



Small businesses  
are the **backbone**  
of our economy

**HON. KERRY-LYNNE D. FINDLAY, PC, QC**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH SURREY—WHITE ROCK

September 10, 2020

# SMALL BUSINESS TOUR IN THE CONSTITUENCY



# MAJOR ISSUES I HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN MY CONSTITUENCY

- Difficulty accessing the CECRA program, due to landlords refusing to apply for it
- Application process for the CECRA program being too complicated
- Difficulty for employers to re-hire employees (both part-time and full-time), due to CERB
- Businesses reducing their hours and partially shutting down due to staff shortages
- Difficulty accessing the CEBA program
- Restaurant owners unable to operate at full seating capacity, due to physical distancing measures. Yet, their fixed costs remain the same
- Shortage of supplies due to COVID-related delays
- Severe delays with the Canada Summer Jobs program, making it difficult for business owners to hire students
- Many business owners felt left out by the Federal government, as they did not receive the support they needed
- Business owners having difficulty accessing PPEs due to shortages
- Some owners not eligible for any of the relief offered



# HOW **CONSERVATIVES** RESPONDED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN FOR CANADIANS AND BUSINESSES

- ▶ Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Conservatives have made it clear that we would take a **'Team Canada' approach** to help Canadians get the support they need during these difficult times.
- ▶ Conservatives have put forward a number of **constructive solutions** to improve government programs and policies, including:
  - ▶ 1. Significantly increasing the wage subsidy (**CEWS**) **from 10% to 75%**
  - ▶ 2. Expanding the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (**CEBA**) so that more business owners can access the \$40,000 loan, including adding Credit unions.
  - ▶ 3. Expanding the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (**CECRA**) program to include landlords without mortgage properties and advocating that relief go to tenants directly.
  - ▶ 4. Making the **CECRA** program more flexible and allow landlords to negotiate the unsubsidized half of the rent with their tenants
  - ▶ 5. Including a sliding scale for businesses with less than 70% revenue loss, so that those experiencing significant revenue decline could benefit from **CECRA**
  - ▶ 6. Expanding the eligibility criteria of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (**CERB**) so more Canadians qualify for it, by administering it more responsibly to ensure eligibility is met and those who have work to return to are encouraged to do so.

# CONSERVATIVES' BACK TO WORK BONUS

- ▶ Back in late June 2020, Conservatives presented the **Back to Work Bonus** to Canadians, a Conservative proposal to make the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) more flexible and generous.
- ▶ Under the Liberal government's plan, Canadians are NOT allowed to make over \$1,000 in order to be eligible to receive the full \$2,000 CERB benefit, for a total monthly income of \$3,000.
- ▶ Those who earned **\$1 over** the government's arbitrary \$1,000 limit automatically lost their entire \$2,000 CERB benefit, resulting in a massive drop in income (up to \$1,999 per month).

## LIBERAL PLAN



Under the Liberal plan, workers who earn \$1,001 experience a massive, sudden drop in income from \$3,000 to \$1,001 due to the loss of the CERB.

They are worse off until they earn at least \$3,000 per month making it harder to re-enter the workforce.

# CONSERVATIVES' BACK TO WORK BONUS (Cont'd)

- ▶ The Liberal plan clearly made it difficult for Canadians to re-enter the workforce as many businesses were only able to offer part-time hours for the first couple of months since the outbreak of COVID-19.
- ▶ Conservatives on the other hand, have always believed it **should pay to work**. That is why we put forward a common-sense policy proposal that would give workers the support they need to transition back into the workforce and ensure that local businesses are able to fill shifts and get back on their feet.
- ▶ Under our plan, Canadians who lost their jobs through no fault of their own during the pandemic would have been able to continue to receive their full \$2,000 CERB.

## CONSERVATIVE PLAN



Under our Conservative plan, workers are always better off – whether they accept an extra shift or move from part-time to full-time hours.

# CONSERVATIVES' BACK TO WORK BONUS (Cont'd)

- ▶ In addition, as businesses reopen, workers who have been making between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per month would have been able to qualify for the Back to Work Bonus, a CERB top-up that would be gradually phased out (by 50 cents for every extra dollar earned over \$1,000).

Base Earnings	Trudeau Liberal Plan		Conservative Plan	
	CERB	Total Income (earnings + CERB)	CERB	Total Income (earnings + CERB)
\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
\$500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
			Back to Work Bonus	Total Income (earnings + CERB top-up)
\$1,001	\$0	\$1,001	\$2,000	\$3,001
\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$3,250
\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$3,500
\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$3,750
\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	\$750	\$4,250
\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$500	\$4,500
\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500	\$250	\$4,750
\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500

# SAVE SMALL BUSINESS PLAN

## AN ERIN O'TOOLE GOVERNMENT WILL:



- ▶ 1. **Expand the Emergency Business Account** program to extend loans and operating grants to small and medium sized businesses based on employment and economic activity. Larger grant portions will be available for small businesses who were missed by the Trudeau COVID-19 CEBA program due to payroll considerations.
- ▶ 2. Introduce a **New Hire Incentive**, providing a reduced EI premium for all SMEs for any increase of \$50,000 in insurable earnings over the previous tax year to promote hiring.
- ▶ 3. Make it easier for small businesses to use the legal tools currently only available to larger businesses to reorganize and be able to survive, by:
  - a) Introducing temporary COVID-19 Amendments to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (the "BIA") and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (the "CCAA") to facilitate the restructuring of as many businesses as possible to preserve jobs and economic activity and permanently amending these acts to address the cost barriers that exist to successfully reorganizing under the BIA and the CCAA.
  - b) Providing interim and exit financing through BDC to permit insolvent businesses to reorganize.



# HOW TO REACH ME

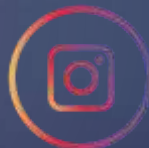
**WEBSITE:** [www.kfindlay.com](http://www.kfindlay.com)

**EMAIL:** [kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca)

**PHONE:** (604) 542-9495



kerrylynnefindlay



kfindlaymp



@kerrylynnefindl