



Open letter to Premier Kenney from the Alberta Chambers of Commerce, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Restaurants Canada, and Retail Council of Canada

May 26, 2020

Hon. Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislative Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Urgent: Moratorium on commercial tenant evictions

Dear Premier Kenney:

With June 1st only days away, pressure is once again mounting for our small-and medium-sized business members to make their rent payments. Business owners have been telling us they are stressed about being evicted and urgently need government assistance.

We appreciate that your government is facing many unexpected challenges during this health and economic crisis of unprecedented proportions. Statistics Canada's April 2020 jobs report alone shows the extent of COVID-19's economic destruction in Alberta's to date on sectors such as accommodation, food services, wholesale and/or retail trade.

Businesses across the province were heartened by the announcement of a federal-provincial program to provide much-needed rent relief. However, since the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program was announced, we have been hearing from numerous small and medium sized businesses that many improvements are desperately needed to make it work. Even though the program just officially started, we already know from our members that many landlords will not apply, meaning that their tenants will not be able to access the program and the commercial tenant eviction protection it includes. In addition, many businesses are starting to fear eviction from their landlord over unpaid rent.

Businesses that were forced to close entirely by government order to help stop the spread of COVID-19 have been generating zero revenues. Businesses like restaurants or retailers in malls that were forced to restrict their operations by government order have seen unsustainable revenue declines. The businesses who have managed to survive and are allowed to fully open will take time

to get to the new normal, regardless of Alberta's reopening timelines. In the meantime, bills like rent payments continue to pile up, and evictions will become the norm.

We are urgently asking you to protect small-and medium-sized businesses from evictions by taking the following action:

- **Put in place temporary commercial eviction protection for tenants who were in good standing with their landlords prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Please help our business members make it to the other side of COVID-19. Without your immediate assistance, more businesses will be forced to close. In the absence of sufficient support, a large portion of the economy and the jobs created by our hard-working members will disappear forever.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your continued collaboration with Alberta's business community, and your leadership and efforts to fight COVID-19. We look forward to your timely response and remain ready to work with you and your government to ensure Alberta's small-and medium-sized businesses survive the prolonged health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



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cc: Hon. Tanya Fir, Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Trade
Hon. Travis Toews, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board