



October 20, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Sent via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Extending loan repayments for small businesses

As you know, people across the country are facing enormous pressure right now – as the cost of housing, groceries, and other daily essentials has risen sharply in recent years.

Homeowners and renters continue to suffer from high interest rates as mortgage costs continue to be a core factor driving inflation. Recognizing these very human costs, some of us have called on the Bank of Canada to hold the line on any hikes to the basic interest rate. There are alternative ways our governments can work together to achieve cost-stability through a targeted approach that will have long-term deflationary benefits.

Just as people are being hit hard by rising costs, so too are small businesses. Small businesses are vital to the social and economic fabric of communities, providing everything from first jobs to good, family-supporting careers.

Canadian small business owners have faced many challenges over the last few years. COVID-19 turned their lives and livelihoods upside down as many were forced to shut down or entirely change their business model to keep people safe. Now, just as many small businesses are starting to find their feet after the pandemic, they are facing new cost pressures from rising inflation and interest rates.

Compounding these challenges, many small businesses are anxious about their ability to pay back their federal Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan when forgiveness repayment period ends in the new year. The same loan that was once a lifeline during the pandemic is now threatening to sink the small businesses that are only just getting by.

That’s why we are urging your government to provide additional time to allow businesses to take advantage of the loan forgiveness option in addition to extending repayment of CEBA loans for another year. More time is needed to allow the hardest hit small businesses to continue their recovery from not only the pandemic, but the cost shocks that came after.

During this time of uncertainty, now is not the time to force additional costs on small businesses. This is the time to support them so they can do what they do best – provide good jobs and services in their community, which helps to build up local economies.

As provincial and territorial governments, we are going to keep finding ways to support small businesses, because we know it's good for communities and the entire Canadian economy. We look forward to continuing our work with the federal government to make sure Canada is a place where businesses thrive.

Sincerely,




David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia



Ranj Pillai
Premier of Yukon




Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Caroline Cochrane
Premier of Northwest Territories



Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan



P.J. Akeeagok
Premier of Nunavut



Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba



Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario




François Legault
Premier of Québec



Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador



Blaine Higgs
Premier of New Brunswick



Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia



Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island