

COVID-19 Response - Recovery

WEBINAR + ROUNDTABLE

Current • Practical • Localized

THE ISLANDS

Bowen, Cormorant, Cortes, Denman, Gabriola,
Galiano, Gambier, Hornby, Lasqueti, Malcolm,
Mayne, Pender, Quadra, Salt Spring, Saturna,
Texada, Thetis, and Broughton Archipelago

May 28, 2020 • 3 - 4 PM

Virtual Meeting Format

- MUTE when not speaking
- Close video to save bandwidth
- Raise 'hand' button'- moderator will recognize
- In 'chat' introduce yourself and your island
- Submit question/comments in 'chat'
- Q & A will follow all presentations
- Meeting is being recorded

Today's Program

WELCOME:

- Malcolm, Mayne Island Updates
- ***Island COMEBACK*** launched!
- Learnings – *Island Response & Recovery Surveys*
 - Galiano-Mayne-Pender-Saturna
 - Salt Spring
 - TechHatchery-Quadra
- Q & A + Additional Updates

Island Updates

- Specific challenges now
- Recent actions taken to support island economic response and recovery
- Most effective communication tools being utilized
- Advocacy and/or coordination with local government
- Share a personal reflection or 'good news' story

Island Update - Malcolm

Marjorie Giroux,

Sointula Resource Centre Society

Malcolm Island- *Sointula*

- An intentional community founded in 1901 by a group of socialist Finns attempting to create a utopian society.
- Sointula Co-op Store operating since 1909. (Food, gas, hardware)
- Full time residents 744 (2016)
- Manages its own drinking water through the Sointula Waterworks.
- 23% of properties in the Waterworks District (Town) are owned by people from off island.



COVID Community Response

Malcolm Island Pandemic Supporters

- Created mass mail out to inform community of supports and protocols
- Created a community kitchen to support anyone with Covid
- Organized a free mask program
- Established a list of accommodations for people to self isolate
- A 60 person volunteer list to delivery groceries, walk pets, gather mail, pick up medication and check in on folks
- Almost everyone in the local phone book was called for general check in and to make sure they knew about supports systems in place



Sointula Resource Centre Society

- Created a Covid web page with all local essential businesses and services hours and protocols, links to provincial, federal, and health support programs.
- Developed protocols early to keep community access computers available and provided support for online applications. (installed screen sharing software so people could physically distance)
- Supported local volunteer groups.
- Information, information, information (website, social media and good old fashioned posters)



Pandemic Planning Group

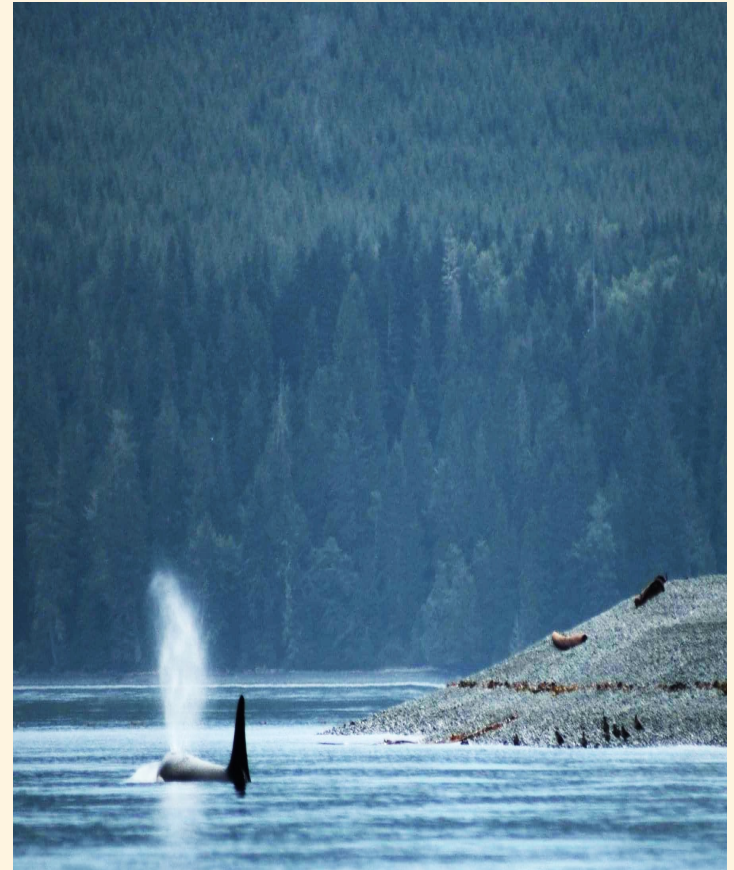
- Composed of community leaders from the island including: the SRC, MIPS, Volunteer Fire Dept, Health Nurse, Paramedics, the Sointula Recreation Association, Malcolm Island Harbour Authority, the Regional District of Mount Waddington, Seniors and a couple of highly active community members at large.
- Came to be once it was discovered our Emergency Response Plan only dealt with hurricanes and tsunamis.
- Created short term strategies to support community.
- Currently developing an action plan for emergency response based on lesson learned and to be prepared for future.



