

November 20, 2020 – Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce

Striking a critical balance between preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the support of our local businesses

Recently, the Government of Saskatchewan has announced additional measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. This strategy has taken a targeted approach to address localized “hotspots”, including mandatory mask requirements in all communities across the province. Much debate has taken place with respect to allowing businesses to remain open during this time. The Lloydminster Chamber supports these measures taken by Premier Moe and the Chief Medical Officer to keep businesses open during this time of uncertainty.

The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce believes that a widespread, large-scale lockdown would be catastrophic to jobs, families and on the viability of businesses. We support the strategic regulations set forth by the Province of Saskatchewan that will curb the spread of COVID-19, while allowing businesses to operate safely.

It is important to note that Saskatchewan people have all contributed to the safety of our residents by acting responsibly. The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our healthcare workers who work diligently to care for their patients and to ensure safety within our medical facilities. COVID-19 is a real and present danger to human life and as a business community we see the human cost as the highest priority.

Existing simultaneous to the fight against the spread of the virus, is the toll it takes on businesses, who find themselves under unique and stressful circumstances. Over and above the obvious financial concerns, let's raise the awareness of the impact on the collective mental health of those that fear the loss of their livelihood as business owners or the loss of jobs as employees.

Since March, businesses have had to deal with the realities of laying off staff and have had to adjust to the grim realities of closing their doors altogether. The Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce has been working tirelessly since early spring to help keep businesses operational during the pandemic. Our support takes many forms, ranging from assisting in sourcing personal protective equipment, to helping businesses access government support programs, to just being a voice on the other end of the phone to chat with. Collectively we have come a long way during an incredibly challenging time.

In closing, as we enter the holiday season, we ask that all residents follow the restrictions and guidelines set forth by our public health experts by wearing a mask when in public and practice social distancing. As well, we ask that you support local businesses wherever possible. Many of these businesses are struggling and every little bit counts. As a community we all have a role to play in the fight against COVID-19.

Serena Sjodin

Executive Director

Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce