

# An urgent letter from Chambers of Commerce to Canada's Premiers

## Re: May 1 commercial rent payments

Dear Premiers:

We are writing today on an urgent matter regarding commercial rent payments. For many of our members, their rent payments are due today, May 1, 2020.

As you are aware, the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA) is being implemented by the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) on behalf of the federal government and your respective province or territory. The development of this program, and the cooperation between levels of government, is positive.

However, the challenge faced by small businesses today is immediate. It is good that help is on the way, but for an increasingly large number of small businesses the time they are being asked to wait will result in permanent closure. The delay in the CECRA program implementation, when combined with delays in other programs (such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy), will tragically lead to May 1 rent payments pushing some small businesses over the financial cliff.

**To that end, on behalf of our members and small businesses across the country, we implore you to immediately execute an order to block commercial evictions for a period of at least two weeks.**

This critical pause will allow the CMHC the time required to implement the CECRA program, as well as time for CEWS money to begin flowing. The pause will, simply put, give our small businesses the time they need to catch their collective breath.

Small business drives our economy, employs millions of Canadians, and has done so much to support our communities. In this dire moment, we must have their backs.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and openness in these unprecedented times.

Signed,



Canadian  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Chambre de  
Commerce  
du Canada



Atlantic Chamber  
of Commerce

Chambre de commerce  
de l'Atlantique  
Representing business since 1896  
Représentant les affaires depuis 1896



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