**Public information Session**Dawson City Business Owners
and the Impact of COVID-19

Held Thursday, July 23rd 2020, via ZOOM Conference

With:
Kathleen Derusha, Dawson City Chamber of Commerce
Peter Turner, Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Larry Bagnell, MP Yukon, CaNor
Paul Robitaille, Klondike Visitors Association
Dan Davidson, Klondike Sun
Pat Brooks, Gold Rush Campground

12:00 pm – Meeting starts

**Kathleen Derusha:** Thank you for joining us and thank you to everyone listening on the radio. Thank you for CFYT local radio for broadcasting on a weekly basis. This is the DCCC Covid-19 impact session hosted every Thursday at noon through Zoom. We have Larry Bagnell here to give you some updates. Just as a reminder to local businesses, if you ever have any updates or comments, please feel free to call in or zoom in.

**Larry Bagnell:** It has been another good week for subsidies from the government. More than 83 billion dollars, which is more than four times what it was going to be. That is a lot of extra money for businesses. It comes under changes to the subsidy and money for the disabilities. The bad news is that it is very complicated, its 10 times more complicated than any other program.

***Following links explain in thorough detail***

<https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-14/royal-assent>

<https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-20/third-reading>

<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/economic-and-social-supports-covid-19/yukon-essential>

<https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-information/covid-19-mesures-daide-sociale-et-economique/yukon-business>

**Larry Bagnell:** The federal website also has a better description of these changes and calculations. It is very complicated.

**Peter Turner:** Your explanation was helpful, Larry. We’re pretty pleased with the direction the government is taking, hearing from businesses around the territory and nationally, and hearing the go and no go of 30%, impactful on businesses losing less. But it was also problematic for businesses trying to emerge and initially benefiting from the wage subsidy. As they worked towards recovering, they all of a sudden became virtue to 30% less of their business and they were no longer eligible for the wage subsidy. This is a good step in the right direction. As Larry mentioned, we are hosting at 4pm, this afternoon, a session to anyone who would be willing to participate. If you want to reach out to the DCCC or the YCCC, we can provide the Zoom link information. We hope businesses across the territory come on to hear Matthew from the CRA office here in Whitehorse as he takes us through the changes and can provide us with more information on this. As Larry said, this hasn’t passed the senate, yet, so we haven’t seen any full details about this as of yet. Once it passes, it will be posted. Good work everyone, we’re heading in the right direction as far as this is concerned.

Again, thank you Kat for your participation. We had a very good presentation given from our keynote speaker at our AGM last week. It gave us more of a national perspective on what is happening out there. The entire chamber network, municipal level through to the territorial and provincinal chamber, through the Canadian chambers are working with the business communities to get through this. This is going to be critical through the next 12-18 months while we try to get back on track financially. We’re going to come out of the far side of this with a pretty hefty federal debt. Must work as a business community to give input to the federal government.

Any questions?

**Kathleen Derusha:** Thank you so much, Peter.

**Larry Bagnell:** There is a good outline on the federal government webpage.

<https://www.canada.ca/en.html>

**Kathleen Derusha:** Thank you Larry. Thank you, Peter. If anyone is looking for information, we’ve shared on our Facebook, on the Town Crier and Buyer page, and an email blast to everyone. KVA also shared with everyone. This is all great news, thank you for being here and for your updates. Who do we have next? Paul from the KVA.

**Paul Robitaille:**  A couple of quick updates:

**Gerties** is open and has been open for a few weekends. It has been busy and at capacity and we are not alone in facing challenges as a venue serving alcohol. We we want to re say, if you come to Gerties, please help us by following the rules, which are available to you on the Diamond Tooth Gerties Website, <https://diamondtoothgerties.ca/>.

Please bring your ID if you want to come back, and also please do your part by social distancing while you are in the venue. That is not only in Gerties, but it goes for every establishment. It has been okay in Gerties, but definitely some assistance from our patrons would be helpful. We are still open, and we will remain open as long as we can.

We also opened the Jack London museum to visitors on the weekend. It will be open Saturday and Sundays for one hour for an outdoor talk. Parks Canada has also opened their doors.

The KVA has mainly been promoting visitations to Yukoners and providing a list of everything that is open in Dawson. Traffic from BC is still happening but seems to have dwindled since the July 1st border opening. Visitors are still coming and there is lots to do in town and we are pleased to see it.

