

**Associate Minister of Small Business and
Red Tape Reduction
Ministry of Economic Development,
Job Creation and Trade**

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**Ministre associé aux Petites Entreprises
et à la Réduction des formalités administratives
Ministère du Développement économique,
de la Création d'emplois et du Commerce**

56, rue Wellesley Ouest
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Courriel : minister.sbrtr@ontario.ca



Ms. Suzy Godefroy
Executive Director
Downtown Brampton BIA
suzy.godefroy@brampton.ca

Dear Ms. Godefroy:

Thank you for sharing your letter to Mayor Patrick Brown and Brampton City Council on behalf of business owners and landlords in the Downtown Brampton BIA regarding the impact of COVID-19. We appreciate this update and thank you for your support during this challenging time.

The health and well-being of Ontarians is our number one priority. Circumstances are changing rapidly, and we know that employers and workers across our province are feeling the economic impacts.

[Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#) is a critical first step to support people, jobs and businesses and provides the flexibility to act swiftly and effectively during this rapidly changing global outbreak. Through this plan, Ontario is:

- Providing a five-month interest and penalty-free period to make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes, providing \$6 billion in relief to help support Ontario businesses when they need it the most. The tax deferral will start on April 1, 2020 and will continue for five months until August 31, 2020.
- Deferring the upcoming quarterly (June 30) remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days. This will provide municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals of over \$1.8 billion to local residents and businesses; and
- Providing \$1.9 billion in new financial relief by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for a period of six months.

Ontario is also providing \$3.7 billion in direct support to people and businesses which includes:

- Making electricity bills more affordable through a \$1.5 billion increase in electricity cost relief
- Cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption; and

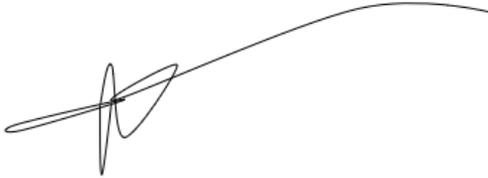
- Proposing a new Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit.

In addition to these measures, our province welcomes the federal government's funding initiatives to provide support through emergency funding programs, lending programs and lower interest rates to people and businesses affected by COVID-19 emergency measures.

For information on measures the federal government has put in place to support workers and businesses, including the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), please visit: [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

Again, thank you for writing and sharing this update. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Associate Minister