



**Restaurants
Canada**

The voice of foodservice | La voix des services alimentaires

NAVIGATING COVID-19

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL RESPONSE PLANS

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Restaurants Canada: COVID-19 Response Plans

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New Updates

Federal

CERB Extended Four Weeks

On August 20, the federal government [extended the Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) by an additional 4 weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks.

The government will transition people who have been receiving the CERB to a more flexible and generous EI program for those who qualify, which will provide them additional features and tools to get back into the workforce.

The new benefit would pay \$400 a week for up to 26 weeks for those not eligible for Employment Insurance. Those who are eligible for EI will get the same minimum for at least 26 weeks and will need to have worked 120 hours to qualify.

Ontario

Temporary Layoff Regulation Extended

The Ontario government [announced that they have extended the regulation which prevents temporary layoffs from becoming permanent](#). The Employment Standards Act limits temporary layoffs to 13 weeks. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the Ontario government suspended this provision with a regulation that was due to expire on September 4, 2020. The regulation has been extended to January 2, 2021.

Quebec

Alberta

British Columbia

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Nova Scotia

Newfoundland and Labrador

New Brunswick

Prince Edward Island

Federal

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

The federal government has not mandated any closures of businesses.

On April 28, the First Ministers released a [statement](#) on the guiding principles and criteria they will use to re-start the economy post-COVID-19.

Criteria and measures needed to restart the economy

- **COVID-19 transmission is controlled** – The incidence of new cases should be maintained at a level that health care systems can manage, with substantial clinical care capacity in reserve. There is a stabilisation in the number of hospitalisations and/or new cases, with the possible exception of isolated outbreaks.
- **Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace, and isolate all cases** – Testing and contact tracing are in place so that suspected cases are detected quickly and all confirmed cases are effectively isolated, while all close contacts are traced, quarantined, and monitored.
- **Expanded health care capacity exists for all patients, COVID-19 and non-COVID-19** – Health care systems should support all needs, including dealing with any future outbreaks, recognizing that this will be achieved through having surge capacity in place and other means (e.g. virtual care) to enable the system support for COVID and non-COVID patients. Provinces and territories are best suited to determine how comprehensive health care services are supported, including primary care, diagnostic services, and acute care services including elective surgeries and non-COVID emergencies. Measures should address health-sector human resource capacity, and resources for personal protective equipment, drugs, and other medical supplies. Procurement of supplies will ensure that there is adequate supply on hand in case of a resurgence of the virus and to support enhanced testing.
- **Supports are in place for vulnerable groups/communities and key populations** – Measures are in place to prevent the uncontrolled spread of the virus in vulnerable populations, which can directly lead to increased community spread. Sustained measures are in place to protect seniors, residents of group living facilities, workers in close quarters, inmates, homeless people, and Indigenous people and those living in remote locations, along with health care workers and other essential workers. Sufficient testing and personal protective equipment is available to monitor and limit COVID-19 infection in these groups.
- **Workplace preventative measures** – Support and monitoring of workplace protocols are in place to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. These protocols could include administrative controls, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and access to personal protective equipment where physical distancing is not possible. Strong collaboration and oversight processes are in place to ensure protocols are being met.
- **Avoiding risk of importation** – Restrictions on non-essential domestic travel should be eased and managed in a coordinated manner. Re-opening of international borders and access for non-Canadian residents may only happen in later stages, taking into account

the spread of the virus outside Canada, and measures to avoid the spread of the virus for everyone entering the country (e.g., self-isolation, testing).

- **Engage and support** – The success of managing COVID-19 will depend on the ability of communities to use and keep the necessary measures, particularly for public services. Governments will support communities in managing local disease activity, including in child care, schools, and public transportation. Governments will also work with industry and economic sectors to support optimal health, reduced viral activity, and protection of the economy as it restarts.

Critères et mesures nécessaires à la relance de l'économie

- **La propagation de la COVID-19 est maîtrisée** – L'incidence des nouveaux cas se maintient à un niveau que les systèmes de santé sont en mesure de gérer et ceux-ci disposent de ressources suffisantes en réserve. Le nombre d'hospitalisations et/ou de nouveaux cas se stabilise, bien qu'il pourrait y avoir, de manière exceptionnelle, des éclosions isolées.
- **Les organismes de santé publique disposent d'une capacité suffisante pour dépister, retracer et isoler tous les cas** – Des mesures relatives au dépistage et à la recherche de contacts sont en place afin que les cas allégués puissent être détectés rapidement, que tous les cas confirmés soient isolés efficacement et que toutes les personnes avec qui ils sont entrés en contact étroit soient retrouvées, placées en quarantaine et suivies.
- **La capacité de fournir des soins aux patients atteints ou non de la COVID-19 est élargie** – Les systèmes de santé doivent être en mesure de répondre à tous les besoins et de prendre en charge toute nouvelle éclosion. Pour ce faire, les systèmes de santé devront disposer d'une capacité d'intervention de pointe et d'autres moyens (p. ex. la possibilité d'offrir des soins de manière virtuelle) pour aider les patients atteints et non atteints de la COVID-19. Les provinces et les territoires sont les mieux placés pour établir comment les soins de santé dans leur ensemble devront être appuyés, y compris les soins primaires, les services de diagnostic, les soins intensifs, les chirurgies non urgentes et les urgences non liées à la COVID. Des mesures devraient permettre de répondre aux besoins en ressources humaines du secteur de la santé et d'assurer une quantité suffisante d'équipement de protection individuelle, de médicaments et d'autres fournitures médicales. L'approvisionnement en matériel fera en sorte qu'il y a assez de matériel disponible advenant une résurgence du virus et afin d'appuyer une capacité de dépistage accrue.
- **Des mesures de soutien destinées aux groupes ou communautés vulnérables et à des populations clés sont en place** – Des mesures sont en place pour empêcher une propagation incontrôlée du virus auprès des populations vulnérables, laquelle pourrait ensuite entraîner directement une progression de la transmission communautaire. Des mesures soutenues sont en place pour protéger les aînés, les personnes vivant dans des foyers de groupe, les personnes qui travaillent à proximité les unes des autres, les détenus, les personnes itinérantes, les Autochtones et les personnes vivant en régions éloignées, ainsi que les travailleurs de la santé et les autres travailleurs essentiels. De plus, le matériel de dépistage et l'équipement de protection individuelle nécessaire sont disponibles en quantité suffisante pour surveiller et limiter les cas de COVID-19 dans ces groupes.

- **Mesures de prévention en milieu de travail** – Des mesures de soutien et de suivi des protocoles visant les milieux de travail sont en place pour prévenir l'introduction et la propagation de la COVID-19. Ces protocoles pourraient inclure des mesures de contrôle administratif, le lavage des mains, le nettoyage des locaux et l'accès à de l'équipement de protection individuelle là où l'éloignement physique est impossible. Des processus rigoureux de collaboration et de surveillance sont en place pour veiller à l'application de ces protocoles.
- **Éviter les risques d'importation** – Les restrictions imposées aux voyages domestiques non essentiels devraient être assouplies et gérées de manière concertée. La réouverture des frontières internationales et l'accès au Canada pour les non-résidents pourraient n'être autorisés qu'à des étapes ultérieures, en tenant compte de la propagation du virus à l'extérieur du Canada et des mesures visant à éviter la propagation du virus par toute personne entrant au pays (p. ex. isolement volontaire, dépistage).
- **Mobilisation et soutien** – La réussite des gouvernements dans la lutte contre la COVID-19 dépend de la capacité des communautés à appliquer et à maintenir les mesures nécessaires, particulièrement en matière de services publics. Les gouvernements aideront les communautés dans la surveillance de l'activité virale dans leur région, notamment dans les services de garde, les écoles et les transports publics. Les gouvernements travailleront également avec les secteurs industriels et économiques en vue de favoriser une santé optimale, réduire l'activité virale et protéger l'économie au moment de sa relance.

