



COVID-19 – Peer Support Group Meeting Notes

April 14 & 16, 2020

WATCH PAST MEETINGS: <https://www.meatpoultryon.ca/peer-support-group/>

Summary and Update from Last Call – Franco Naccarato, MPO
Updates from last week: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$50 million for inspector training from government.- Foreign worker assistance and government grant to cover quarantine time.- Closing plants due to positive COVID tests, we need to instill confidence in food system to reduce panic buying.
Guest Speakers
<p>Betty-Jo Almond, Business Development Manager AgSites TOPIC: Strategies for transitioning to ecommerce – Click for presentation</p> <p>Patrick Maher, Principal Consultant & Business Resilience Lead AON TOPIC: COVID-19 Business Continuity Planning – Click here for presentation</p>
Roundtable Discussion
Q&A/New Challenges: <p>Delivery Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Uber eats- Customer delivery options based on your stores availability- Curbside pick up- Instacart <p>Ecommerce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Are there long term solutions available?- How can retailers be set up to better accommodate new way of order processing?



General Discussion/Challenges:

- Some employees are fearful of coming into work, what are best practices in this case. This is an issue with quite a few members.
 - Some employees using vacation time.
 - Some are asking to be laid off (and can make more income with CERB) but issue is rehiring needs to happen so their job won't be available should they decide to come back at a later date.
 - EI money is just as good as what some workers are making (not eligible if they voluntarily leave). Some employees making up false excuses in order to use emergency benefit.
 - What are employer obligations during this time, employees do not have the right to refuse work if essential. Ministry of Labour can investigate if issue is fear. Can be considered job abandonment if workplace is considered to be safe and employees refuse to come to work.