

**The following is a sample of comments provided by business owners and landlords at the end of the CEBA March 2023 survey:**

I think for certain industries covid never ended and the government should look at certain industries.

If this debt cannot be forgiven, maybe more of a grace period for repayment could be offered. Continuing business post pandemic is almost as much of a struggle as being in pandemic

From a policy perspective, the cost of support services for individuals laid off due to CEBA repayment (including business owners) will end up costing more than loan forgiveness.

We were fortunate enough not to have to take the loan and had the ability to forgive/extend interest free/delay our commercial tenants payments (some of which are still behind). We have done this and taken our own financial losses in supporting these small family businesses, because we are a small family business too. It's heartbreaking to see these good families potentially lose their livelihoods. Even with our personal support, these businesses were forced to take on significant amounts of debt and we are concerned for their futures as these loans become due and as interest rates rise and business financing tightens up. We want our commercial tenants to succeed. Please consider extending the loan repayments and/or forgiving these loans. Please consider our personal sacrifice and those of other small landlords, so that our contribution to the small business community has meaning by taking measures to allow these other small businesses to survive. Thank you.

...The government must understand that these loans were an investment to keep businesses going, and to expect these loans to be repaid so quickly when businesses are still struggling and our communities have still not returned to the levels of involvement that occurred pre-covid, is a death sentence to any business regardless of their level of success. Loans are designed to be given when they can reasonably be repaid. The government should view these business supports as investments, and the return on them should not be their full repayment, but rather the continuation of businesses all across the country that offer a multitude of good services to the community. Employment, culture, community investment, etc. To require these loans to be paid back would just be a temporary extension of life to businesses instead of the commitment to keep businesses that received these loans afloat for years to come.

The CEBA loan was extremely helpful, but the conditions to pay it off were designed with a much shorter length of time expected for shutdowns. The amount of debt taken on has grown considerably and thanks to inflation, business margins have become slimmer than ever. Paying off CEBA as of dec 31, would basically drain me of all assets and seriously compromise my ability to operate if facing any sort of crisis or financial shortfall

The support from the government kept a roof over my family's head and kept my business doors open. I am very grateful for it. I didn't take a paycheck myself for a large portion of the pandemic and am still not taking more than just paying my rent because I have so much debt to pay off. I feel like I am barely scratching the surface and am suffocating. I have rebuilt my business, elevated my services and programs, rebuilt my team (who now requires a much higher wage than pre-covid since it was almost impossible to find staff for over a year). I have made great progress and am working non stop but I have two daughters under 4 years old. We don't have any savings or an emergency fund and I need to build that. Forgiving the entire amount of the CEBA loan would be life changing, I am crying writing this. I cried when I got the loans too, it has been an extremely stressful and exhausting three years. This will allow me to make a dent in the other \$150,000 debt I have and build some savings and emergency fund for my family. I am begging you, please forgive the CEBA debt. Thank you for your time.

It was a great lifeline that helped us offset some expenses as we pivoted our business many times to stay afloat. We appreciated how quickly the government responded. However as a catering company 100% of our pre-covid business was wiped out. We adapted but the costs of that escalated as we had to invest in equipment etc... to support the many pivots. It would be great if 50% of CEBA was forgivable, or at least delaying the repayment until 2024.

More of the loan should be forgiven. Big businesses get bailed out all the time because they gambled and lost. We were forced to close, forced to go into debt...all while still having to pay our fixed costs like insurance, rent etc. We will never get out of debt. We went from pandemic, to inflation, to being gouged by suppliers to a 6% increase in beer tax

I think that small business is at the end of the food chain so to speak. The businesses that provide services to us (accountant, lawyer, insurance etc) never took a hit. In fact they increased prices. Everyone along the chain should carry some of the burden. I feel that we have been left to pay off enormous covid debts while the rest of the world has just moved ahead and forgotten about us (conveniently)

I would be grateful and be able to operate my business with another year's extension

We want to pay back the debt slowly with no interest (installment).

I will be borrowing money at a high interest rate from a non-bank lender to pay off the \$40k unforgiven CEBA loan by December 31 in order to qualify for the \$20k portion that is forgiven. Otherwise I will owe the full \$60k at 5%. I need time or full forgiveness.

Considering the government just gave 76 million to the airlines for people having grievances with luggage...this will force many to close or let go of staff

We have struggled for years. If we have to repay the loan, we will. However, I know there are businesses who took the loan and failed. They simply closed and haven't paid it back. By forcing those of us who made it to repay the loan, we feel we are being penalized for getting through. I'll have to borrow from family, at current interest rates, in

order to get through the loan. I nearly lost my home. I'm worried I'll be back in that position again.

My business as others were shut down completely for over a year in total. That is a lot to lose. Yes we had rent subsidy but that went to landlords. We as small businesses still had to pay for utilities etc. out of pocket.

With inflation rising every minute and business is still slow, it will help me stay in business if I am forgiven for the debt I owe. If not It will be helpful if the re-paying interest is reduced from 5% which will be after the due date.

As it has been mentioned in the survey, my sales have been reduced to 25% to 45% in some months. So I still don't have enough sales to recover my loan. I have to go under more debt to repay the federal loan.