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Benefit Facts Article

A Helping Hand With Business Assistance Services

According to Statistics Canada, the failure rate for small businesses in Canada is alarmingly high. While 85 per cent make it through their first year of business, only 51 per cent survive through year five.

Small business owners know that they can use some help, with two-thirds wanting help with financial planning or tax payments and over half wanting to learn more about cash flow, as reported by the 2012 Sage North America's financial literacy survey. The survey of 300 also revealed three quarters of owners do their own invoicing and over half of owners do their own payroll and accounting.

Expert opinions can be expensive, and most small businesses cannot afford to have a full-time accounting specialist on hand to solve financial issues and offer advice on how to manage company finances.

That's where the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan's **Business Assistance Service (BAS)** can help. BAS is a confidential service that provides up to six hours of access to professional accounting, legal and human resource experts who understand the challenges small business owners face.

The Chambers Plan BAS is a free service built into every Chambers Plan benefit program. Owners simply contact BAS by telephone or email, and a trained specialist will ask some basic questions to determine which services will best resolve the issue. A counselling appointment will then be arranged for the owner with a Certified Accountant, Certified General Accountant, professional Lawyer or a Human Resource Specialist.

Advice from a professional enables owners and managers to strengthen management and control functions through expert counsel. BAS can help owners obtain the answers and recommendations to solve business accounting challenges, make informed compliance decisions and resolve employee issues. And all at no cost; a part of every Chambers Plan package.

One-on-one consultation is often financially out of reach for many businesses, but with the Chambers Plan BAS, owners have access to expert advisors able to help their business grow.