classes will tackle some issues raised by the taskforce in applied projects classwork. Details to be developed.</p>	
<p><b>12. Prohibition of Large Group Gatherings</b></p>	<p><b>Inability to do large group and mass gatherings</b> due to social distancing guidelines prohibiting performance venues, events, museums, attractions etc. from opening/running at all, or opening at capacity required to make fiscal sense.</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.</p> <p>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: <a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/tourism-industry-resources/">https://peterboroughed.ca/tourism-industry-resources/</a></p> <p>Ontario Museum Association working on reopening guidelines and museums can 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> <p>It has also been noted that the performing arts industry needs help developing multi-year recovery plans due to the continued limitations on large public gatherings.</p>	

	<p><b>Status Update:</b> Canadian Canoe Museum, Lang Pioneer Village and Hutchison House have opened for business with COVID-19 protocols, modified hours, modified personal tours and less programming.</p> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation: That a working group be created to strategize and find ways to support large venue spaces during COVID-19 closures.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> The province has opened into stage 3 which allows for gatherings of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors following social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>A working group has been formed and has met to determine scope. The working group will be focusing on the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developing reopening guidelines</li> <li>2. Public relations messaging on the importance of this sector and potential for shared fundraising efforts</li> <li>3. Present an update to City Council and meet with City staff</li> <li>4. Gather information from members on financial needs and recovery potential based on different re-opening scenarios.</li> </ol> <p>We will need to keep an eye on this as changes could happen if numbers continue to climb provincially</p> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation: That PKED staff will meet with the large venue working group to help create a multi-year business recovery plan, and that the plan gives consideration for ways that the City and County can support this industry.</b></p>	
<p><b>13. Potential downturn in commercial real estate</b> as companies move to remote work environments. Opportunities for repurposing traditional spaces, increased need for warehousing, e-commerce fulfillment etc.</p>	<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>	



	<p><b>Status Update:</b> The Business Count Survey will be completed at the end of September, followed by analysis and report to councils in early Q1 of 2021. Better data is required to understand this potential issue.</p>	
<p><b>14. Traffic concerns regarding curbside pickup</b> – on street parking, backlog of cars in parking lots, additional stress on businesses managing complaints</p>	<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><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> This issue has been elevated by businesses and DBIA and City is making appropriate changes to road closures to address these concerns.</p>	●
<p><b>15. Preparedness for potential resurgence of cases in the fall</b> – are we prepared if measured are re-introduced?</p>	<p>A variety of pandemic planning resources are available at <a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/pandemic-preparedness-resources/">https://peterboroughed.ca/pandemic-preparedness-resources/</a></p> <p>Additional concerns coming due to seasonal changes and potential new challenges with store/restaurants adapting with colder weather – lines outdoors in winter for example.</p> <p>Taskforce notes that it is important to consider that regional roll backs in gathering numbers may put additional pressure on other areas (for example – changes in gathering numbers in Toronto or Peel region may result in an influx of visitors to areas like Peterborough &amp; the Kawarthas)</p> <p>Also, important to note that restrictions/inhibitions continue to be in place, and while there is a push towards moving to the “new normal”, considerations like closed borders, gathering sizes and certain industries being much further away from recovery than others is important.</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Province has returned to the legislature. Indication of concern with numbers rising provincially. Warning from federal and provincial governments not to get lax in our efforts to curb the virus.</p>	●

