



MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD  
*Jewel of the Rideau*

**Email of May 18, 2021 from Doug Robertson:**

**RE: Small Business Supports, Survey, Workshop and Advisory Service**

**PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. THIS E-MAIL ACCOUNT IS NOT MONITORED.**

Dear Merrickville-Wolford Business Owner,

As we navigate through COVID-19 and start to see over the edge of the extended [Provincial Stay-at-Home Order until June 2/21](#), we are grateful to share with you these support programs and resources for local small businesses:

**New Small Business Support Grant of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for Tourism and Travel Industry** - This program was designed to help tourism and travel sector businesses that were required to close or significantly restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown effective December 26, 2020. Eligible small businesses can receive a one-time grant, depending on how much revenue they have lost. Those that received the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG) are not eligible for the new grant. Applications for this grant will close on **Friday, June 25, 2021** at 11:59 p.m. EDT. [Click here for more information and to apply for the grant.](#)

**Leeds-Grenville–Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes COVID-19 BUSINESS SURVEY 2021 – Reminder that today is the Last Day to**

317 Brock Street West, P.O. Box 340, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0  
[www.merrickville-wolford.ca](http://www.merrickville-wolford.ca) [reception@merrickville-wolford.ca](mailto:reception@merrickville-wolford.ca)

**Participate:** Through the United Counties of Leeds Grenville, the Village has been working together in economic development with other municipal offices, Chambers of Commerce, Employment Services, Community Futures Development Corporations, Small Business Enterprise Centres, and Business Improvement Areas to identify the impacts of COVID-19 on our business community. An initial survey was completed and sent out to businesses in April of 2020 and the data was very helpful in informing governments of the concerns and needs of the business community and developing support programs. Your input is critical to planning and supporting yours and other businesses through recovery. Please take a couple of minutes to complete the 2021 [survey](#) by **Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at midnight.**

**Tourism and Hospitality Insights** - Our neighbors at the Town of Smiths Falls are hosting a Zoom webinar/workshop by St. Lawrence College about consumer trends in the tourism and hospitality sectors. Laura Kittner, Professor of Advertising & Marketing at St. Lawrence College will guide participants through consumer insights that have been accelerated during the pandemic and will share ideas for new strategies for success. The Zoom call is on Wednesday, May 19th from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to our [Economic Development Officer](#) or RSVP directly to [Jennifer Miller](#) at Smiths Falls to receive the zoom link.

**Virtual Business Advisory Service** - The [Ontario Together Fund](#) is providing additional funds to our [Small Business Advisory Centre \(SBAC\)](#) to provide businesses with advisory assistance that they need in order to recover from the effects of COVID-19. ). Local business owners can be matched with professional advisors who will provide FREE one-on-one specialized, confidential COVID 19 advice (limit to 3 hours per business owner). Expert support is available in a wide range of topics for your business including:

- Legal
- Accounting/Bookkeeping

- Business Plan/Coaching
- Digital/Social Media Marketing
- Marketing/Brand Development
- Human Resources
- Intellectual Property

Reach out to Cindy James at the SBAC: [cjames@smallbizcentre.ca](mailto:cjames@smallbizcentre.ca), Phone - (613) 283-7002 ext 108, for more information on this and other services for local small businesses.

### **Ontario Continues to Expand Access to Rapid Testing for Workplaces –**

The Ontario government has launched a new rapid testing portal to make it easier for all essential businesses to access free rapid testing to help keep employees and their families safe. Businesses can participate in the program by [registering here](#), for free rapid antigen screening kits to help screen for asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 that might otherwise be missed. It is one more way that businesses can help workers and their families stay safe and keep the virus out of workplaces. Program eligibility was recently expanded to include any business that is allowed to be open and requires staff to work on-site. Businesses with fewer than 150 employees can participate in workplace rapid antigen screening through this program run jointly by the Ontario government and the [Ontario Chamber of Commerce](#).

**Additional resources** from the provincial government:

- [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
- [Ontario Making it Easier to Administer Rapid COVID-19 Testing in the Workplace](#)
- [Infectious Disease Emergency Leave](#)
- [Ontario COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit](#)
- [Develop your COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#)
- [COVID-19 safety checklist for workplaces](#)
- [COVID-19 self-isolation and return to work](#)

As always, for a regularly updated listing of small business resources, government support and relief programs, and local PPE Suppliers, please

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see the [United Counties of Leeds Grenville Economic Development Covid-19 page](#).

Please feel free to contact our [Economic Development Officer](#) or call 613-269-4791, ext. 242 for more information on programs for businesses and let us know if you have business contacts to add to our email distribution list.

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](mailto:edo@merrickville-wolford.ca). Indirect, third party requests to add someone to the list will not be processed.