Support for Workers

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Overview: The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a taxable benefit that would provide \$2000 a month, originally for up to 24 weeks, for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB combines and replaces the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

On August 20, the federal government [extended the Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\) by an additional 4 weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks](#).

The [Government will be transitioning](#) to a simplified Employment Insurance (EI) program, effective September 27, 2020, to provide income support to those who remain unable to work and are eligible. The new benefit would pay \$400 a week for up to 26 weeks for those not eligible for Employment Insurance. Those who are eligible for EI will get the same minimum for at least 26 weeks and will need to have worked 120 hours to qualify.

How it Works: The CERB will be available to workers:

- residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- who have stopped working because of COVID-19;
- who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application
 - The income of at least \$5,000 may be from any or a combination of the following sources: employment; self-employment; maternity and parental benefits under

the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan

- who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment income.

The Benefit is also available to workers who, after March 15, are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits.

On April 15, 2020, to help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government is announcing changes to the eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

These changes will be retroactive to March 15, 2020

The benefit is available from March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020.

Applications for the CERB are currently open at Canada.ca/coronavirus.

The Canada Revenue Agency has asked that Canadians apply according to the month they were born: January-March beginning on April 6, April-June beginning on April 7, July-September beginning on April 8, and October-December beginning on April 9.

Program Details Outstanding: More details for applicants under the expanded CERB criteria will be available shortly.

Wage Boost for Essential Workers

Overview: The Government of Canada will work with provinces and territories through a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top up to the salaries of low-income essential workers that the provinces and territories have deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19.

How it Works: The Government of Canada will cover a portion of the cost of providing temporary financial support to these low-income workers, thereby helping to support employers in keeping their workers on staff.

Through this new transfer, provinces and territories will be able to provide their low-income essential workers (those who earn less than \$2,500 per month), with a top up.

Program Details Outstanding: The federal government is continuing to work with provinces and territories on the delivery of this measure and further details will be released shortly.

Support for Businesses

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

The federal government passed legislation to expand and extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program. The CEWS program will be extended to December 19, 2020.

Phases of the CEWS Program

There are now four official phases to CEWS, each composed of consecutive four-week Claim Periods:

Phase 1	The initial twelve weeks between March 15 and June 6 that was subsequently extended by another four weeks from June 7 to July 4 (also known as Claim Periods 1, 2, 3 & 4).
Phase 2	The eight weeks between July 5 and August 29 (also known as Claim Periods 5 & 6). This phase, which we are currently in, allows for a choice around the method of measurement to assess revenue decline, depending on whether a business will receive a better outcome between the old rules and the new rules.
Phase 3	The twelve weeks between August 30 and November 21 (also known as Claim Periods 7, 8 & 9). Only the new rules will apply for this period.
Phase 4	The last four weeks of the program (unless further extended) between November 22 and December 19 (also known as Claim Period 10), for which rules have not yet been released.

The wage subsidies discussed below continue to apply as a percentage of wages up to \$1,129 per week to a maximum of \$849/wk in support per employee.

Revenue Decline Scaling and Corresponding Subsidies

Phase 1 eligibility for 75% wage support required a decline of 15% from comparator period revenues for Claim Period 1 from March 15 - April 10 and a 30% decline in revenue during each of the three subsequent Claim Periods (2, 3 & 4) through to July 4.

The only exception to this was a deeming rule that said that if you qualify for CEWS in any one Claim Period, you do not have to prove revenue decline in the immediate subsequent Claim Period. In effect, this meant that any company that could qualify would automatically receive CEWS wage support for eight weeks but would then have to requalify for any later Claim Period. This rule is being adapted to be more flexible given the evolving support levels under the rules taking effect in Phase 2. This is how our request for continued eligibility was addressed. It is more complex, but it makes sense and, in the end, allows for businesses to receive continued support.

PHASE 1, which ended on July 4, and provided a single level of wage support, i.e., 75%, is unchanged by the new rules. There is no re-visitation of decisions covering that phase.

PHASE 2 introduces new rules that cover companies retroactive to July 5 and on through to August 29. The new rules provide for two levels of support. The first is a base subsidy of up to 60% for companies who have seen a revenue decline of any level in the Claim Period, with the subsidy proportional – on a straight-line basis – to the revenue reductions between 1% and 50%. This avoids a tiered system and permits adjusting the subsidy to the real level of a business, compared to the reference period.

The way that the straight-line subsidy works is that during Phase 2, wage support percentages will be 1.2x the percentage of revenue decline experienced by the employer so, for example, companies that have seen a 10% revenue decline can get a wage subsidy of 12%, companies that have seen a 20% decline can get a wage subsidy of 24% and so on.

This base subsidy reaches its maximum 60% level at a revenue decline of 50%. This is a significant change intended to provide wage support as recovering businesses begin to approach prior revenue levels.

If this were the sum total of the rules, it could be said to have created “winners” and “losers” because companies with revenue declines between 30% and 50% during the Claim Period would receive somewhere between 36% and 60% wage support rather than the 75% wage support they had received when eligible during Phase 1.

However, the government has adopted a “better of” principle for Phase 2, which they refer to as a “safe harbour”, whereby those who see a revenue decline of greater than 30% during the Claim Period will still get the 75% in each of Claim Periods 5 & 6. This is a major advancement for restaurants that have lost the most.

So, what this has created is as follows for the two Claim Periods falling between July 5 and August 29:

1. a sliding scale of support for those who have seen a revenue decline of between 1% and 30% during a Claim Period;
2. a baseline guarantee of 75% wage support for those who have seen a revenue decline of between 30% and 50% during a Claim Period; and
3. an enhanced wage support level of up to 85% for those who have seen a revenue decline deeper than 50% during a Claim Period.

The former deeming rule that waved companies through to a second Claim Period based on eligibility in the prior Claim Period has been dropped, so now each Claim Period is treated separately.

PHASE 3 addresses the three Claim Periods between August and November 21 and begins the wind-down of the program by reducing the maximum support levels in successive months from 60% to 20%, as follows:

Maximum Base Subsidy (for companies with $\geq 50\%$ revenue decline):

Period 7	(Aug 30 – Sept 26)	Wage support of 50% Maximum \$565/employee/week
Period 8	(Sep 27 – Oct 24)	Wage support of 40% Maximum \$452/employee/week
Period 9	(Oct 25 – Nov 21)	Wage support of 20% Maximum \$226/employee/week

However, the 25% top-up remains to help those whose recovery is proceeding more slowly. This is a significant gain for the restaurant sector that has been one of the hardest hit. It is where we consider that we received some kind of sector specific support built into the scaling model for medium/long term CEWS.