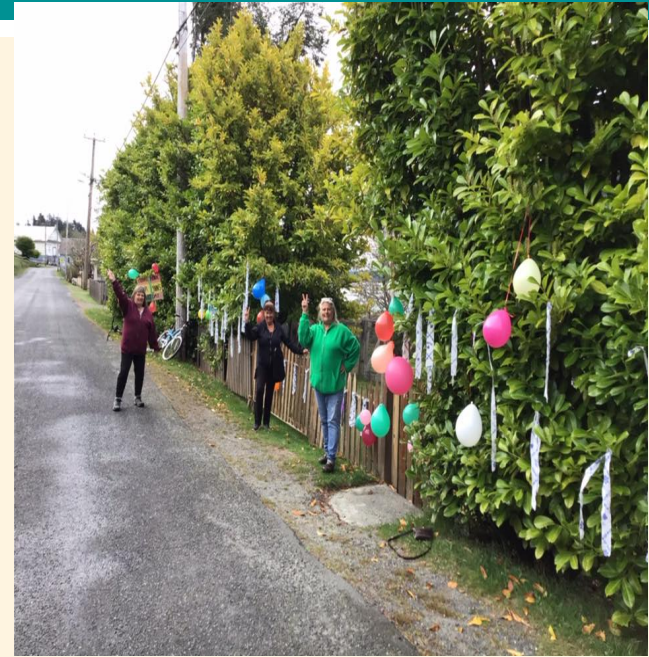
Current Challenges

■ Reopening

- There is division in community on how, if, and when to reopen to non-residents.
- Conflicting messages between the Province's reopening plan and BC Ferries non-essential travel recommendation.
- General confusion on *what's next*.
- What to tell visitors about bringing in supplies?
- Supporting our Co-op.



Sharing.... *Birthday Bandits*



Island Update – Mayne

Jean- Daniel Cusin
Mayne, Liaison, CRD

Deborah Goldman
SGI-CESC, Chair

- Specific challenges now
- Recent actions taken to support island economic response and recovery
- Most effective communication tools being utilized
- Advocacy and/or coordination with local government
- Share a personal reflection or 'good news' story

Q & A
+
Comments



<https://islandcomeback.ca>

Island COMEBACK is here for you!

A gift certificate and donation recovery program for businesses and organizations.

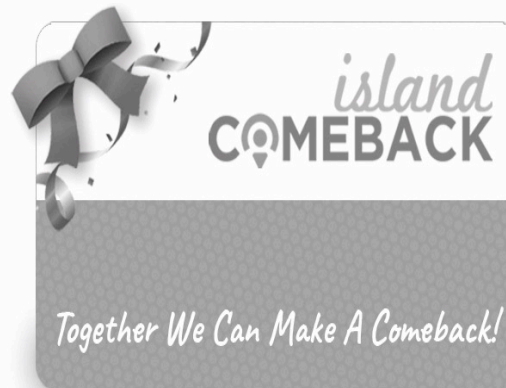
Start generating immediate assistance.
Island COMEBACK is free to join:

www.islandcomeback.ca/register



RURAL
ISLANDS
ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP
CULTIVATING RESILIENT
PARTNERSHIPS

ruralislandspartnership.ca/



As of Noon Today

ISLAND	VENDORS	STRIPE?
Bowen	22	15
Cormorant	5	3
Cortes	0	0
Denman	6	3
Gabriola	20	14
Galiano	14	5
Gambier	0	0
Hornby	0	0
Lasqueti	0	0
Malcolm	6	1
Mayne	0	0
Pender	6	3
Quadra	6	4
Salt Spring	36	18
Saturna	3	2
Texada	0	0
Thetis	0	0
TOTAL	124	68

