

Hon. Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Rod Phillips
Hon. Vic Fedeli
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria

November 5, 2020

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers,

On November 3rd, the Ontario government announced the [Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebates program](#) – a \$300 million fund for businesses required to close or significantly restrict services in areas subject to modified Stage 2 public health restrictions (Ottawa, Peel, Toronto, and York Region) or, going forward, in areas categorized as Control or Lockdown.

The Canadian Association of Exposition Management (CAEM) supports this new program and applauds your government's decision to assist businesses that have been required to shutdown, with rebates to help with fixed costs, such as property tax and energy bills.

Unfortunately, after reviewing the types of businesses that are eligible for this program, it concerns us greatly that certain businesses in the exposition sector has been overlooked. While it is noted that conference centres and convention centres, as well as meeting and event spaces are eligible to apply for this program, it would appear as though organizers of trade shows / expositions and suppliers of products and services to the sector, do not currently figure on the list of eligible business types.

As a reminder, the exposition sector was among the first to be shut down in mid-March, and we remain one of the few industries still contending with a complete and indefinite shutdown of all business activity. COVID-19 has had an equally devastating impact on all business stakeholders in the exposition sector, including venues and facilities but also organizers of trade shows and suppliers of products and services to the industry.

It is undeniable - and CAEM is in full agreement - that conference centres and convention centres, as well as meeting and event spaces, should be eligible for this program. **However, CAEM is calling on your government to expand the eligibility criteria immediately, to include ALL businesses in the exposition sector that have been required to shutdown – including organizers of trade shows and suppliers of products and services to the industry - based on their ability to submit proof of costs and information related to their business' revenue decline.**

I trust that your government will look favourably on this request. If you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Bianca Kennedy

President – CAEM

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