Proportional Base Subsidy (for companies with $< 50\%$ revenue decline):

For companies with between 1% and 50% revenue decline, the multiplier of percentage revenue loss also begins to be reduced during Phase 3, as follows:

Period 7	(Aug 2 – Aug 29)	Wage support of 1.0x percentage revenue decline
Period 8	(Sep 27 – Oct 24)	Wage support of 0.8x percentage revenue decline
Period 9	(Oct 25 – Nov 21)	Wage support of 0.4x percentage revenue decline

Phase 3 removes the “better of”/“safe-harbour” approach, so in Phase 3, companies are eligible only for the entitlement under the new rules and cannot fall back on a better outcome under the old ones. It is a way for government to also scale down the program and make it more favourable, 6 months after the start of the pandemic, for businesses that have managed to go back to a semblance of regular activities.

Because the wage support levels are proportionate to revenue loss and are themselves being reduced month-over-month, it is not really possible to describe all possible outcomes. The Department of Finance has provided a chart (“Figure 1”) and a far more useful table (“Table 1”) here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/07/adapting-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-to-protect-jobs-and-promote-growth.html>.

PHASE 4. There are no rules published or decided for this phase, falling between November 22 and December 19. We expect it to be in-line with the phase ending in November. Government wants to keep some wiggle room to adjust, in case a second wave of COVID-19 outbreaks does occur.

Observations on the Added Subsidy

Unlike the base subsidy, which is calculated based on comparing monthly revenues to those in the same month in the previous year or to an average of January and February 2020 revenues, the top-up subsidy measures a longer period and will technically allow more reopened restaurants to access the CEWS.

For the added subsidy, all businesses have the option to choose between one of two methods for assessing revenue decline:

Method #1: A business can compare its cumulative revenues over the preceding three months to the same three months in 2019.

Method #2: Alternatively, a company can compare its average monthly revenues over the preceding three months to its average monthly revenues in January and February 2020.

The way that the added subsidy works is that additional wage support percentages will be 1.25x the percentage of revenue decline in excess of 50% experienced by the employer. For example, companies that have seen a 60% revenue decline can get a top-up subsidy of 12.5% for a total subsidy of 72.5% (i.e., 60% base subsidy + 12.5% top-up subsidy). However, during Phase 2, the “safe-harbour” provision would raise that subsidy to 75%.

Companies that have seen a 70% revenue decline can get an added subsidy of 25%, for a total subsidy of 85% (i.e., 60% base subsidy + 24% top-up subsidy), that being the maximum subsidy level in total.

Unlike the base subsidy, which is reduced over Periods 7, 8 and 9, the added subsidy will remain constant until at least Period 10 (so until November 21).

Reference Periods

In a similar vein to the two-month deeming rule that existed during Phase 1, an employer will have the option to choose the greater of the percentage revenue decline in the current period and that in the previous period for the purpose of determining its eligibility for base CEWS and its base CEWS rate in the current period.

This essentially means automatic qualification at the same revenue decline level for two periods in a row, which was one or asks. It also means that you would get one last month of CEWS support even if your revenues show no decline in the current month as long as your previous month did have a revenue decline. This will reduce the number of foodservice operations deemed ineligible.

Those who happen to experience deeper relative revenue drops after July 5 would be free to use the revenue decline of the current month if that would deliver a better CEWS outcome. It is where your calculations will be important.

Additionally, for Period 5 and onward, employers who chose to use a January and February 2020 monthly average for revenue decline calculations during Phase 1 would be able to choose to make a one-time switch to using the same month revenues in 2019 as the basis of their calculations - and vice versa. It is the only exception that allow a “model change” and we suggest you actively consult with your accountant before changing your reference model as it could have consequences on future reference periods.

Business Credit Availability Program

Overview: The [Business Credit Availability Program \(BCAP\)](#) will provide more than \$65 billion of support through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC), largely targeted to SMEs. The BDC and EDC are cooperating with private sector lenders to provide credit solutions to individual businesses. The program is currently available to businesses with “viable business models whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted.”

How it Works: These programs will roll out in the three weeks after March 27th, 2020. Businesses in need of credit support should contact their financial institution. If the financial institution determines that the needs of the client exceed the level of support the financial institution is able to provide, the financial institution will work alongside BDC or EDC to access additional resources the Government has made available under BCAP.

Starting April 6, 2020 the BCAP will be available for all businesses. Previously, only businesses which qualified for BDC loans prior to the COVID-19 economic downturn were eligible, which excluded businesses that operate as stand-alone nightclubs, bars, lounges, cabarets, casinos, discotheques, video arcades, pool and billiard halls.

The program includes the following components:

Canada Emergency Business Account

Overview: The Canada Emergency Business Account is a new loan program that will be implemented by eligible financial institutions in cooperation with Export Development Canada. The program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40 000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover their operating costs while revenues have been temporarily reduced.

How It Works: To qualify, organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25 per cent (up to \$10,000). Business owners can apply for support from the Canada Emergency Business Account through their banks and credit unions. Applications are currently open.

On May 19, the government [expanded](#) eligibility criteria to include owner-operated small businesses. The program will now be available to a greater number of businesses that are sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll. To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

Co-Lending Program for SMEs

Overview: Through this program, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.

How It Works: Businesses must contact their financial institution to determine whether this program is appropriate for their needs.

Loan Guarantee for SMEs

Overview: Export Development Canada is working with financial institutions to allow them to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs.

How It Works: Businesses must contact their financial institution to determine whether this program is appropriate for their needs.

Work-Sharing Program Extension

Overview: The government will extend the maximum duration of the work-sharing program from 38 weeks to 76 weeks. The program is offered to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

How it Works: Work-Sharing is a three-party agreement involving employers, employees and Service Canada. Employees on a Work-Sharing agreement must agree to a reduced schedule of work and to share the available work over a specified period of time. To be eligible, employers must meet [eligibility requirements](#):

- Have been in business in Canada year-round for at least two years;
- Be a private business, a publicly-held company, or a not-for-profit organization;
- Demonstrate that the shortage of work is temporary and beyond their control, and is not a cyclical/recurring slowdown;
- Demonstrate a recent decrease in business activity of approximately 10%; and,
- Submit and implement a recovery plan designed to return the Work-Sharing unit(s) to normal working hours by the end of the Work-Sharing agreement. There must be a reasonable expectation that recovery (that is, a return to normal work hours for all participating employees) will be achieved by the end of the agreement.

Ineligible employers

- Employers experiencing a reduction in business activity related to a labour dispute.
- A labour dispute includes work slowdowns, strikes, lockouts and work stoppages. Companies that are experiencing a reduction in business activity attributable to a labour dispute at a component, division, branch, subsidiary, etc., of that same company are also ineligible. As well, a Work-Sharing application cannot be approved where the work

reduction is solely attributable to a labour dispute at one of the company's major suppliers or customers.

- Employers experiencing a reduction in business activity due to a seasonal shortage of work or any other recurring production slowdown; the Work-Sharing program is not intended as a remedy for a pre-existing and on-going condition.
- The decrease in business activity cannot be directly related to an increase in the employer's workforce.

Applicants submit through the appropriate portal based on province; a full list is available [here](#).

For employers and employees that are participating in a Work-Sharing program, EI benefits received by employees through the Work-Sharing program will reduce the benefit that their employer is entitled to receive under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

Income Tax Deferrals

Overview: The government will allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020. This relief would apply to all tax balances due and installments. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

GST/HST Tax and Customs Duty Payments Deferrals

Overview: The government will allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer payments of the GST/HST and customs duties owing on their imports until June 30, 2020. The deferral will apply to GST/HST remittances for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods for monthly filers; the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period for quarterly filers; and for annual filers, the amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year. For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April and May.

