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It is fascinating to watch the intersection between “business as usual” and “pandemic response” as so many organisations adjust and prepare to managing life with COVID for some time to come. In this article, I’d like to let you know about some of the supports that are currently available to business to help with this adjustment.

Applications opened on October 26th for the **Canada United Small Business Relief Fund**. “Created and launched by RBC, Canada United is a national movement to support local businesses in communities across the country.” In addition, during Small Business Week, *Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade* Minister Mary Ng announced an investment of \$12 million to support the Canada United campaign. Small businesses are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to help them adjust to the impacts of the pandemic. This can range from health and safety modifications to enhancing their e-commerce presence. You can apply at <https://occ.ca/canada-united-small-business-relief-fund/>

Moving from a national to a regional opportunity, **VIATEC** has launched their *Digital Economy: Rapid Response + Resiliency Program* for businesses in the Greater Victoria region. “This program was created to help Greater Victoria businesses outside of the tech sector to explore and implement business tools and models to help them adapt to the business challenges of a global pandemic..” It is a “no-cost, no-obligation program that works one-to-one with business owners on their unique needs and circumstances...” The program is funded through Western Economic Diversification through Innovate BC, and you can find out more by clicking on “Programs and Services” at viatec.ca

Also funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada is a professional development program which is led by the **BC Chamber of Commerce** in which chambers, their members and non-members from across the province are taking part. *Building Resilience to Thrive* is an “online training program, developed in partnership with UVIC’s Gustavson School of Business. [It] will offer relief to businesses, helping to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by teaching them how to adapt their business models, re-engage customers, and adjust workplace cultures. The certificate program will be offered to individuals at a minimal registration fee to ensure cost isn’t a barrier during the pandemic...The program will feature weekly seminars delivered by award-winning professors Dr. Mark Colgate and Prof. Brian Leacock, for six weeks and will be offered three times over the course of five months until the end of March 2021.” To find out more or sign up for cohorts 2 or 3, please go to bcchamber.org and click on “News and Events.”