KVA Events coming up:

Outhouse Race August 1st, 2020 – Best registration we have seen in the last ten years. We are almost sold out of outhouses and there is only one left. All teams are from outside of Dawson. Therefore, a local team would be great. The start point will be at Minto Park and it is a traditional run around town.

Discovery Days Weekend, August 14th & 15th, 2020 – Authors on Eighth, a parade around town, scavenger hunt put on by the City and a golf course tournament put on by the Dawson City Golf Course.

The Cultural Center will also be doing events for Discovery Days as well. If you which to add an event, please contact the KVA. The Midnight Sun Pipe Band will also be performing during the parade, maybe also on the Dome as per tradition.

Also, I would like to do a quick reminder for the temporary relief fund. This also applies to any business out there that lost any reservations, such as hotels or bus companies, due to COVID-19. Contact economic development and try to get the revenue. The dates of eligibility are March 15th to July 30th, 2020. If you haven’t applied and run a business in town and have loss of revenue, please contact economic development.

The KVA is also going to be working with Sport Yukon to be updating our photo library. They will be here in August to take photos of our sporting events to support tourism. We are also taking this time ourselves to increase our content for the Gold Panning World Championship. We are already on the lookout for volunteers so we can hopefully host this event next year. Any questions?

**Dan Davidson:** Paul, I see the deadline for submissions for Authors on Eighth is up. How did we do?

**Paul Robitaille:** The submission deadline closed on Sunday. We have about 21 entries, which we did expect it to be lower than previous years. We tend to push this event through the library, Jack London Museum and the Robert Service Cabin. However, we are still pleased with the number of entries. We will be announcing the winners of that event on the modified walking tour for Discovery Days on August 14th.

**Kathleen Derusha:** Thank you so much for all the updates each week. Do we have anymore member updates, or updates from anyone else?

As for the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, over the next couple of weeks I will be walking around visiting each one of our members. I really need to sit down with you all to discuss and assess the impact of COVID-19 and how business is doing. I would like to know your business needs, what kind of funding you are receiving or would like to be receiving, and the requirements you may need. This is the time to talk about this, especially before going into winter. Keep an eye out, and to any business out there, if you’d like to chat, let’s set a time.

There will also be a survey coming around with me on my visits. It is pretty quick, and most visits take about 30-45 minutes. I appreciate all the businesses that have taken the time to sit down and chat. This feedback has been very valuable for you and for the Chamber.

Another thing, Shop Dawson, as Paul mentioned. Just a reminder to people and visitors that we have Shop Dawson certificates which can be purchased at the Ravens Nook or here in the DCCC office. All DCCC member businesses are redeemable locations.

I would also like to say congratulations to BonTon, who are opening their café today! They’re a member of the DCCC and can also accept these dollars. Congrats and happy opening day!

**TIAO-** Blake Rogers from the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon could not make it today and he would like to send his regards. He wanted to remind everyone that tomorrow there is a public forum at noon. Tomorrow is a special one. The Medical Chief Officer of Health will be there doing a 10 minute presentation and will also have a Q & A session.

**Fair Exchange-** We have been sending out Fair Exchange Newsletters every Monday, and there have been a couple members who are not sure why. I would just like to remind folks that there are still people in town that may have American plates and American dollars. They may be here for work and have completed their quarantine. Don’t let that scare you. The fact that we are sending the fair exchange isn’t due to borders opening.

**Decals-** Also, the government announced yesterday that they will be offering decals to those who have quarantined upon entrance to the Yukon and do not have the territorial plates. It’s a step in the right direction and helps put the community minds at ease. If you are ever concerned and see other plates in town, there is a number which you can call for your concerns and it is available on our website, as well as our weekly newsletters.

**Larry Bagnell:** Two more things, anyone who wasn’t listening on the radio, reminder that a lot of our programs run out at the end of summer for business support. We have extended our fixed cost support from CaNor to March 2021. They will write to you to explain this to you near the time of expiry.

Also, the border comes up a lot on these calls. As of yesterday, the Yukon Government said they were not opening the border any wider yet. Big COVID-19 case increases in Alberta and BC.

**Kathleen Derusha:** Thank you very much. Thanks to CFYT for broadcasting and to everyone listening on the radio. Thank you all for being on here.

Meeting adjourned 12:38 pm