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses

On July 31st the federal government [announced](#) that the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will be extended by one month to help eligible small businesses pay rent for August. All provinces and territories continue to participate in this initiative, in collaboration with the federal government.

Existing applicants need to reapply for the month of August and have until September 14, 2020 to do so. New applicants have the choice of applying for the three-month initial period, four months or five months, but need to do so by the original date of August 31, 2020.

Overview: This [program](#) will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. The federal government has come to an agreement with all provincial and territorial governments to implement this program.

How it Works: The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May, June and August.

CECRA for small businesses loans will be forgiven if the property owner complies with all applicable program terms and conditions — including to not recover forgiven rent amounts when the program is over. Property owners must offer a minimum of a 75% rent reduction for the months of April, May, June and August 2020. The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent.

Provinces and territories have agreed to cost share total costs and facilitate implementation of the program. They will cost share up to 25 per cent of costs, subject to terms of agreements with the federal government.

Under a rent forgiveness agreement, which includes a moratorium on eviction, the mortgaged commercial property owner would reduce the small business tenant's monthly rent by at least 75 per cent. The tenant would be responsible for covering 25 per cent, the property owner 25 per cent, while the federal government and provinces would share the remaining 50 per cent. The forgivable loans would be disbursed directly to the mortgage lender.

The federal government has come to an agreement with all the provinces and territories.

- Ontario has [committed](#) \$241 million to the program
- Quebec has [committed](#) \$137 million to the program
- Nova Scotia has [committed](#) \$9 million to the program
- Alberta [expects](#) to commit up to \$67 million to the program
- BC will [commit](#) an estimated \$80 million

To qualify for CECRA for small businesses, the **commercial property owner** must:

- own commercial real property* which is occupied by one or more impacted small business tenants
- enter (or have already entered) into a legally binding rent reduction agreement for the period of April, May, June and August 2020, reducing an impacted small business tenant's rent by at least 75%
- ensure the rent reduction agreement with each impacted tenant includes:
 - a moratorium on eviction for the period during which the property owner agrees to apply the loan proceeds, and
 - a declaration of rental revenue included in the attestation

The commercial property owner is not and is not controlled by an individual holding federal or provincial political office.

CECRA for small businesses doesn't apply to any properties owned, in whole or in part, by the federal, provincial, or municipal governments. These are the exceptions:

- if the property owner is a First Nation or an Indigenous organization or government which is the lessee of the property pursuant to a ground lease or similar long-term lease from such government to administer the Property
- if the property owner is the lessee of the property pursuant to a ground lease or similar long-term lease from such government to operate the property (such as a lease to an airport)
- if the property owner is a crown corporation with limited appropriations designated as eligible for the CECRA Program by CMHC
- if, for greater certainty, the property owner is a post-secondary institution, hospital, or pension fund

Impacted small business tenants are businesses — including non-profit and charitable organizations — that:

- pay no more than \$50,000 in monthly gross rent per location (as defined by a valid and enforceable lease agreement)
- generate no more than \$20 million in gross annual revenues, calculated on a consolidated basis (at the ultimate parent level)
- have experienced at least a 70% decline in pre-COVID-19 revenues **

Property owners will need to provide information in support of their application, sign an attestation and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement in order to be eligible for the program.

Attestations

- [Tenant or Sub-tenant's Attestation \(sample PDF\)](#):
Property owners must have each of their eligible commercial small business tenants and/or subtenants sign an attestation. The Tenants are responsible for attesting to their eligibility with the program requirements.
- [Property Owner's Attestation \(sample PDF\)](#):
Property owners must sign an attestation confirming the information relating to the property owner and the property provided in the application is correct and attest to their eligibility with the program requirements.

Agreements

- [Rent Reduction Agreement \(sample PDF\)](#):
Property owners must enter into a legally binding rent reduction agreement with each impacted tenant to confirm the rent reduction in accordance with the program terms and conditions. This agreement is conditional upon final approval of the application for CECRA for small businesses.
- [Forgivable Loan Agreement \(sample PDF\)](#):
Property owners must agree to the terms and conditions in the application and outlined in the forgivable loan agreement.

Property owner information

- **Property information includes:** property address, property type, property tax statement, latest rent roll for each property and the number of commercial units

- **Applicant information includes:** banking information (including bank statement), property owner contact information, co-ownership information and contact details for co-owners

Tenant information

- **Tenant information includes:** tenant contact information, registered business name, lease area and the monthly gross rent for the period of April, May and June 2020

Important: for small business tenants who have paid their rent for April and May, property owners in the loan agreement will either, at the tenant's choice:

- reimburse you for rent paid in excess of 25%, or
- provide you a credit for future rental payments

Applications will open on May 25th, 2020. All application materials are available on the CMHC [website](#). The deadline to apply is August 21, 2020.

The CMHC is taking a staggered approach to applications:

Day	Who should register?
Monday	Property owners who are located in Atlantic Canada, BC, Alberta and Quebec, with up to 10 tenants who are eligible for the program
Tuesday	Property owners who are located in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Territories, with up to 10 tenants who are eligible for the program
Wednesday	All other property owners in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and the Territories
Thursday	All other property owners in Atlantic Canada, BC, Alberta and Quebec
Friday	All

Francais: l'Aide d'urgence du Canada pour le loyer commercial aux petites entreprises

[L'Aide d'urgence du Canada pour le loyer commercial](#) (AUCLC) destinée aux petites entreprises. Ce programme réduira de 75 % les loyers des petites entreprises touchées par la COVID-19.

Le gouvernement a également annoncé les détails suivants sur le programme :

- Dans le cadre du programme, des prêts-subsidés seront accordés aux propriétaires d'immeubles commerciaux hypothéqués admissibles. Cela couvrira 50 % des trois loyers mensuels payables en avril, mai juin et août par les petites entreprises admissibles qui éprouvent des difficultés financières.
- Le prêt accordé sera radié si les propriétaires d'un immeuble hypothéqué acceptent de réduire d'au moins 75 % le loyer des entreprises en location pendant les trois mois correspondants. Cela sera fait en vertu d'un accord de remise de loyer qui prévoira

qu'aucun locataire ne pourra être expulsé durant la période visée par l'entente. La petite entreprise en location couvrirait le reste, soit jusqu'à 25 % du loyer.

- Les petites entreprises touchées sont les entreprises qui paient moins de 50 000 \$ par mois en loyer et qui ont temporairement interrompu leurs activités ou dont les revenus précédant la COVID-19 ont diminué d'au moins 70 %. Ce soutien sera également offert aux organismes à but non lucratif et aux organismes de bienfaisance.
- La Société canadienne d'hypothèques et de logement administrera et exécutera le programme, une collaboration entre le gouvernement fédéral et les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux, qui sont responsables des relations entre propriétaires et locataires.
- Les provinces et les territoires ont convenu de partager les coûts totaux et de faciliter la mise en œuvre du programme. Ils assumeront jusqu'à 25 % des coûts, sous réserve des modalités de leur entente avec le gouvernement fédéral.
- On s'attend à ce que l'AUCLC soit opérationnelle d'ici le milieu du mois de mai et à ce que les propriétaires d'immeubles commerciaux baissent le loyer des petites entreprises pour les mois d'avril et de mai rétroactivement ainsi que de juin.
- Plus de détails sur l'AUCLC seront communiqués prochainement, lorsque ses modalités définitives seront connues. Le gouvernement fédéral et les gouvernements des provinces et des territoires demandent aux propriétaires de faire preuve de souplesse à l'égard des locataires qui font face à des difficultés pendant cette période d'incertitude.
- Aux termes d'une entente de remise de loyer qui prévoit un moratoire sur l'expulsion, le propriétaire d'un immeuble commercial hypothéqué réduirait d'au moins 75 % le loyer mensuel payable par la petite entreprise en location. Le locataire et le propriétaire devraient couvrir chacun 25 % du loyer, tandis que le gouvernement fédéral et les provinces se partageraient les 50 % restants. Le prêt-subvention serait versé directement au prêteur hypothécaire.