<p><b>16. Employers need more information</b> and support on what to do next and what is coming next with regards to government programs and announcements.</p> <p>Employers still need more 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>PKED staff have reached out to major manufacturers and have brought in the provincial Ontario East representative to assist</p> <p>The end of the line for new government programs might be nearing. Recent expansions of CEWS and CEBA eligibility.</p> <p>Regarding the reopening of Ontario, there have been three stages presented with approximately 2-4 weeks between stages. Ontario Framework: <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19">https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19</a></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 at <a href="http://www.peterboroughed.ca/recovery">www.peterboroughed.ca/recovery</a></p> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation: PKED to continue to support local business needs in the City and County through programming and partnerships with professional services, and continue to work with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to identify companies that need assistance through a robust corporate calling program.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> This is an ongoing issue, and PKED continues to support local business through a corporate calling program and the services of the Business Advisory Centre. The Province has recently hired Ian Young, the new advisor for the Ministry Economic Development Job Creation and Trade to assist manufacturers and exporters.</p>	
<p><b>17. Mental Health Concerns,</b> especially in non-profits and creative industries – flagged as an issue that need to be managed</p>	<p>PKED has created a Mental Health Resources page to gather resources for employers: <a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/mental-health-resources-for-employers/">https://peterboroughed.ca/mental-health-resources-for-employers/</a></p> <p>Mental Health Resources: <a href="https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/being-healthy.html">https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/being-healthy.html</a> 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</p>	

	<p>“escape” a “mental health break”. Operators feel they can put proper protocols in place to protect guests.</p>	
<p><b>18. Issues of racism</b> 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 packages (15) have been delivered to a local farm.</p>	●
<p><b>19. HST Relief Measure Extensions</b></p>	<p><b>Task Force Recommendation: That HST relief measures be extended past the current end date of June 30.</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken:</b> 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><b>Status Update:</b> HST relief measures will not be extended beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>.</p>	●
<p><b>20. Restaurants/Patios/Access to Storefronts on Main streets</b></p>	<p><b>Restaurants/Patios – space, permitting to do so, road closure challenges due to lack of access to retail/storefronts.</b></p> <p><b>Additional costs associated with operating a patio with less revenue potential.</b></p> <p><b>Surrounding Townships may benefit from lessons learned from City of Ptbo experience</b></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.</p>	

The plan is still being vetted and must take into account –emergency services access, encroachment and use of lands, insurance costs, PPE.

**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.**



**And further, that the City of Peterborough share best practices with Economic Development Officers in the Townships at their bi-weekly meetings through PKED.**

**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, best practices with the and plans are shared at Economic Development Officer roundtable meetings between PKED and townships, however each township has responded independently based on their business input and have created their own solutions.

The City's patio plan has been fully implemented and is in place, operating well and in accordance with public guidelines. Concerns are now shifting to how businesses will respond when cooler weather approaches.

October 20<sup>th</sup> extended patios and bollards will be removed. The Peterborough DBIA is bringing on a consultant to investigate public spaces, sidewalks, cycling lanes etc. to better understand the impacts of these items, not just related to COVID, but ongoing.

**The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has been advocating on this issue at the federal level:** The Canadian Chamber of Commerce says, “Main street businesses need to know what comes next, and they need to know now, as patios close and foot traffic diminishes with cooler weather. Businesses need to know what help will be available to get them through this period of reduced revenues amid continued government restrictions.” Link to press release: <https://chamber.ca/news/canadian-chamber-concerned-that-cecra-like-patio-season-is-coming-to-an-end-too-soon/>




<p><b>21. Seasonal businesses in general (construction) have a limited time frame to generate revenue.</b></p>	<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 September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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>	
<p><b>22. Need advance notice to prepare</b> when each sector is given the option to open. Need additional ramp up time for staff, procurement</p>	<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><b>Status Update:</b> The need for advanced notice has been elevated to MP, MPP and municipal staff. As the province moved to stage 3, businesses continue to adapt and make changes to ensure that they are compliant.</p>	
<p><b>23. Municipalities trying to manage with increased costs</b> 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: <a href="https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/uploads/4/2/5/0/42505955/clsfs20-026_covid-19_response_and_financial_impact_update__1_.pdf">https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/uploads/4/2/5/0/42505955/clsfs20-026_covid-19_response_and_financial_impact_update__1_.pdf</a></p> <p>Finance Committee will be meeting in early June to talk about the budget.</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> On July 27<sup>th</sup> the Ontario Government in partnership with the Federal Government announced that they will be providing up to \$4 billion in one-time assistance to Ontario’s 444 municipalities. Here’s the latest report from the City: <a href="https://pub-peterborough.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=27702">https://pub-peterborough.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=27702</a></p>	●
<p><b>24. Recalling workers with children</b></p>	<p>Recalling workers with children is difficult with schools closed - 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 workers on CERB.</p> <p>Clarification needed re: “unable to work due to COVID-19”</p> <p>Childcare is a major challenge. The task force recommended that the City as well as area providers reconsider the cancellation of summer camps. This recommendation was adopted, and the City provided some summer camps and opened some childcare spaces in the city.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the provincial direction to open schools and childcare centres in September will address these concerns.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>	●

