



March 23, 2020

District Chair John Klinck  
District of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street  
Bracebridge ON P1L 1N3

cc: Mike Duben, CAO

**Re: Requesting District financial relief for businesses**

Dear Chair Klinck,

We thank the District and our Townships for their diligent focus on COVID-19, and for exploring ways to help the community at large. Certainly, the pandemic is already having a significant impact on our businesses.

The provincial and federal governments are also working to make aid available to businesses and individuals feeling the pain of COVID-19. It is not yet clear, however, how or when federal/provincial aid might flow to the municipal level; and, how it might directly flow to our local businesses (beyond the offers of loans and paying 10% of employee wages, etc.)

Today, we are writing to request the District consider **bridge financing support** (potentially interim until such time that the provincial and/or federal government begin funding businesses directly). District assistance would help businesses struggling now with cash flow and the ability to keep up with their payables in the wake of COVID-19.

We would welcome the opportunity to make recommendations on how such funding could be delivered with District officials. We can be available at a time convenient for you to discuss options via an online meeting.

Thank you for your time, consideration and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

*B. Rhodes*

Brenda Rhodes, Executive Director, Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce  
Norah Fountain, Executive Director, Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce  
On behalf of our Chamber Boards of Directors