

Penticton, BC

For Immediate Release: November 2, 2023
Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce

Securing The Small Business Rebate to pay for Criminal damage and/or Preventative Measures

The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is excited to share the news of the newly launched Securing Small Business Rebate Program, an initiative by B.C.'s Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation. This program aims to support small businesses in Penticton and across the province by providing funds for eligible commercial property crime and vandalism repairs or implementing preventative measures.

With the increasing costs associated with property crime and vandalism affecting both rural and urban communities across British Columbia, this \$10.5 million program comes as a welcome relief for small businesses facing these challenges.

Program Timeline:

- The application portal will be live from November 22, 2023, to January 31, 2025.
- Rebate applications are retroactive to January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024, and will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Successful rebate applications will be screened, reviewed, approved, and paid within 35 business days, with minimal follow-up.
- Rebates will be issued via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) from December 2023 to February 2025.

Types of Rebates:

1. **Reparative Rebate:** This offers immediate relief to offset eligible reparative costs incurred due to damage to eligible commercial property caused by vandalism on or after January 1, 2023. It's available as a one-time rebate of up to \$2,000 per calendar year.
2. **Preventative Rebate:** This provides funding for eligible proactive/preventative measures to mitigate damage to eligible commercial property due to vandalism. It's available as a one-time rebate of up to \$1,000.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for either rebate, businesses should be in good standing with the Province of British Columbia and should not have received an alternative, local rebate or grant to cover the same expense.

We encourage all our valued members to take advantage of this opportunity to secure support for your business. This program is an excellent way to mitigate the financial impact of property crime and vandalism.

Our partner organization, the BC Chamber of Commerce, will administer the rebate program, ensuring that businesses from every sector and region in the province are aware of the rebate and have the chance to apply.

For more information, visit: <https://bcchamber.org/securing-small-business-rebate>