

Now's the time to

#SupportSmall

You can help our economy get back on track by supporting our small businesses to reopen and get back on their feet.

Eight easy things you can do to #support small

1. Buy from independent businesses instead of big chains:
 - Shop local and shop online
 - Visit your local restaurant, get your meal delivered or order a takeaway feast
 - Take advantage of meal planning expertise and order prepared meals for the week
 - Take a morning break - walk to your local coffee shop for your takeaway coffee and visit the bakery for a fresh loaf of bread to make lunch
 - Keep active – join an online fitness, pilates, yoga or spin class with your local fitness studio.
 - Explore your neighbourhood and find businesses you never knew were there – a print shop, a providore, a gallery, a café, a jeweler, an accountant or beauty salon – a hidden gem that just may become a new favourite.
 - Get back to your favourite hobby or start a new one – puzzles, painting, drawing, knitting, jigsaws, gardening, reading, music, sewing, crafting, cooking – the list is endless and independent businesses stock the supplies.
2. Buy gift cards and vouchers for use later on or as gifts for friends and family. This helps business keep up their cash flow so that as restrictions ease, businesses are still around for us to support.
3. Don't cancel when you can reschedule - instead of cancelling your plans due to social distancing measures and asking for a refund, consider rescheduling them to a later date.
4. Buy fresh produce from the farmgate or grower's markets – Now we can take a drive out of our local area, a country drive could find you buying anything from fruit, vegetables or flowers to preserves, eggs or honey from the farm gate. And if a country drive isn't for you, grower's markets are re-opening and you can buy your weekly supply of fresh fruit, vegies, meat, eggs, cheese and bread
5. Reach out to your favourite businesses and ask them what they need – volunteer your services – your skills in web design, book keeping, photography or finance could be just what they need a hand with.
6. Encourage your friends to buy from small businesses and let them know you're supporting small business – take a picture of the business you visited @tag them and add the hashtag #supportsmall when you post on social media.
7. Pay the good will forward - share you good experiences with small independent businesses on social media using the hashtag #supportsmall. Don't forget to leave your favourite businesses a good review online – this is a small but important gesture, especially if you are not in a position to spend money right now. Let people know all the great things about it so that people are encouraged to visit when they reopen or spend money at online stores.
8. Give your favourite small business a plug on social media using the hashtag #supportsmall. Thanks to social distancing, people are spending more and more time on their phones and computers. That means more eyes on social media.

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