PR & Marketing Blitz:

- Local launch May 28th
- Provincial & National June 1st

Pandemic Response & Recovery

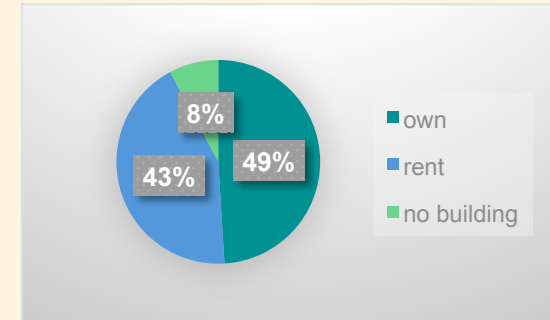
Survey- *Island Key Findings:*

- Galiano-Mayne-Pender-Saturna
- Salt Spring
- TechHatchery - Quadra

Galiano-Mayne-Pender-Saturna

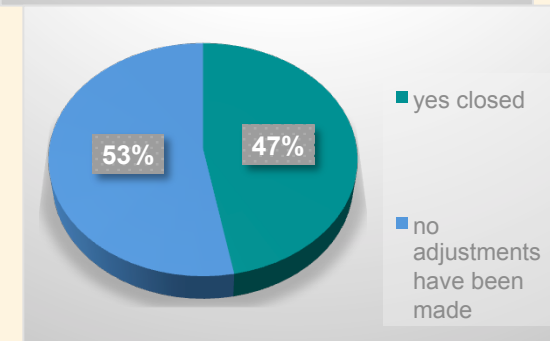
■ Do you own or rent your building?

- Own: 25 Rent:
- 22 no building: 4



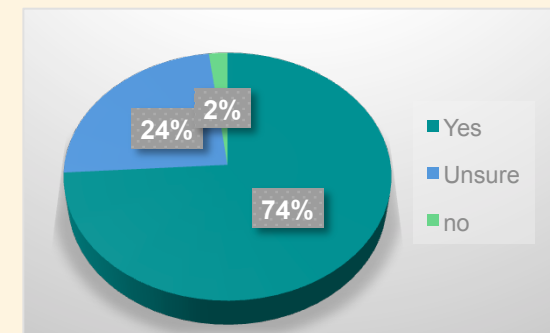
■ Has your business closed because of pandemic

- Yes, closed: 24
- No, open with adjustments: 27



■ Will you be able to restart once the pandemic is over?

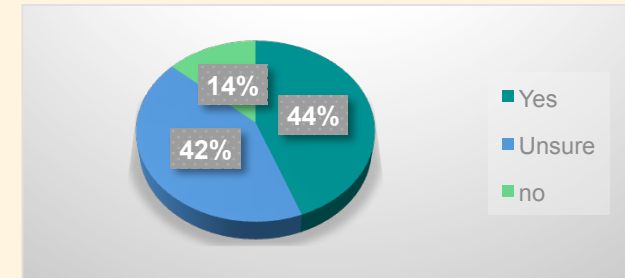
- Yes: 37 Unsure: 12 No: 1



Galiano-Mayne-Pender-Saturna

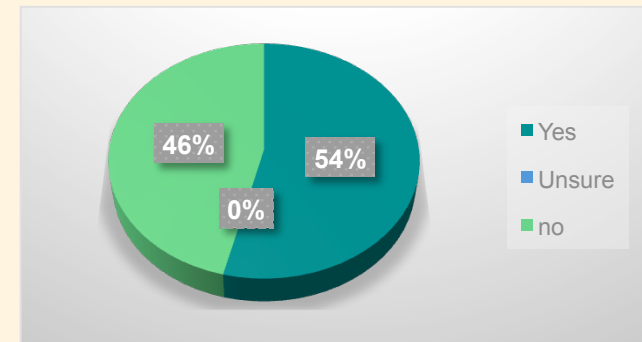
- **Would you be able to adapt to “physical distancing” if it becomes the new norm?**

