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Date: August 25, 2020 at 4:02:47 PM EDT
To: "Auger, Robert" <rauger@essex.ca>
Subject: Apply for Reimbursement of Safe Opening Expenses
Reply-To: Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island <info@tourismwindsoressex.com>

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Apply for Safe Opening Expense Reimbursement

The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and the Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation have just announced a new limited time 'Safe Openings' Program that will allow tourism operators within Ontario's Southwest to be reimbursed for a portion of their safe opening expenses.

Ontario Southwest (RTO 1) will **reimburse you a maximum of \$1000.00** (pre-tax) towards items that were purchased to meet safety requirements to allow the safe re-opening of your business.

Reimbursement will be **retroactive to April 1, 2020** and can be applied to things like:

- Physical distancing (signs, plexiglass, etc.)
- Technology upgrades supporting touch-less service
- Increased cleaning and sanitation
- Other requirements as outlined in '[A Framework for Reopening our Province](#)'

The **intake process** will be on a "**First Come, First Served**" basis until the budget is reached. If you miss out this time around, there will be another intake in December 2020. Each business will only be reimbursed one time.

Applications for the 'Safe Opening Program' will be accepted as of **Tuesday, September 15 at 10am only** and will be granted on a first come, first served basis. [Click here](#) for submission form and more details.

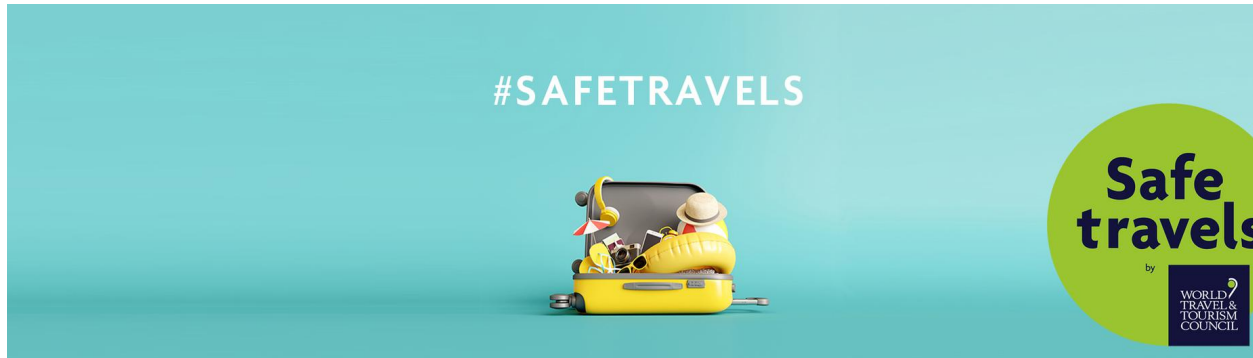


Don't miss your chance to become FeastON certified for FREE!

Calling on all our favourite dining hot spots! Do you love local? Do you source local? Is your menu local? If you look to support local first and you want to be included in a pan-provincial campaign being supported by Tourism Windsor Essex, Destination Ontario and the Culinary Tourism Alliance (CTA), then you want to **FeastON!**

Click here to [learn more about the FeastON program](#). To help grow this program in Windsor Essex and as an advantage of our membership with the CTA, they are **offering FREE FeastON certifications** to our stakeholders! Our team will work with you directly to complete the simple certification process and get your operation on board for the upcoming **Great Taste of Ontario Road Trip campaign**. *FeastON certification is a requirement for restaurants to be included in this multi-million dollar promotion!*

For more details [click here](#) or contact [Lynnette Bain](#).



Become 'Safe Travels' Certified

The specially designed '**Safe Travels' Certified** stamp will allow travelers to recognize governments and companies around the world which have adopted globally-standardized health and hygiene protocols so consumers can experience 'Safe Travels'.

Eligible companies such as hotels, restaurants, airlines, cruise lines, tour operators, attractions, short term rentals, car rentals, outdoor shopping, transportation and airports, will be able to use the stamp once the health and hygiene protocols, outlined by World Travel and Tourism Council, have been implemented.

If you would like to know how to apply, [click here](#).

Partners that are 'Safe Travels' certified may also have the opportunity to participate in the **Great Taste of Ontario Road Trip** campaign running provincially September 2020 through December 2021. More information on this opportunity to follow.



If you haven't yet had a chance to read our updated **Respond, Restart & Recovery Plan** which was released earlier this month upon entering Stage 3, [click here to download and view](#).

This second evolution of the plan, which has replaced our originally issued 2020/21 Destination Development and Marketing Plan, includes details on how we pivoted our core functions, and how we are helping the tourism industry restart across the region.

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