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*Chris Lewis*

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January 9, 2021

The Corporation of the Town of Essex  
33 Talbot St S  
Essex, ON  
N8M 1A8

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JAN 13 2021

Dear Business Owner,

Local entrepreneurs and small business owners have been some of the hardest-hit by the viral pandemic and government-enforced shutdown of the economy. As your local Member of Parliament for Essex, I wanted to reach out to let you know that the federal government has started accepting applications for the 2021 Canada Summer Jobs program. This federal program might be able to help offset some of your business's labour costs for the summer months as we hopefully begin to reopen our economy and see a return to fuller capacity of our local businesses.

The Canada Summer Jobs program provides wage subsidies to private-sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, and employers from not-for-profit organizations, to create summer work experiences for young people between the ages of 15 and 30. Not-for-profit employers can receive funding for up to 100 percent of the provincial minimum wage and mandatory employment-related costs. Small businesses with 50 or fewer employees and public-sector employers can receive funding for up to 75 percent of the provincial minimum hourly wage.

If your business could benefit from hiring a young person this summer and are interested in applying for this program, you can apply by visiting <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>. The employer application period for this program will close on Friday, January 29, 2021.

Small businesses are critical to the health of the Canadian economy. They represent 99 percent of all businesses in the country and employ half of all Canadians working in the private sector. There is no Canadian economy without our small and medium-sized businesses. It's as simple as that.

In Parliament, my Conservative colleagues and I have been standing up for small and medium-sized businesses and making the government's emergency programs better for Canadians. This has included increasing the wage subsidy from 10% to 75%, advocating for changes to the Liberals' failed rent subsidy program, and postponing the Liberal audits on small and medium-sized businesses. I am continuing to push for additional flexibility in the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, and other critical support programs.

As your federal representative, I will continue to stand up for workers and entrepreneurs across Canada and push the government to ensure you get the support needed to weather this pandemic.

If your business has any questions about the Canada Summer Jobs program or needs assistance with your application, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at [Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca) or 519-776-4700.

In your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CL' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chris Lewis, MP  
Essex

The interest in Government Assistance through Canada Summer Jobs is greater than the funds that are allocated to our riding. Service Canada ranks applications based on a point system that is clearly outlined in the Canada Summer Jobs Information booklet. For more information on the application process, I would highly encourage you to attend the Canada Summer Jobs virtual information session that my office is hosting with Service Canada on January 19, 2021 at 10am. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to [Chris.lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.lewis@parl.gc.ca) and the details will be provided to you. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of response.