

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND BOARDS OF TRADE SUPPORT CANADA UNITED TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ACCELERATE SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY**

*Government of Canada announced an investment of \$12 million to support the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund*

(Ottawa – October 21, 2020) – Small businesses are at the heart of Canadian communities. They are critical in helping Canada turn the corner on COVID-19 and their success is essential to Canada’s economic strength. Created and launched by RBC, Canada United is a national movement to support local businesses in communities across the country. Today, during Small Business Week, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, announced an investment of \$12 million to support the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund.

The pandemic has created substantial uncertainty for small businesses. They are facing mounting losses, increased costs to reopen and shaky consumer confidence. As part of the Canada United movement, RBC brought together more than 70 of Canada’s leading brands, the national Chamber of Commerce network and business associations to rally Canadians to “show local some love” by buying, dining and shopping local. Meanwhile, more than 40 municipalities across Canada made official proclamations in honor of the Canada United Weekend, which took place over the weekend of August 28 – 30.

“Small businesses are cornerstones of our local economies and key to thriving communities—creating jobs, driving innovation, and generating wealth for Canadians. Local businesses have always been there for us and now need our support now more than ever. A sincere thanks to Minister Ng and the federal government for providing critical support to small businesses when they need it most,” said Rocco Rossi, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

The actions of Canadians during the campaign helped establish the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund to help small businesses offset the cost of expenses required to reopen safely or adopt digital technologies to move more of their business online.

“While the pandemic has undoubtedly challenged us in many ways, it’s also highlighted Canadians’ unwavering commitment to supporting one another during difficult times,” said Neil McLaughlin, Group Head, Personal & Commercial Banking, RBC. “We are incredibly grateful for the ways Canadians have supported their local businesses when they really needed it, and for the commitment of our partners who helped bring Canada United to life. And now, with the Federal Government’s support, we are confident that the Small Business Relief Fund will make a significant difference in helping businesses prepare for the road ahead.”

Through the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund, grants up to \$5,000 are available to small businesses so they can cover the costs of PPE as well as physical modifications and digital enhancements to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements. The grant can also be used to help firms with the cost of Personal Protection Equipment and enhance their e-commerce capabilities so they can do more business online. Canadian small businesses can learn more and apply for the grant online.

“We are proud to work with our partners in the Chamber network, in government as well as RBC to support small business with the Canada United grant. We must stay focused on supporting this sector which provides us with jobs, essential goods and services and community culture. We encourage everyone to stay true to the theme of being united by exercising the power of your consumer dollar and buying local. Small businesses are on the front line of the COVID war – they deserve our support. And we need them to survive.” added Sueling Ching, President & CEO, Ottawa Board of Trade.

The new application window for the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund will be open on Monday, October 26, 2020. [Click here](#) to learn more about Canada United.

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#### Quotes

“The Canada United Small Business Relief Fund is helping our small businesses offset the cost required to reopen safely or adopt digital technologies to move more of their business online at a time when they need it most. Chambers of commerce and boards of trade from coast, to coast, to coast have come together to start the Canada United movement, to show local businesses all the support they deserve.” — Perrin Beatty, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

“By teaming up with the Canada United campaign, our government is able to give yet another lifeline for small businesses during Small Business Week. On the road to economic recovery, we will continue to do whatever it takes to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in every corner of the country.” — The Honourable Mary Ng, Canada’s Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

#### **About the Ottawa Board of Trade**

The Ottawa Board of Trade is a non-partisan, non-profit, independent organization with a mission to create prosperity through advocacy, collaboration, and leadership. We represent the interests of all businesses in the Ottawa region as we strive for sustainable economic growth and community well-being.

#### **About the Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has been the non-partisan, indispensable partner of Ontario business. The OCC’s mission is to support economic growth in Ontario by defending business priorities at Queen’s Park on behalf of its network’s diverse 60,000 members.

#### **About RBC**

Royal Bank of Canada is a global financial institution with a purpose-driven, principles-led approach to delivering leading performance. Our success comes from the 84,000+ employees who bring our vision, values, and strategy to life so we can help our clients thrive and communities prosper. As Canada's biggest bank, and one of the largest in the world based on market capitalization, we have a diversified business model with a focus on innovation and providing exceptional experiences to our 17 million clients in Canada, the U.S. and 34 other countries. Learn more at [rbc.com](http://rbc.com). We are proud to support a broad range of community initiatives through donations, community investments and employee volunteer activities. See how at [rbc.com/community-social-impact](http://rbc.com/community-social-impact).

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