○ Yes: 23 Unsure: 22 No: 7



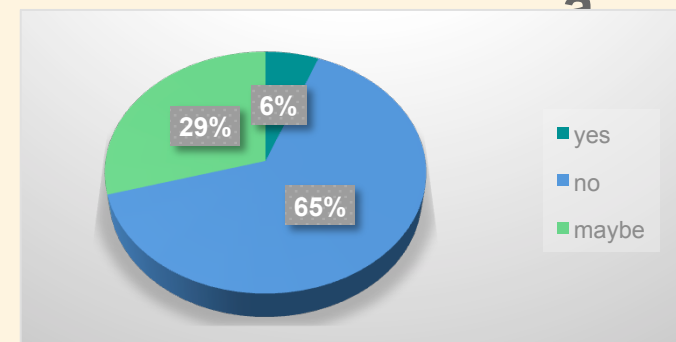
- **Have you been affected by connectivity issues?**

○ Yes: 28 Unsure: 0 No: 24



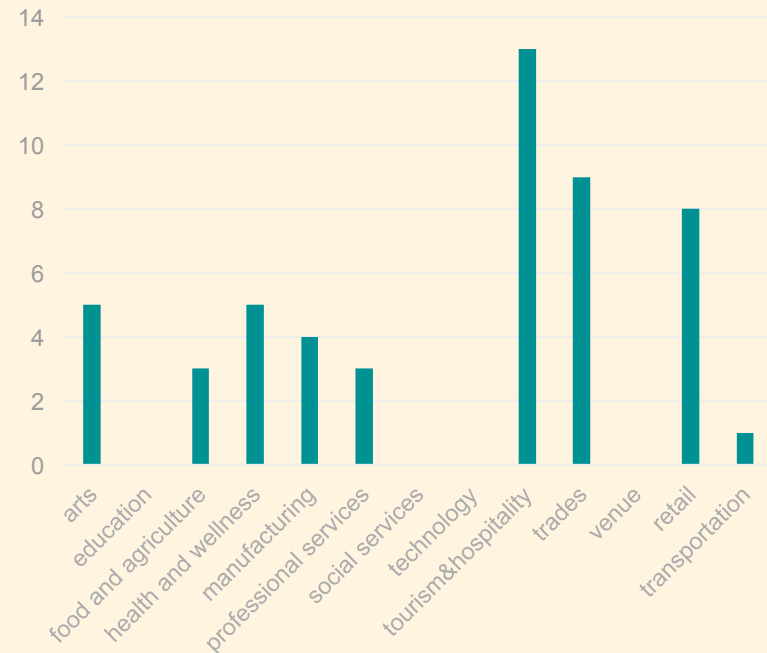
- **Would you be interested in having local investor invest in your operational and locally owned?**

○ yes: 3 No: 33 Maybe 15

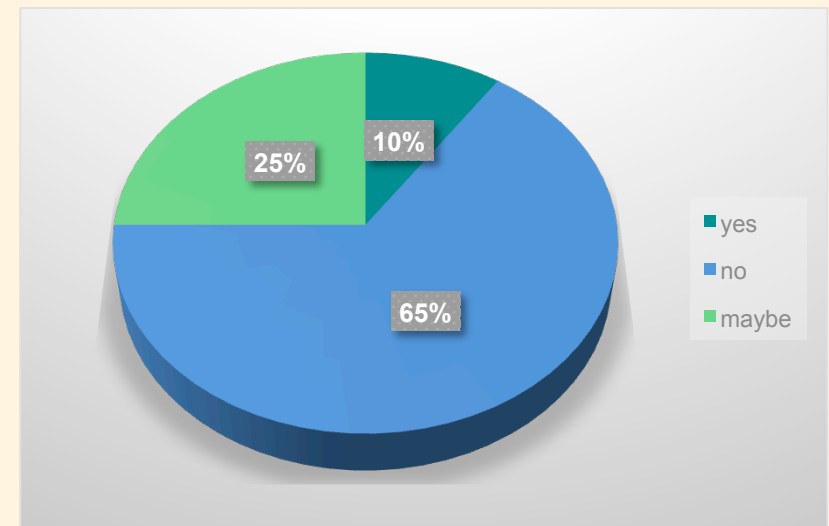


■ What industry best represent your business?

