

Petition to the House of Commons

WHEREAS

- The commercial events space, including trade shows, consumer shows, and expositions, has been one of the most impacted sectors in the pandemic.
- The sector is committed to a safe restart and is well-prepared to rigorously implement health and safety standards as required by local officials, yet the commercial events industry has predicted that continued restrictions throughout 2021 will result in a worse year than 2020.
- It is clear that more targeted support is needed. The exposition sector serves as the driving force behind countless other industries, from travel to tourism, and from local small businesses and sports to manufacturing.
- Giving a hand up to this industry, whose members are active participants in their communities, provides a golden opportunity to simultaneously support local economies, including sparking the creation of well-paying jobs and making it possible for small businesses across the supply chain to not just survive, but succeed.

We, the undersigned Members of the Canadian Association of Exposition Management and impacted Canadians within the commercial events sector, including trade shows, consumer shows, and expositions, call upon the House of Commons to:

- Extend the CEWS until June 2022 for the hardest-hit sectors, which includes producers of trade shows, consumer shows and expositions, as well as those in the supply chain relying on commercial events for a certain percentage of their annual revenue. Extend the CERS until June 2022 for the hardest-hit sectors, including producers of trade shows, consumer shows & expositions, as well as those in the supply chain relying on commercial events for a certain percentage of their annual revenue.
- Expand the CERS eligibility criteria to include rent paid by show producers to facilities once reopening begins
- Establish a specific business events funding stream that includes trade and consumer shows, as well as related businesses such as those in the supply chain relying on commercial events for a certain percentage of their annual revenue, should be established, with a portion of the funding earmarked as forgivable.
- Amend the current Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) to ensure a portion of available loans should be forgivable or available at no interest.