

Working hard at zero gravity

New Netflix show 'Away' a challenging act. Entertainment, B8



Walmart targets Amazon service

Company to launch membership program to compete with Prime, B2

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Small businesses struggling to pay rent

Growing call to fill holes in government support programs, expand eligibility, allow appeals

ANITA BALAKRISHNAN
THE CANADIAN PRESS

With rent coming due for another month, Ginger Robertson's daily walk through Toronto's Danforth neighbourhood is increasingly filled with empty storefronts.

Robertson says government programs have so far stopped short of helping her pay the bills for two restaurants she co-owns, the Edmund Burke and Off the Hook. Both venues have reopened, but they are running at about half-capacity with minimal wage subsidies and loans, meaning this week's rent payment will come from savings once again.

"We were closed for three months ... we had to pay insurance, rent, hydro, gas. Those things are still being used and we (weren't) open. How do you expect us to pay for that?" Robertson said.

On Monday, the Liberals announced an extension of the Canada Emergency Business Account until the end of October, as well as plans to expand eligibility. The government did not, however, extend the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program to help small businesses make their monthly payments, although Small Business Minister Mary Ng said she was working on a way to adapt future aid programs.



RICHARD LAUTENS TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Ginger Robertson and her husband, Russell Piffer, run the Edmund Burke pub. Robertson says government programs have stopped short of helping her pay the bills for the two restaurants she co-owns, including the Edmund Burke.

Robertson said more of these government programs need to expand eligibility or allow appeals processes for those who have been denied help if the government wants small businesses to recover.

Robertson's second restaurant, which was purchased at the beginning of March, hasn't qualified for some of the existing government programs because of decisions made by the previous owner. While Robertson has some wage sub-

sidies and a loan, she doesn't think she'll be able to take advantage of the emergency loan forgiveness program, due to eligibility requirements.

RENT continued on B7

I questioned workers, on workplace questionnaires

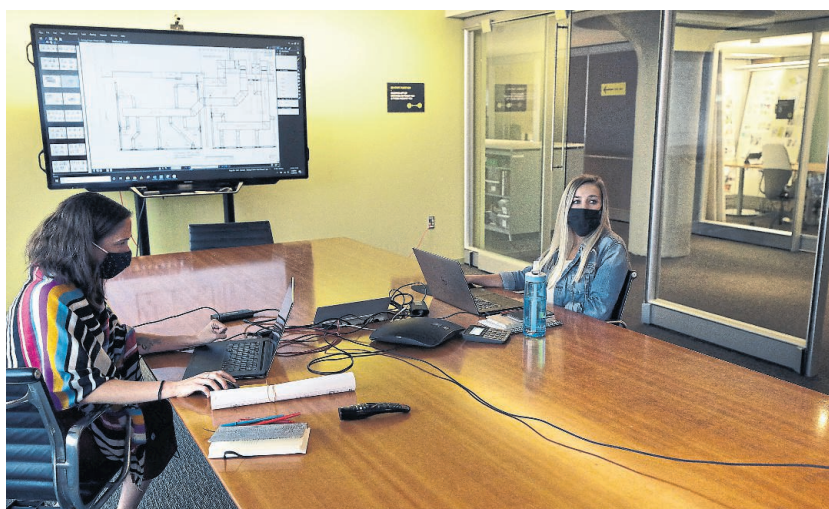
Employers must make changes, not just surveys, if they want to get staff back into the office

KARON LIU
STAFF REPORTER

If you work(ed) in an office, chances are you got a SurveyMonkey link from management recently trying to gauge what it will take to make you go back to the building in the coming months.

It's a weird questionnaire to answer (I had to fill one out as well) as businesses are basically trying to figure out how to get people out of their homes and into the office amid a pandemic. The question is whether the surveys are of any use, be it giving companies a clear direction on what to do, or giving employees a sense of what's being done to lower the risks of infection.

To find out about the effectiveness of surveys, I created a very non-scientific



STEVEN SENNE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Employers trying to get staff back in the office should focus on mental well-being, instead of getting back to business as usual, one expert says.

survey ... on surveys, to ask people if they found filling them out useful. Of course, I also asked a workplace behavioural consultant if they are helpful.

"This is something no organization had to face before so they want to know how to better adapt and help employees cope," says Juan Salcedo, an associate for Toronto management consulting firm BEworks, which specializes in using behavioural science to improve workplace well-being.

"Most of the organizations coming to us for help aren't bringing back the

whole workforce, so they want to get an idea of what's driving job satisfaction for people working from home."

My completely unscientific survey results came in after a day. Eighteen people filled it out — Salcedo later points out that more people might have participated had I written an intro to let them know the purpose of the survey (my bad). Thirteen said they received surveys from their workplaces and a third of respondents also got surveys

SURVEY continued on B7

Rogers expanding 5G to 50 markets

National rollout running ahead of schedule, includes Brampton, Mississauga, Hamilton this year

ROSA SABA
BUSINESS REPORTER

Rogers is expanding 5G capability to 50 new Canadian markets, building on its January rollout in downtown Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

Though in January the company promised it would add 20 more markets by the end of 2020, it has now promised a total of 60 by the end of the year. These new markets include multiple GTA communities like Brampton and Mississauga, British Columbia cities like Burnaby and Langley, and expansion into Alberta, including Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Fort McMurray. It is also expanding to Quebec City and Hamilton, as well as Halton Hills, Ont.

Thanks to Rogers' investment over the past few years in modernizing its overall infrastructure, the company was able to roll out 5G in significantly more markets than originally anticipated, said Kye Prigg, senior vice-president of access networks and operations, the team responsible for building out Rogers' 5G network.

The company has yet to expand into the Maritimes or into Manitoba, but Prigg said to expect more announcements that bring the new wireless

ROGERS continued on B7

Apple's boost: Tech firm preparing 75 million 5G iPhones amid strong demand. B4

Facebook mulls news-sharing ban in Australia

Threat follows proposed rule that would require negotiations with media firms over payment

MIKE CHERNEY
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SYDNEY—Facebook Inc. has threatened to stop allowing Australians to share news on its site and on Instagram if lawmakers allow media companies to demand payment from digital platforms.

Australia in July unveiled a plan that would require Facebook and Alphabet Inc.'s Google to negotiate with media companies over payment. If the sides couldn't agree, an independent arbitrator would select one of their proposals. If enacted by Australia's Parliament, the rules could be a model for other countries that have long sought to com-

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

pel tech giants to compensate local publishers.

In a statement dated Monday, Facebook outlined the impact it said the rules would have on users of its site and its Instagram photo-sharing platform. The sharing ban would apply to both local and international news stories, it said.

It also warned that removing news sharing could hurt publishers. In the first five months of 2020, Facebook said, it sent 2.3 billion clicks to Australian news websites at no charge—traffic it valued at roughly \$148 million.

"We are left with a choice of either removing news entirely or accepting a system that lets publishers charge us

for as much content as they want at a price with no clear limits," Will Easton, managing director for Facebook Australia & New Zealand, wrote in the statement. "Unfortunately, no business can operate that way."

In a letter of its own about two weeks ago, Google said the new rules would force it to give information to media outlets that could help them to artificially inflate their search-engine rankings—meaning it couldn't guarantee Google users would get the most relevant results.

"The law is set up to give big media companies special treatment and to encourage them to make enormous and unreasonable demands that would put our free services at risk," Mel Silva, managing director for Google Australia

FACEBOOK continued on B7

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