Funding for Regional Development Agencies to Support Small Businesses

Overview: The federal government announced \$962 million in funding for the Regional Development Agencies through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF). The RRRF is specifically targeted toward those that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but have been unable to access existing support measures.

In response to the effect that COVID-19 may have on rural communities and businesses, the government is also providing \$287 million for the Community Futures Network, funded through the RDAs, to support rural businesses and communities, including through access to capital.

There are six RDAs across the country (the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Western Economic Diversification Canada, FedNor, FedDev Ontario, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency).

The RDAs began accepting applications from businesses and communities on May 13, 2020. The RRRF is specifically targeted toward those that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but have been unable to access existing support measures.

The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$110 million for Atlantic Canada – [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#) (ACOA)
- \$211 million for Quebec – [Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions](#) (CED)
- \$34.3 million for Northern Canada – [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#) (CanNor)
- \$252.4 million for Southern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario)
- \$49.5 million for Northern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario](#) (FedNor)
- \$304.2 million for Western Canada – [Western Economic Diversification Canada](#) (WD)

Francais: Mesures de soutien pour les petites entreprises et les collectivités

Les agences de développement régional (ADR) du Canada sont aux premiers rangs des activités de développement économique au Canada. Elles répondent aux principaux défis économiques en offrant des programmes, des services, des connaissances et une expertise adaptés à leur région.

Il y a six ADR au pays : CanNor, Diversification de l'économie de l'Ouest Canada, FedNor, FedDev Ontario, Développement économique Canada pour les régions du Québec et l'Agence de promotion économique du Canada atlantique.

Le gouvernement fournira 675 millions de dollars pour appuyer les efforts des ADR, ainsi que les entreprises et les travailleurs qu'ils aident. Cela permettra aux ADR de fournir un soutien financier provisoire équivalent aux entreprises qui n'ont pas accès aux mesures de soutien générales du gouvernement.

Compte tenu de l'effet que la COVID-19 peut avoir sur les collectivités et les entreprises rurales, le gouvernement fournit également 287 millions de dollars dans le cadre du Réseau de développement des collectivités du Canada, financé par les ADR, pour appuyer les entreprises et les collectivités rurales, notamment au chapitre de l'accès au capital.

Federal Support to Increase the Wages of Low-Income Essential Workers

Overview: In partnership with the provincial and territorial governments, the federal government [will provide](#) up to \$3 billion in support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers.

How it Works: The provinces and the federal government will cost share wage top-ups for essential workers. Each province or territory will determine which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive.

Program Details Outstanding: All provinces and territories have confirmed, or are in the process of confirming, plans to cost share wage top-ups for their essential workers. Provinces and territories will be responsible for determining which workers will be eligible for support and will make individual announcements in the coming weeks.

Ontario

Status of Closures and Alcohol Provisions

The Ontario government published an [updated list of essential services](#) on April 3, 2020. Restaurants and bars are considered an essential service but are only permitted to provide takeout food and delivery services. Additionally, licensed restaurants and bars in Ontario may sell alcohol with food takeout and delivery orders between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 pm. Liquor may be sold for takeout or delivery through a third party, such as a food delivery service or ordering platform, provided they are acting on behalf of the licensee. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is also extending by three months the term of all active liquor, gaming and cannabis licences, authorizations and registrations during this extraordinary situation. In all cases, licensees do not need to do anything. Existing licences will simply remain in effect for the extended period, at no additional cost.

On April 27, 2020, the province released [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#), which outlines a stage-by-stage approach to reopening the economy to ensure there are appropriate measures in place so workplaces can open safely. Public health officials will carefully monitor each stage for two to four weeks, as they assess the evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak to determine if it is necessary to change course to maintain public health.

- **Stage 1:** For businesses that were ordered to close or restrict operations, opening select workplaces that can immediately modify operations to meet public health guidance. Opening some outdoor spaces like parks and allowing for a greater number of individuals to attend some events. Hospitals would also begin to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services.
- **Stage 2:** Opening more workplaces, based on risk assessments, which may include some service industries and additional office and retail workplaces. Some larger public gatherings would be allowed, and more outdoor spaces would open.
- **Stage 3:** Opening of all workplaces responsibly and further relaxing of restrictions on public gatherings.

On April 30, 2020, the province published sector-specific workplace safety guidelines for employers to prepare for the reopening of the provincial economy.

Guidelines for the [Tourism and Hospitality Sector](#) are as follows:

- Eliminate non-essential tasks (e.g. hotel valet services, face to face meetings).
- Train all employees on possible COVID-19 hazards in the workplace, what steps are being taken to protect them, and how they can protect themselves, including frequent hand washing and not touching the face.
- Have all employees and visitors wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available, before entering the workplace, after contact with others, or with surfaces others have touched. Be sure to include handwashing

before breaks and at shift changes, etc. Be sure to keep an adequate supply of soap, paper towels, etc.

- Sanitize the workplace thoroughly and often, especially frequently touched surfaces. Pay particular attention to debit machines, screens, cash registers, and equipment, as well as common areas, such as entrances, counters, washrooms and kitchens.
- Control how many customers enter the facility at one time.
- Provide hand sanitizer for visitors to use upon entry.
- Consider ways to minimize contact with customers and maintain a safe distance during interactions that may include:
 - o Assign staff to ensure customers are following physical distancing protocols in areas likely to be congested (for example: hotel check-in or check-out area)
 - o Minimize or eliminate handling of cash, offer pre-payment or contactless payment options such as tap, credit and debit
 - o Install barrier between employees and customers; this can include plexi-glass or markings on the floor to ensure at least 2 meters between people
- Screen incoming guests where possible using the coronavirus guidelines on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website. If a guest is confirmed to have COVID-19, coordinate with local health authorities to establish crisis management procedures.
- Screen workers regularly for health issues. If anyone develops symptoms of COVID-19, implement procedures for reporting the illness and keeping the worker away from others. For further guidance on screening procedures, consult the Ministry of Health at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_operators_guidance.pdf
- Replace guest buffets with packaged food stations.
- Eliminate guest self-service, disposable in-room glassware, and non-essential guest room amenities. Remove inroom tea/coffee machines, offering them only on demand and sanitizing between guests.
- Limit the number of people working in one space (Example: reception, kitchen, service counter) so that they can distance themselves from each other by:
 - o Staggering shifts and break times.
 - o Practicing physical distancing during breaks.
 - o Not entering work areas where 2 meter distance cannot be maintained
 - o Closing off areas to prevent large gatherings
- Reschedule any unnecessary visits to the workplace by supply chain partners, vendors, service technicians or others who don't need to be there now.