- Arts: 5
- Education: 0,
- Food and Agriculture: 3
- Health and wellness: 5
- Manufacturing: 4
- professional services: 3
- Tourism & hospitality: 13
- Trades 9
- Retail 8
- Transportation 1



- ## ■ Would you be interested in having access to a low-interest/no-interest loan from a local community investment co-op to help you through the crisis?
- **Yes: 5, No: 34, Maybe: 13**



- Would you be interested in applying for a grant to help you through this crisis

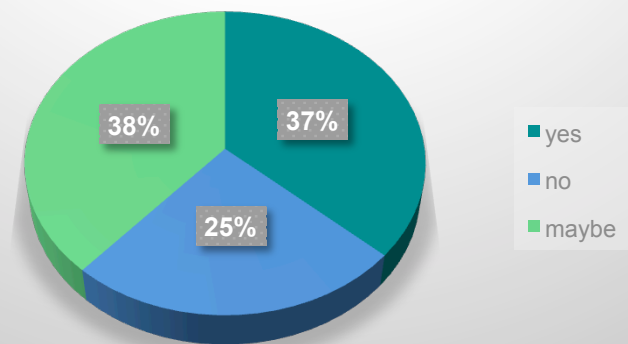
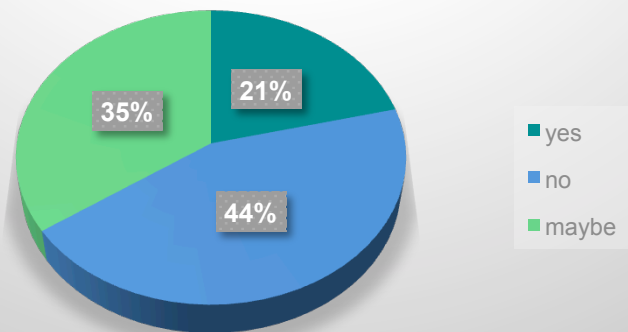
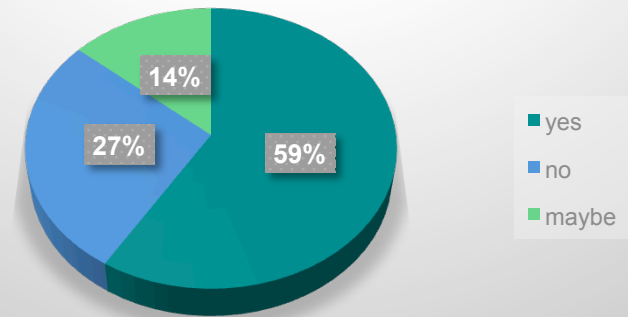
- **Yes: 30, No: 14, Maybe: 7**

- Would you be interested in receiving additional support, advice or mentor-ship to help your business

- **Yes: 11, No: 23, Maybe: 18**

- Would you be interested in participating in an inter island conversations about recovery?

- **Yes: 19, No: 13, Maybe: 20**



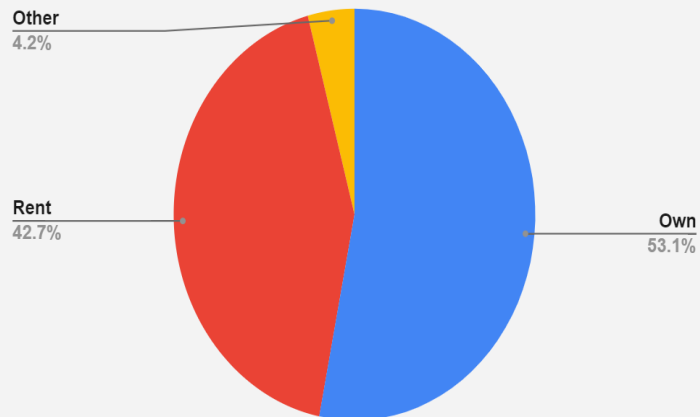
Economic Response & Recovery Survey – Salt Spring Island • April 2020

The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce and Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission on behalf of the Farm and Business Response and Recovery Task Force conducted a business impact survey to evaluate the impact the COVID-19 crisis is having on Salt Spring Businesses.

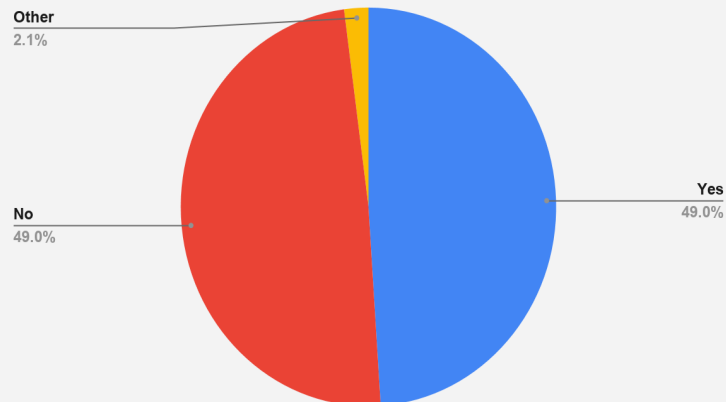
There were 96 respondents of approximately 700 local businesses. The respondents represented a variety of industries and a variety of home-based vs. commercial businesses.

