



The Honourable Mona Fortier  
Member of Parliament for Ottawa—Vanier

The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Member of Parliament for Ottawa - Ottawa Centre

Mrs. Karen McCrimmon  
Member of Parliament for Ottawa - Kanata-Carleton

Mrs. Anita Vandenberg  
Member of Parliament for Ottawa West—Nepean

Subject: Support small businesses in the 2021 Federal Budget

Dear Ministers,

The Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas (OCOBIA) represents the 19 Business Improvement Areas in the Greater Ottawa Region and their collective 6,400 business members. With 100% of our membership being bricks and mortar businesses, we are seeking your urgent support within the Federal Budget presented this spring.

The small businesses in your respective ridings are asking for the extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) grants, scheduled to end June 2021.

As Ontario is facing our third provincial lockdown due to COVID-19, bricks and mortar small businesses continue to struggle financially and are facing closure. This financial impact does not stop at the small business; small business owners will consequently face personal financial breakdown, and their staff will face further unemployment.

It is critical that the wage and rent subsidy programs be extended to save these businesses and are not cut off at a time when they will need them most.

We ask that the Federal Government include in the spring budget:

- 1) An extension and enhancement of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) at 75%, targeting affected small businesses until the end of 2021; and
- 2) An extension and enhancement of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) for affected small businesses, until the end of 2021.

We thank you for your continued support.  
Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Groulx".

Michelle Groulx  
Executive Director, Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas (OCOBIA) [executivedirector@ocobia.org](mailto:executivedirector@ocobia.org)