On May 1, 2020, the province [announced](#) that these businesses will be permitted to begin operations on Monday, May 4 at 12:01 a.m., so long as strict public health and safety guidelines are followed:

- Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only;
- Lawn care and landscaping;
- Additional essential construction projects that include:
 - shipping and logistics;
 - broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;
 - any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;
 - municipal projects;

- colleges and universities;
- child care centres;
- schools; and
- site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development;
- Automatic and self-serve car washes;
- Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
- Golf courses may prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
- Marinas may also begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

As of June 24th, all regions except Windsor-Essex County were permitted to begin operations. These include:

- Personal care services
- Personal services
- Restaurants & bars (dining in outdoor areas only, such as patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent premises). Click [here](#) for opening guidelines:
- Shopping malls & centres
- Photography
- Film & TV
- Tour & guide services
- Water recreational facilities
- Outdoor recreational facilities
- Beaches, parks & camping
- Outdoor recreational team sports
- Drive-in & drive-thru venues
- Weddings, funerals and similar gatherings
- Libraries
- Community centres
- Attractions & heritage institutions
- Small outdoor events

On July 13th, the government announced that 24 regions are now be able to [move to Stage 3](#) starting Friday, July 17th.

On Friday, July 31st both [Toronto and Peel Region will be able to move to Stage 3](#).

On Wednesday, August 12th, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit moved to Stage 3.

In Stage 3, restaurants, gyms, and casinos can reopen, with limits on how many people can be inside at a time. Indoor and outdoor gathering limits will also increase to a maximum of 50 people for indoors and maximum of 100 people for outdoors. Physical distancing remains a requirement for all people of Ontario that are not from the same household or social circle.

Restrictions for restaurants, bars and nightclubs:

- All restaurants, bars, concession stands, and other food and drink establishments may open for indoor dine-in.
- Nightclubs are not yet safe to open, except for the purpose of serving food or drinks to patrons in accordance with the conditions that apply to restaurants and bars.
- All patrons must be seated when eating or drinking at the establishment.
- Establishments must take appropriate measures to ensure physical distancing of at least two metres between patrons from different tables, unless separated by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier.
- Buffet-style service is not yet permitted in Stage 3.
- Singing or music may be performed by a person or group at the restaurant or bar, with restrictions, including barriers between the performers and patrons and physical distancing. Dancing may only be performed by someone working at the establishment with restrictions.
- Karaoke is permitted only outside of private karaoke rooms, which are not yet permitted to open in Stage 3, with restrictions including barriers, physical distancing and increased cleaning and disinfecting.
- Physical distancing of two metres between patrons from different households or social circles also continues to apply to food trucks, food courts, concession stands and tours, including tastings at wineries, breweries and distilleries.

The government did not impose a capacity restriction but will allow for barriers to be used in place of physical distancing. This allows operators who wish to invest in physical barriers to increase their customer potential while respecting public health requirements.

Click [here](#) for full Stage 3 framework.

Face-masks: It is important to note that a number of municipalities are requiring facemasks indoors. [Municipalities that have announced facial covering by-laws](#) require all staff and public patrons to wear facemasks indoors. For restaurants that are open for patio dining, patrons will have to wear masks if they have to pass through the restaurant to be seated or to use the facilities. As restaurants in these areas move into Phase 3 and are allowed to offer indoor dining, patrons will only be allowed to remove their masks to eat.

Rental Provisions

No new eviction orders will be issued until further notice and sheriff's offices will postpone any scheduled enforcement of current eviction orders. Tenants must pay rent while an eviction order is not being enforced. Landlords can still give eviction notices, however, landlords are encouraged to work with tenants to establish fair arrangements to keep tenants in their homes, including deferring rent or other payment arrangements. All hearings related to eviction applications are suspended until further notice, except for urgent disputes such as those involving illegal acts or serious safety concerns. Enforcement of residential eviction orders is suspended until further notice. By order of the Superior Court of Justice, enforcement of eviction orders is suspended during the suspension of regular court operations, unless the court orders otherwise.

Commercial Eviction Protection

On June 17th, the government of Ontario introduced legislation to prohibit evictions and seizures of businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Bill 192, Protecting Small Business Act](#), 2020 restricts the enforcement of penalties for rent arrears between the period of May 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020. Additionally, any goods that have been seized after May 1st will have to be returned. This legislation is expected to pass the week of June 22nd.

Temporary Layoff Regulation Extended

The Ontario government [announced that they have extended the regulation which prevents temporary layoffs from becoming permanent](#). The Employment Standards Act limits temporary layoffs to 13 weeks. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the Ontario government suspended this provision with a regulation that was due to expire on September 4, 2020. The regulation has been extended to January 2, 2021.

Under Ontario labour laws, termination of an employee after 13 weeks of being temporarily laid off triggers costly payouts which, for many businesses, could be the difference between survival and closure. This regulatory amendment delays these terminations and severance liabilities.

Support for Workers

Extended Job-Protection for Employees

Overview: The province introduced job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures. The measures are retroactive to January 25, 2020.

How it Works: Employees who are unable to work for the following reasons are protected:

- The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19.
- The employee is acting in accordance with an order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
- The employee is in isolation or quarantine.
- The employee is acting in accordance with public health information or direction.
- The employer directs the employee not to work.
- The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure.

Extended Infections Disease Emergency Leave for Workers

Overview: The government enacted a new regulatory amendment that will put non-unionized employees on [Infectious Disease Emergency Leave](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19. This will ensure businesses aren't forced to terminate employees after their ESA temporary layoff periods have expired.

How it Works: Terminations triggered when temporary layoffs exceed the permitted length under the *Employment Standards Act* can result in costly payouts which, for many businesses, could be the difference between survival and closure.

Under the new regulatory change to the *Employment Standards Act*, non-unionized employees who have had their hours reduced or eliminated because of the pandemic will be deemed to be on Infectious Disease Emergency Leave. Workers will remain employed with legal protections and be eligible for federal emergency income support programs.

The regulatory amendment applies retroactively to March 1, 2020 and will expire six weeks after the declared emergency ends. The regulatory amendments do not include employees represented by a trade union.

Support for Businesses

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) payment deferral

Overview: The province will allow all businesses in the province to defer premium payments to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) for six months. This measure represents \$1.9 billion in relief for employers to reduce the financial strain posed by COVID-19.

Additionally, the WSIB will cease interest accrual on all outstanding premium payments. They will not charge penalties during this six-month deferral period. There will be no negative consequences for businesses who defer premium reporting and payments.

How it Works: All employers covered by the WSIB's workplace insurance are automatically eligible for the provisions of the relief package and can defer premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. They will not be required to opt in to receive this benefit and businesses are not required to inform the WSIB they are taking advantage of this measure.

Temporary Doubling of the Employer Health Tax (EHT) Exemption

Overview: private-sector employers with total annual Ontario remuneration of less than \$5 million are currently eligible for an EHT exemption on up to \$490 000 of their payroll. The government will retroactively raise the EHT exemption from \$490 000 to \$1 million for 2020 until January 1, 2021 when the exemption returns to the current level.

Interest and Penalty Relief for Businesses

Overview: Beginning April 1, 2020, penalties and interest will not apply to any Ontario business that misses any filing or remittance deadlines under the following select provincially administered taxes:

- Employer Health tax
- Tobacco Tax
- Fuel Tax
- Gas Tax

- Beer, Wine and Spirits Taxes
- Mining Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- International Fuel Tax Agreement
- Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans
- Race Tracks Tax

The interest and penalty relief will last up until August 31, 2020.