	<p><b>Status Update: The City did open childcare spaces and did run some summer camp programs.</b> On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Ontario announced its plan to allow licensed childcare centres to open at full capacity starting Sept 1, and EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be permitted to reopen with in-person programming along with before and after school programs with standard ratios. These changes will alleviate a lot of the issues around this subject and is expected to allow parents to be able to return to work.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Will have to watch this issue if there is another shutdown. There will be impacts on workers around childcare. Federal government is winding down CERB at the end of October 2020, and there has been no word on whether this will change with any new shutdown.</b></p>	
<p><b>25. Testing turnaround times</b> to assist businesses with quickly identifying positive cases. Gov't having difficulty getting the testing swabs in mass quantities</p>	<p><b>Status Update:</b></p> <p><b>Peterborough Region has a very successful testing program and consistently shown higher than average testing rates.</b></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><b>26. Restaurants – access to plexiglass</b> and other protective barriers to separate tables inside restaurants. Concerns over local supply to accommodate all restaurants</p> <p><b>Access to PPE</b> – how to pay for it in bulk</p>	<p>Clearer guidelines needed to inform what materials and measures are required to safely distance tables inside restaurants if/when opportunity to open indoor spaces takes place.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> PPH webinars are ongoing. Businesses have installed signage and have incorporated effective distancing and safety measures including PPE.</p>	●

	<p>Downtown kits - unavailable outside of Downtown  <a href="https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/">https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/</a></p> <p>Selwyn Township Economic Recovery Plan – partnering with CFPeterborough to provide subsidy for costs to businesses</p>	
<p><b>27. Space at Farmers’ Markets</b>  – need access to municipal roadways to spread out and provide proper physical distancing procedures.  <b>Farmers’ Markets are struggling with restrictions</b> 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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Task Force Recommendation: Municipalities work with Farmers’ Markets to establish additional space for physical distancing.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> Recommendation has been received by City and County, and issue with space has been resolved.</p> <p>Many local markets have opened throughout the region.</p> <p>Some municipalities are starting to open public spaces with guidelines. Selwyn Economic Recovery Plan has funding for farmers markets.</p> <p>City of Peterborough continues to work with markets to provide space.</p>	●
<p><b>28. Restaurants/Patios</b> – challenges with licensing</p>	<p>Outreach to MPP Smith and AGCO. Several 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><b>29. Seasonal accommodations are unclear what is permitted</b></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><b>30. Challenges navigating all the programs</b> - 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><b>Action:</b> PKED to investigate ways to better support businesses in navigating government programs.</p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> The provincial government has now replaced the vacant role which would support this work in the region and PKED is in regular contact with the advisor.</p>	
<p><b>31. Consumer &amp; employee confidence:</b> 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. <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace">https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace</a></p> <p>Education will be built into recovery marketing plan for region</p>	
<p><b>32. Training for businesses who are not set up with e-commerce</b> – 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 &amp; safety training related to COVID-19 found here: <a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/health-resources/">https://peterboroughed.ca/health-resources/</a></p> <p>Recent announcements through Digital Mainstreet Program to support e-commerce/digitization. <a href="https://digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere/">https://digitalmainstreet.ca/shophere/</a></p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>Status Update:</b> PKED successfully applied for the program and it is now available for businesses in the City and County of Peterborough.</p>	