Here are some of the key findings:

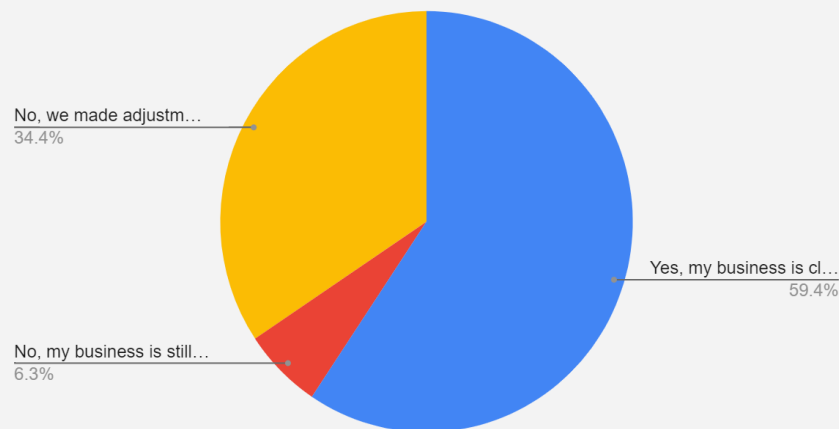
1. Do you own or rent your building?



2. Do you own a home-based Business?



3. Have you had to close your business due to the pandemic?



4. If applicable, how many employees have you released as a result of the pandemic.

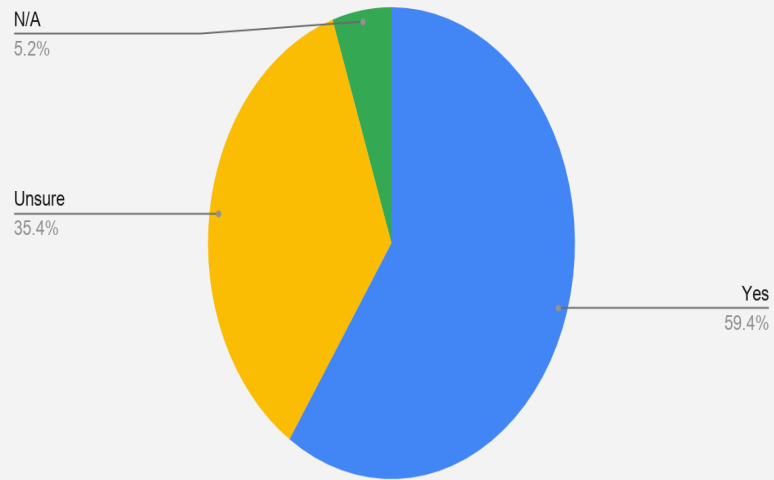
A stated total of 269 employees from the 96 surveyed businesses.

*many stated that they hadn't let people go yet, but would not be hiring their summer staff

