

From: [Carol Jolly](#)
To: [Councillor Perks](#); [MayorTO](#); [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Yussuf Hussein](#); [John Kiru](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Sky Pepin](#)
Subject: [External Sender] MM6.1 Supporting Small Businesses - CEBA Extension
Date: May 10, 2023 4:25:07 PM

Dear Mayor McKelvie, Councillor Perks, and esteemed City of Toronto Councillors,

We write to you with a pressing matter directly impacting the livelihoods of countless small businesses in our beloved city. It has come to our attention that Councillor Paula Fletcher has admirably taken the initiative to propose a motion before City Council, urging the federal government to extend the repayment deadline for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan.

As we are all acutely aware, the ongoing pandemic's devastating effects continue reverberating through our local economy. Despite valiant efforts, numerous businesses are still grappling with the aftermath of the crisis, struggling to regain their footing and find stability. Against this backdrop, the impending deadline for CEBA loan repayment, set for December 2023, poses an ominous threat to their survival.

The gravity of this situation cannot be overstated. According to a recent survey conducted by the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), the implications of CEBA loan repayment are dire. A staggering 75% decrease in pre-COVID sales has been reported by three out of four businesses that were operating before the pandemic. Additionally, a whopping 97% of businesses currently reliant on the CEBA loan have expressed grave concerns about the impact of repayment on their operations. Astonishingly, 41% of these businesses fear that the burden of loan repayment may prove insurmountable, ultimately leading to their closure.

Moreover, the survey reveals that 77% of businesses burdened by additional COVID-related debt anticipate a repayment timeline exceeding three years. These disheartening figures underscore the urgent need for action. Many entrepreneurs find themselves at a crossroads, forced to acquire further debt to meet the looming December deadline and fulfill the promised \$20,000 CEBA debt forgiveness requirements. Regrettably, those who fail to meet this deadline forfeit the much-needed relief of \$20,000 and face the added burden of interest charges on their CEBA loans. It is paramount that the federal government consider reducing or ideally eliminating these arduous COVID loan repayments.

In these trying times, the resilience and perseverance of our small businesses have become a beacon of hope within our communities. However, they cannot endure this struggle alone. They need the unwavering support and advocacy of their local representatives. Therefore, I implore you, esteemed councillors, to rally behind Councillor Paula Fletcher's motion, 2023.MM6.1. By endorsing this motion, you will send a resounding message to the federal government that our city stands united in its commitment to the well-being and survival of our small business community.

Now, more than ever, the fate of our city's economic recovery rests on our collective

shoulders. Let us rise to the occasion and champion the cause of those who contribute so greatly to the fabric of our vibrant city. We beseech you to act decisively, wholeheartedly supporting Councillor Paula Fletcher's motion to extend the CEBA loan repayment deadline.

With utmost sincerity and hope for a brighter future, on behalf of the Board of Management, staff and members of The Junction BIA.

Warmly,
Carol

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Executive Director
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By appointment only.

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