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Dear Merrickville-Wolford Business Owner,

Over the past few days, new programs and resources for businesses have been announced by the provincial and federal governments, our district Health Unit, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business:

1. For businesses opening a patio, on June 19/20 the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit has updated their guidance checklist to help reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 for your staff and customers as patios reopen: [https://www.merrickville-wolford.ca/images/Checklist for Food Premises Operating Patios 002 June 19 2020.pdf](https://www.merrickville-wolford.ca/images/Checklist%20for%20Food%20Premises%20Operating%20Patios%2002%20June%2019%202020.pdf)
2. Shopping Local is a great way to support our small businesses, local artists, makers, producers and the local economy.
On June 25/20, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) launched a campaign to boost 'shop local' efforts. Here are some ways we can all join in and help out:
 - a. Use your social media to encourage and challenge your followers to "shop local" and visit the CFIB website to take the shop local challenge: <http://www.smallbusinesseveryday.ca/>
 - b. Post pictures and recommend local businesses on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #SmallBusinessEveryDay and ask others to do the same
 - c. Print, display and distribute copies of these CFIB posters, which thank customers for shopping locally. You can download the posters at <http://www.smallbusinesseveryday.ca/business/#poster>More information on the CFIB and their Small Business Every Day campaign can be found here: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/media/news-releases/smallbusinesseveryday-campaign-launched-emphasize-customers-are-critical-0>
On June 30/20, to celebrate International Small Business Week, the Ontario government launched the "*Shop Local! Shop Safe! Shop with Confidence!*" campaign, encouraging Ontarians to support their local small businesses and to shop safely while doing so: https://news.ontario.ca/medg/en/2020/06/ontario-encourages-support-of-local-small-businesses.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p
3. Support for Beef and Hog Farmers: On June 17/20, the federal and provincial governments announced funding programs to help pay for additional maintenance costs of feeding market-ready beef cattle and hogs due to COVID-19 related processing delays where animals have to be kept on farm for extended periods, while redirecting surplus pork to food banks. Both the beef cattle set-aside and the hog sector support programs are being offered through AgriRecovery initiatives, under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. More info can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/06/canada-and-ontario-support-beef-and-hog-farmers-during-covid-19.html>

4. In our last update of June 13/20, we told you about the federal/provincial partnership program, Digital Main Street Phase 2 to help “mainstreet” businesses grow by adopting digital tools and technologies. Three new programs were announced, including ShopHere (an easy, no-cost way to start selling online), Ontario Grants Program (involving \$2,500 digital transformation grants) and Future Proofing Main Street (identifying new markets, pivoting business models and digital transformation plans). Applications open July 1/20. Details on all three programs can be found here: <https://digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario/>.

Lastly, a reminder that a list of local PPE suppliers throughout the United Counties of Leeds Grenville is being updated regularly and can be found here, along with additional business resources and programs: <https://invest.leedsgrenville.com/en/contacts-news-events/covid-19.aspx>

We hope this information is helpful.

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development
Village of Merrickville-Wolford



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If you become aware of a local business owner who did not receive this e-mail that you feel would benefit from being added to our e-mail list, please invite them to e-mail a request directly to edo@merrickville-wolford.ca. Indirect, third party requests to add someone to the list will not be processed.