

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



## **STRATFORD PERTH CENTRE FOR BUSINESS OFFERING FREE COVID SAFETY PLAN PREPARATION WEBINARS TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*Economic Development Offices partner with Huron Perth Public Health and Workplace Safety and Prevention Services*

*Stratford, Ontario –April 7, 2021... The Stratford Perth Centre for Business, a department of investStratford, is joining together with Huron County Economic Development to offer 7 free webinars in April on “How to Create Your Mandatory COVID Safety Plan” for general businesses, festivals, events and cultural industries. All local businesses are encouraged to sign up for any of the offered dates in order to receive free guidance on how to develop the mandatory COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan.*

The Province of Ontario currently requires all businesses to have a completed COVID-19 Safety Plan. Under the Reopening Ontario Act 2020, or the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the set fines for non-compliance range from \$750 for individuals, \$1,000 for corporations, \$100K for employers to \$10M for corporations failing to comply. A recent Stratford inspection blitz of 33 City businesses found 52% in compliance. In an effort to assist local businesses, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business, investStratford and Huron County Economic Development have joined forces to offer small businesses who have not yet created a Workplace Safety Plan free access to the online workshops. More information here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/develop-your-covid-19-workplace-safety-plan>

The free sessions will be presented by representatives from Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS) and Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH).

### Event dates below:

- Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00pm (General Businesses)
- Monday, April 12 – 10:00am (Festivals & Events)
- Tuesday, April 13 – 10:00am (Cultural Industries)
- Monday, April 19 – 2:00pm (General Businesses)
- Wednesday, April 21 – 10:00am (General Businesses)
- Monday, April 26 – 12:00pm (General Businesses)
- Wednesday, April 28 – 2:00pm (General Businesses)

Representatives will review Workplace Safety Plan development with templates and step-by-step instructions on how to complete; proper screening protocols (how to implement and what changes are required at different levels); and posting capacity limits with tips to determine what they are at each level and suggestions for how to control this. Presentations will be approximately 30 minutes with links to useful information and direction on who to contact for more direct support. Q&A sessions will follow to allow specific questions.

To learn more and register for either of the next 2 webinars visit Stratford Perth Centre for Business website [www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca](http://www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca) and to view the entire series visit: <https://how-to-develop-your-covid-safety-plan-business1.eventbrite.ca>

About the Stratford-Perth Centre for Business

*The Stratford Perth Centre for Business operates as a department of investStratford in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. The Stratford Perth Centre for Business is committed to helping small business owners achieve their business goals. The Centre offers local small business support and complimentary consultation and easy access to resources, including business start-up services to support the development of new and already established small businesses. In addition to advisory services, events, seminars and training opportunities are held throughout the year to meet small business essentials.*

*For more info email: [info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca](mailto:info@stratfordperthbusiness.ca)*

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