

**For immediate release**  
**April 16, 2021**  
**Statement**

**Ottawa Board of Trade: Further Supports Needed for Ontario Workers and Business**  
***Anxiety at an all time high***

**(Toronto – April 16, 2021)** – Today, Sueling Ching, President & CEO of the Ottawa Board of Trade and Rocco Rossi, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce released the following statement in response to further restrictions announced today by the Government of Ontario.

“Anxiety among Ontarians, business owners, and workers is at an all-time high. In fact, this anxiety was felt loudly across all industries in anticipation of today’s announcement.

“We are into the second week of our stay-at-home order, small businesses are struggling to stay afloat amidst Ontario’s third lockdown, ICU rates are the highest they have ever been, hospitals have postponed elective surgeries, schools are now closed indefinitely, and just today, Moderna announced it will be reducing deliveries to Canada.

“Public health and the health of our economy are interdependent. The business community is concerned about the rise in COVID-19 case counts. It is also extremely demoralizing for business owners who feel they have shouldered an unfair portion of the burden of restrictions.

“We need an all-hands on deck approach from all orders of government and local public health units to get vaccines to Ontarians. We are advocating for the provincial government to continue expediting the vaccination of essential workers who cannot work from home, and the federal government address supply issues and delays which may hamper the province’s goal of vaccinating 40 percent of the population by the end of the stay-at-home order.

“In the meantime, businesses need support to confront the economic repercussions of these measures. New supports must be made available as customers are forced to stay at home and relief is needed for industries that have been left out of previous measures.”

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**About the Ottawa Board of Trade**

The Ottawa Board of Trade is the voice for business in the Ottawa region, acting as an independent, non-partisan association representing the interests of all businesses at every level of government to ensure a competitive business climate, economic growth and community prosperity.

**About the Ontario Chamber of Commerce**

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has been the independent, 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.

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