How it Works: The interest and penalty relief period is available to all Ontario businesses that are required to file returns and make remittances under these tax programs. Businesses will not be required to provide any documentation supporting these reasons for late-filing or payments and will not be required to advise the Ontario Ministry of Finance of their inability to meet their deadlines.

Business Education Property Tax Deferrals

Overview: Businesses will be allowed to defer their Education Property Tax payments for one payment quarter (90 days after June)

Ontario Energy Board to defer setting summer electricity price for households and small businesses

Overview: The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will defer setting new electricity prices for households and small businesses under the Regulated Price Plan (RPP). The OEB is also leaving the winter time-of-use (TOU) periods and winter residential tier threshold in place beyond May 1, 2020, to provide greater price stability for consumers when they are staying at home.

How it Works: On March 24, 2020, the Government of Ontario issued an Emergency Order, which fixed TOU prices at the off-peak price of 10.1 ¢/kWh for all hours of the day. This 45-day emergency measure, absent any future government intervention, supports residential and small business customers and farms on TOU pricing until May 7, 2020. Once the emergency TOU prices cease to have effect, customers on TOU pricing will go back to paying the November 1, 2019, RPP prices. Customers on tiered pricing will continue to pay the RPP prices in effect today.

On May 1, the TOU price periods normally shift to their summer hours and the winter tier threshold for residential customers shifts to its lower summer value. By keeping the winter tier threshold in place, customers that are on tiered pricing have an additional 400kWh/month available at the lower price.

On May 6, the government [extended](#) emergency electricity rate relief to families, farms and small businesses until May 31, 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak. Customers who pay time-of-use electricity rates will continue to be billed at the lowest price, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Tiered RPP Prices - Winter Residential Tier Threshold Remains in Effect
**Tiered
prices**

Tier 1	Residential – first 1,000 kWh/month <i>(In the summer period, the tier threshold would normally go down to 600 kWh. Keeping the winter threshold in place provides customers an additional 400kWh/month at the lower price.)</i> Non-residential – first 750 kWh/month	11.9 ¢/kWh
Tier 2	Residential – for electricity used above 1,000 kWh/month Non-residential – for electricity used above 750 kWh/month	13.9 ¢/kWh

Support for Industrial and Commercial Electricity Consumers During COVID-19

Overview: The Ontario government [passed an emergency order](#) to defer a portion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan for the period starting from April 2020. This initiative is intended to provide companies with temporary immediate relief on their monthly electricity bills in April, May and June 2020. The government intends to keep this emergency order in place until May 31, 2020, and subsequent regulatory amendments would, if approved, provide for the deferral of these charges for June 2020 as well.

How it Works: This relief will prevent a marked increase in Global Adjustment charges due to the low electricity demand caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Without this emergency order, a small industrial or commercial consumer (i.e., Class B) could have seen bills increase by 15 per cent or more. This emergency order will hold GA rates in line with pre-COVID-19 levels.

The GA rate for smaller industrial and commercial consumers (i.e., Class B) has been set at \$115 per megawatt-hour, which is roughly in line with the March 2020 value. Large industrial and commercial consumers (i.e., Class A) will receive the same percentage reduction in GA charges as Class B consumers.

Changes to minimum price for spirits ordered with food for takeout and delivery

Overview: The government has [approved a change](#) affecting liquor sales licensees effective May 6, 2020. Regulation 719 under the *Liquor Licence Act (LLA)* has been amended to reduce the minimum price of spirits sold by licensed establishments with food takeout and delivery orders by 33 percent, to spirits with an alcohol content of greater than 14.8 percent.

How it Works: The minimum price has been reduced from \$2.00 per 29 mL serving to \$1.34 per 29 mL serving.

The reduction in minimum pricing will be revoked on January 1, 2021, matching the duration of the temporary ability for bars and restaurants to sell alcohol with food for takeout and delivery which is in place until December 31, 2020.

The reduced minimum pricing structure for spirits is only applicable to takeout and delivery orders. If the declared state of emergency ends prior to January 1, 2021 and customers could be served in-house, the existing minimum price per serving for spirits would continue to apply to in-house service.

Extending Outdoor Patios

On June 8th the Ontario government announced it will allow restaurants and bars to [temporarily extend outdoor patio spaces](#) to safely accommodate patrons and staff once licensed establishments are permitted to fully reopen for business.

AGCO will not require licensees to apply or pay a fee for these temporary extensions, licensed establishments must ensure they have municipal approval and meet all other applicable requirements. These measures will be in effect until January 1, 2021 at 3:00 a.m.

On July 3rd, the government announced that it is helping restaurant and bar owners reopen and safely serve more customers by issuing a [new emergency order](#) and amending another under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, which will allow municipalities to quickly pass temporary bylaws for the creation and extension of patios and allow covered outdoor dining areas to serve customers.

Municipal Responses

Toronto

- The City is providing a grace period for pre-authorized property tax and utility payments and payment penalties for 60 days, starting March 16, 2020.
- Toronto Hydro has extended its current suspension of electricity disconnections for low-volume small-businesses customers until July 31, 2020
- The City will establish a contingency fund to support businesses, based on consultations to determine need and scale.
- Effective immediately, and until further notice, all retail businesses are exempt from the City of Toronto Noise Bylaw to facilitate after-hour deliveries.

- Effective immediately, Bank of Montreal, CIBC, National Bank of Canada, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD Bank have made a commitment to work with personal and small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges such as:
 - pay disruption due to COVID-19;
 - childcare disruption due to school closures; or
 - those facing illness from COVID-19.
 - This support will include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products.
- A City of Toronto staff [report](#) on CaféTO, was approved by Executive Committee on June 29th. The report proposed that the City take quick action to make way for additional safe outdoor dining spaces for local restaurants and bars. The report recommends City staff work closely with qualifying local restaurant and bar operators to establish options for café configurations within the right-of-way, while also temporarily pausing certain bylaw elements for the 2020 patio season to ensure:
 - rapid installation of permitted cafés while maintaining public safety
 - access to restaurant and bar services and facilities for those dining outdoors
 - permit and application fees are waived for approved cafés and
 - accessibility and physical distancing requirements are met.

Online registration form and guidebook for the proposed program:

<http://www.toronto.ca/cafeTO>.

COVID-19 Electricity Recovery Rate

Overview: The new COVID-19 Recovery Rate [comes into effect](#) on June 1, 2020 for electricity customers who pay time of use (TOU) rates. This fixed rate will apply to TOU customer bills 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing stability and certainty for consumers as the government restarts the economy and supports individuals and families who continue to spend more time at home.

How it Works: The COVID-19 Recovery Rate will be in place until October 31, 2020, followed by a new customer choice initiative. Starting November 1, 2020, customers will be able to choose a plan that best suits their household and lifestyle with the option of either TOU electricity rates or tiered pricing, which will provide a set rate for electricity up to a certain level of consumption.

Electricity Initiatives

Overview: The government [announced](#) a suite of measures to support provincial electricity consumers.

How it Works: Initiatives include

- \$9 million for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to support consumers struggling to pay their energy bills during the pandemic. CEAP will provide one-time payments to consumers to help pay down any electricity bill debt incurred over the

COVID-19 period. Applications will be available through local utilities in the upcoming months;

- \$8 million for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB) to provide support to businesses struggling with bill payments as a result of the outbreak; and
- An extension of the Ontario Energy Board's winter disconnection ban until July 31, 2020 to ensure no one is disconnected from their natural gas or electricity service during these uncertain times.