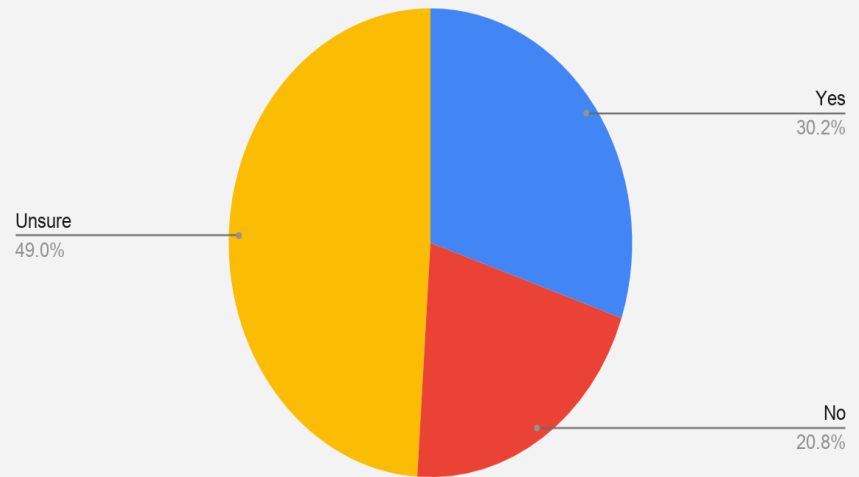
*many reduced hours

*does not include subcontractors for construction companies

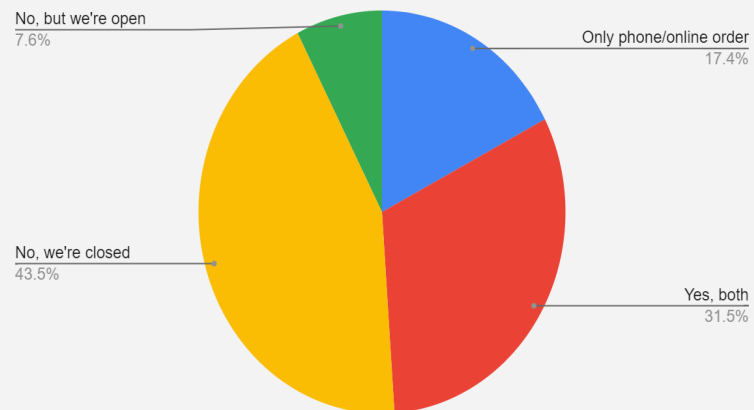
5. Will you be able to restart your business once the pandemic is over?



