

May 11, 2023

Hon. Chrystia Freeland MP
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0G5

Dear Minister,

As the deadline to repay the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loans approaches, small business owners across Canada are worried about their futures. For many, their business revenues have NOT returned to pre-pandemic levels. Coupled with additional economic factors such as labour shortages, rising minimum wage levels, upward inflationary trends and rising interest rates - small businesses are struggling. In fact, recent polls are unanimously reflecting, that without further assistance many small businesses will fail.

The CEBA loan was welcomed by many and served its purpose well. But the economic factors listed above are now working against the small business owners - the businesses that serve as the foundation of our economy. Many of these owners are franchisees in Canada and that is why we are reaching out to you today.

As the franchising voice in Canada, the Canadian Franchise Association would like to formally ask for a 2-year extension for CEBA loans repayment to December 31, 2025. This would give time for government initiatives to be effective and assist those they are designed to help. New education programs and standards, labour initiatives, immigration expansion and red tape employment relief will all take time to be effective.

Asking small businesses to repay the loans now is simply not conducive to building the economy. They need the time to re-establish, to create new jobs that will be filled through the assistance of new government initiatives – all contributing to a strong economy going forward.

Support small business – extend the CEBA loan repayment timetable to December 31, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Sherry McNeil
President and CEO

About Canadian Franchise Association

The Canadian Franchise Association (CFA) is the national, not-for-profit association of more than 700 corporate members representing over 40,000 franchise business owners of over 65,000 franchise establishments.

CFA is the voice of the franchise community and the recognized authority on franchising in Canada. CFA speaks for a business sector that represents every industry and touches the lives of every Canadian, in every community across the country.

Canadian franchises contribute over \$117 Billion per year to the Canadian economy and create jobs for over 1.9 million Canadians. Canadian franchises enable 78,000 hardworking Canadians to be their own boss as the owner of their own small business franchise location, serving their neighbours in communities from coast to coast to coast.

CFA members represent a diverse cross-section of businesses and over 60 sectors in Canada. Our members range from very large, established franchise systems, to smaller or emerging franchise brands. Members share the conviction that their commitment to excellence improves franchising for everyone involved, including franchisors, franchisees, suppliers, and customers.