<p><b>33. Need for hyper local promotion</b> – 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: <a href="https://thekawarthas.ca/">https://thekawarthas.ca/</a></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><b>Status Update:</b> PKT was successful and is in the process of completing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan</p>	
<p><b>34. Need for information, but no one is consuming information from one place - difficult to keep everyone informed. Need centralized information.</b></p>	<p><b>Status Update:</b> a communication framework to share information to broader business community has been completed</p>	
<p><b>35. Access to funding</b> - many are not qualifying for programs through Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Financial Institutions</p>	<p><b>Status Update:</b> Community Futures and FedDev have launched programs to support small business financing May 14, 2020</p>	
<p><b>36. Access to PPE</b> – where to find it (including signage, printables, etc.)</p>	<p>Information collected and stored on <a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/local-ppe-suppliers">https://peterboroughed.ca/local-ppe-suppliers</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/business-resources-for-recovery.html">https://www.peterboroughchamber.ca/business-resources-for-recovery.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/">https://downtownptbo.ca/news-item/covid-19-retail-kits/</a></p> <p>Peterborough Paramedics/Innovation Cluster/Trent University decontamination project</p> <p>Several local companies are creating kits for businesses</p>	
<p><b>37. Agriculture</b> - has very short growing season - opportunity</p>	<p><b>Status Update:</b> PYO is now permitted</p>	

<p>for physical distancing but <b>Pick Your Own (PYO)</b> is required for some producers. Unique challenges for these businesses, huge demand on certain supply chains</p>		
<p><b>38. Access to reliable and consistent information</b> 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><a href="https://peterboroughed.ca/how-can-we-help/covid-19-information/">https://peterboroughed.ca/how-can-we-help/covid-19-information/</a>  <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace">https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace</a>  <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace">https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace</a>  <a href="https://www.tiaontario.ca/cpages/covid19">https://www.tiaontario.ca/cpages/covid19</a>  <a href="https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/resources/toolkits/toolkit-for-reopening-canadas-economy/">https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/resources/toolkits/toolkit-for-reopening-canadas-economy/</a></p>	<p>✓</p>

## 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, inventory of available space should there be a need to accommodate high demand locations in cooler weather.
- 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.
- Opportunity exists to connect the student working group with the labour force working group to identify possible synergies between worker recruitment needs and access to local jobs for students during their time in the region, and after graduating.
- Opportunities exist to find creative and alternative ways for musicians, artists, makers, performing artists etc. to offer products/services/entertainment.
- Ontario Student Work Placement Program under discussion – may provide direct support to businesses to help with integrated learning.

## Additional Business Community Engagement – Business Survey Data (March-August)

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 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> (335 Responses)**

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

### **Survey #2: Business Adaptation & Continuity Survey March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup> (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.

### **Survey # 3: - Business Capacity Survey August 1 – August 15, 2020**

As businesses look ahead from the summer season and into the cooler weather with the fall and winter season, a survey was issued to see what level of service businesses can manage and what type of assistance they will likely need. The survey revealed

- Professional Services, Accommodation, Retail Trade and Arts/Entertainment most responded
- 71% running at half or full capacity
- Only 23% will need to reduce levels of service or close for remainder of summer
- 85% said they need full/part time staff, if they're looking to increase service levels
- Not enough sales for 53% of those reducing service or closing
- 37% will need to reduce or close moving into the Fall and early winter
- 47% of those increasing service in Fall need more access to funding
- 38% reducing service or closing in Fall due to lack of sales
- 33% feel they'll be open for 2021 tourism season
- 45% will need more financial support for remainder of 2020
- 33% will need between \$5-\$25k
- 72% would use funds for staffing