6. If 'social distancing' becomes the new norm, will your business be able to accommodate while remaining



7. Can your customers order by phone/online and can you deliver?

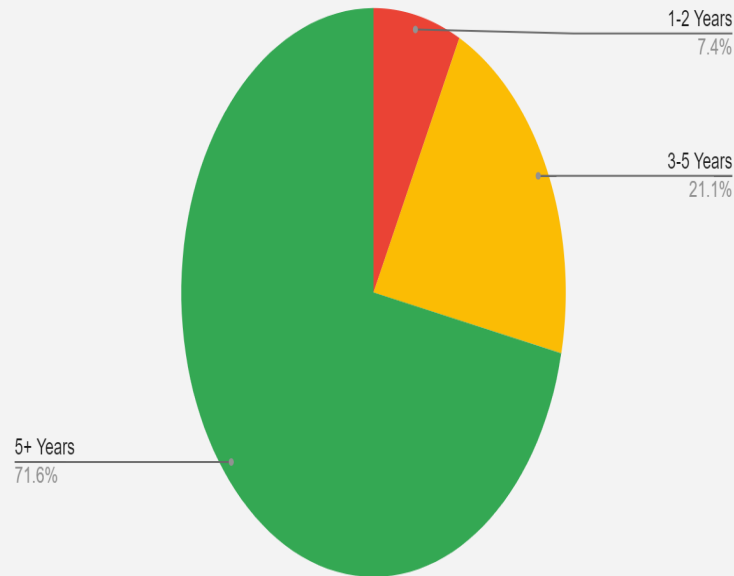


8. What do you anticipate as your main challenges in the next 2-3 months?

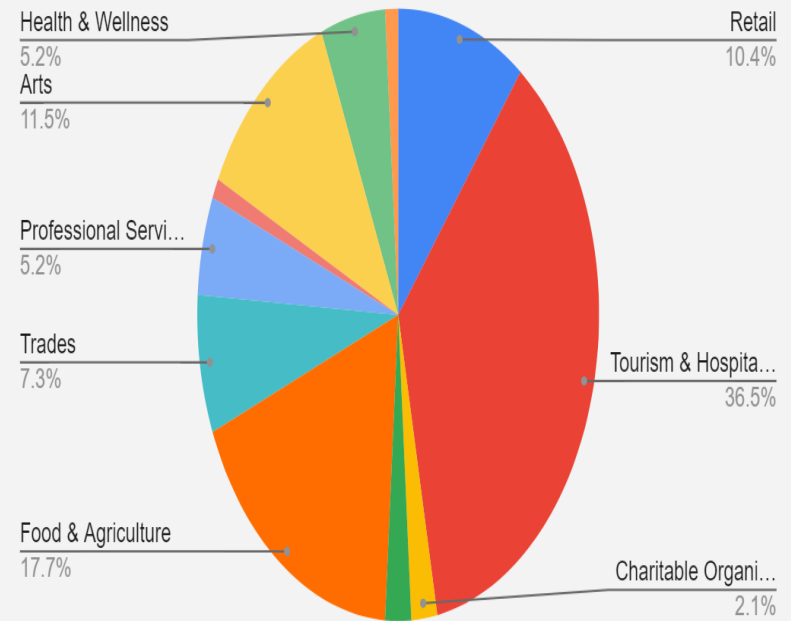
- **Cash Flow:** 74% of respondents indicated cash-flow as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months. .
- **Demand:** 47.9% of respondents indicated demand as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months. .
- **Supply Chain:** 26% of respondents indicated supply chain as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.
- **Rent/Landlord Negotiations:** 22.9% of respondents indicated rent/landlord negotiations as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.
- **Repayment of Existing Loans:** 19.8% of respondents indicated repayment of existing loans as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.
- **Morale:** 18.8% of respondents indicated morale as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.
- **Staffing:** 18.8% of respondents indicated staffing as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.
- **Bankruptcy:** 11% of respondents indicated bankruptcy as one of their top 3 challenges in the next 2-3 months.

Indicated in comments, many businesses commented on the decline in tourism and concern that the season will not pick up or recover due to the virus as being a big concern (demand). As well as concern over ferries, the elimination of the Long Harbour/Tswassen route until June for business purposes (Supply chain).

9. How long have you been in Business?



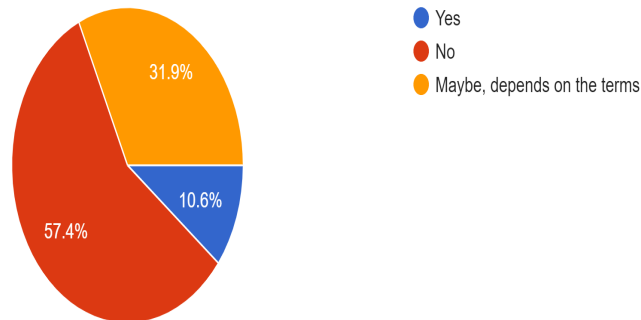
10. Which industry best represents your business?



Many comments indicated a heavy reliance on tourism or blended industries, specific types of retail including social enterprises.

11. Would you be interested in having a local investor invest in your business to keep it operations and locally owned?

94 responses

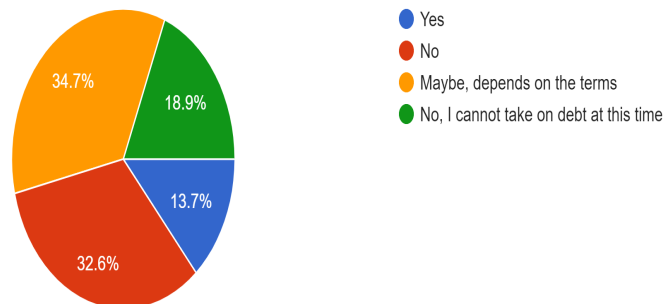


In the additional comments sections businesses revealed details about their concern for not only this year, but for up to 30 months due to the loss of the tourism season and people's desire to plan closer to home experiences and life events for next year.

Additionally, many businesses stated that bridging from the government and community will not be enough unless there is ongoing support through the winter and into the next "high season". Typically high season profits cover low season losses.

12. Would you be interested in having access to low-interest/no-interest loan for operations or bridging from a local community investment co-op to help you through this crisis?

95 responses



Charitable organizations stated concerns over loss revenue due to cancelled events as a serious concern.

There were a variety of comments from businesses that do not qualify for the government subsidies in any form as they are either too small or have blended incomes (Retirement being a major one).

TecHatchery - Quadra

Andreas Hagen

- Quadra & TecHatchery Campbell River
 - Key learnings for now and into the future

Covid -19 INFO HUB

One-Stop for Response and Recovery Current info;
includes link to local plans

- Now live <https://hub.ruralislandspartnership.ca>
- Being updated 3x per week
- Please send and new info you found useful to share

Next Webinar- Thursday, June 11

- How we are '**pivoting**' theme for next Webinar
- Webinar Outcomes Link - <https://ruralislandpartnership.ca/response/-recovery-webinarseries>
- Please Support: <https://islandcomeback.ca>

