

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County and area partners launch phase II of Business Impact Survey to support regional businesses during COVID-19

Midhurst/April 30, 2020 – The County of Simcoe Economic Development Office (EDO), in partnership with member municipalities, the cities of Barrie and Orillia and regional partners, has launched phase II of the Business Impact Survey.

The County's EDO and area partners are committed to supporting our businesses and will continue to use this information to monitor needs within the business community, to put in place supports where possible and to advocate on behalf of local businesses to other levels of government to address potential gaps and opportunities.

The *COVID-19 Business Survey 1.0* ran from March 19 to April 9 and received 811 responses from area businesses. After analyzing feedback, the County of Simcoe and area partners have developed an action plan that contains numerous initiatives under six categories, including: financial support; business outreach; support and resources; workforce alignment; economic development network collaboration and research; business promotion; and potential broader economic stimulus. The survey results for phase I are now available online and can be viewed at <https://edo.simcoe.ca/Shared%20Documents/Phase%20I%20final%20results.pdf>

Your input is valuable, and we appreciate your time in completing the survey. To participate in the *COVID-19 Business Impact Survey 2.0*, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YVSY22>. We want to hear from you so we can further support you during this challenging economic time. The deadline for survey submissions is May 8, 2020.

"Your County Council is committed to helping alleviate growing pressures on our communities and businesses as a result of COVID-19," said Warden George Cornell. "We had strong participation in our initial survey, and the County, in collaboration with our area partners, is working hard to identify opportunities that will help aid our regional economy, support our labour force and lead to a speedy recovery. Our businesses and their employees are doing everything they can to help limit the spread of COVID-19, and County Council is committed to doing everything within our power to return the support and help our economy rebound from this pandemic."

The County of Simcoe EDO is here to support our businesses and labour force. Visit the COVID-19 business resources page for up-to-date information, <https://edo.simcoe.ca/covid-19-business-resources>. We are all in this together. For more details, contact us at edo@simcoe.ca. For County-related service and program updates, visit www.simcoe.ca/covid19

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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