Quebec

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

Quebec has closed all dine-in restaurants and bars, but restaurants are permitted to offer take-out and delivery services until at least May 1. Restaurants may sell alcoholic beverages with takeout and delivery meal service by licensed establishments.

On April 28, 2020 the province announced the gradual re-opening of various sectors and businesses. The economic sectors whose reopening was announced subsequent to April 28 are listed below:

- **Starting on May 4, 2020**, retail stores with a direct exterior access can resume their activities, except for those in the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), which can reopen on May 11, 2020. Businesses in the supply chains of retail stores can resume their activities on the same dates.
- **Starting on May 11, 2020**, all construction industry worksites can resume their activities. The reopening covers all sectors of the construction industry: residential, civil engineering and roads, institutional, commercial, and industrial. The reopening will simultaneously lead to the reopening of the industry's supply chains. Administrative staff in this sector must continue to engage in teleworking.
- **Starting on May 11, 2020**, manufacturing companies in all regions of Québec can resume their activities. However, they must at all times throughout the day limit staff per shift on a given site to a maximum of 50 workers and 50% of the employees exceeding the limit of 50 workers. Some examples:
 - a manufacturing site that employs 60 workers on a shift must operate with a maximum of 55 employees;
 - a manufacturing site that employs 500 workers on a shift must operate with a maximum of 275 employees.
- **Starting on May 25, 2020**, manufacturing companies throughout Québec will be authorized to resume their operations with no restriction on the number of employees present to ensure such operations. All employees who can engage in teleworking must continue to do so.

The businesses that will be added during subsequent phases will be announced in the coming weeks.

Reprises à venir

Les secteurs économiques dont la réouverture a été annoncée subséquemment au 28 avril sont listés ci-dessous :

- **Dès le 4 mai**, les commerces de détail ayant un accès direct à l'extérieur pourront reprendre leurs activités, à l'exception de ceux de la communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) qui pourront rouvrir à partir du 11 mai. Les entreprises de la chaîne d'approvisionnement des commerces de détail pourront reprendre leurs activités aux mêmes dates.
- **Dès le 11 mai**, les chantiers de l'ensemble des secteurs de l'industrie de la construction pourront reprendre leurs activités. Cette reprise concerne tous les secteurs de l'industrie

de la construction, soit : le résidentiel, le génie civil et la voirie, l'institutionnel et le commercial ainsi que l'industriel. Cette reprise entraîne du même coup la réouverture des chaînes d'approvisionnement de l'industrie. Le personnel administratif de ce secteur devra demeurer en télétravail

- **À partir du 11 mai**, les entreprises manufacturières de toutes les régions du Québec pourront reprendre leurs activités. Elles devront toutefois compter, en tout temps sur un même site, un maximum de 50 travailleurs et 50 % des employés excédant la barre des 50 travailleurs par quart de travail, et ce, à tout moment de la journée. À titre d'exemples:
 - un site manufacturier employant 60 travailleurs lors d'un même quart de travail doit assurer son fonctionnement avec un maximum de 55 employés;
 - un site manufacturier employant 500 travailleurs lors d'un même quart de travail doit assurer son fonctionnement avec un maximum de 275 employés.
- **À partir du 25 mai**, les entreprises manufacturières de toutes les régions du Québec seront autorisées à reprendre leurs activités sans aucune restriction quant au nombre d'employés présents pour assurer leur fonctionnement.

Tous les employés qui peuvent télétravailler devront continuer à le faire.

The CNESST published occupational health and safety guidelines for individuals and businesses, including [tools for sectors](#), a [reference](#) for re-opening the work environment, and a [reference](#) for physical distancing in the work environment.

Rental Provisions

While the state of emergency is declared, the Régie du logement of Quebec will continue to suspend hearings. Other than hearings ordered by the court for exceptional reasons, only hearings on matters that pose a risk to a person's health or safety and those involving the issuance of an access order to the dwelling are maintained.

The effects of any decision by the Régie du logement or any judgment by a tribunal authorizing the repossession of a dwelling or the eviction of the lessee of a dwelling are suspended, as are the effects of any decision or any judgment ordering the eviction of the lessee or occupant of a dwelling, unless the lessor rented the dwelling again before March 17, 2020 and the suspension would prevent the new lessee from taking possession of the premises.

On June 8, the Government of Quebec unveiled an [additional \\$140 million in funding](#) to the Canada Emergency Assistance for Commercial Rent program. Owners of commercial buildings in all regions of Quebec are eligible for this measure. The terms for application will be made public in the coming days.

Support for Workers

Temporary Aid for Workers Program

Overview: The program offers financial assistance to meet the needs of workers who, because they are in isolation to counter the propagation of the COVID-19 virus, cannot earn all of their work income and are not eligible for another financial assistance program. The lump-sum amount granted to an eligible person is \$573 per week, for a period of 14 days of isolation. If justified by your state of health, the coverage period for an eligible person could be extended to a maximum of 28 days.

How it Works: This program is for adult workers aged 18 or over who reside in Québec and are in isolation for one of the following reasons:

- they have contracted the virus or present symptoms
- they have been contact with an infected person
- they have returned from abroad

In addition, workers who are in isolation or likely to be under the above criteria are eligible for the PATT COVID-19 if

- you are not receiving compensation from your employer
- you do not have private insurance
- you are not covered by another government program, such as employment insurance from the federal government

The order to self-isolate must have been given by the Government of Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec or another responsible authority.

Applicants must fill out this registration form available [here](#).

Temporary Wage Subsidy for Low-Income Workers in Essential Services

Overview: The program will offer a \$100 weekly benefit for low-income earners working full or part time in the essential services. The compensation seeks to ensure that full-time workers in sectors that are deemed essential receive a wage that exceeds what the Canada Emergency Response Benefit would provide.

How it Works: The new benefit will be paid retroactive to March 15 for a maximum of 16 weeks. Through this compensation, workers will obtain, in addition to their wages, a taxable monthly lump sum of \$400, or \$1 600 for a period of 16 weeks.

To be entitled to the benefit, applicants must:

- Work in a sector declared essential during the period covered;
- Earn a gross salary of \$550 a week or less
- Have annual employment earnings of at least \$5 000 and total annual income of \$28 600 or less, calculated before the benefit

Individuals can apply to via an online form through Revenu Quebec that will be available starting May 19, 2020 and will be paid by direct deposit starting on May 27, 2020.

To prevent customer service from being overwhelmed with calls after the official start of PIRTE registrations, Revenu Québec invites eligible workers to register for My Account now and update their banking information required for direct deposit.

The full list of essential workers eligible for the benefit is available [here](#).

Support for Businesses

\$50 Million Support for Montreal's Small Businesses

The Government of Canada announced the injection of new funding worth [\\$50 million to support businesses](#). The funds will be administered by PME MTL, the Ville de Montréal's business support network.

The Government of Canada, through Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED), is planning to grant up to \$30 million to the PME MTL network through the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(RRRF\)](#). This support is aimed at Montréal businesses ineligible for other federal measures related to COVID-19 that are already in place.

Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses

Overview: This program provides a minimum of \$50,000 in emergency financing in the form of a loan or a loan guarantee to help businesses whose cash flow is affected by the impact of COVID-19

How it Works: This financial assistance is available to businesses operating in Québec, including cooperatives and other social economy enterprises with commercial activities. Eligible businesses are those that find themselves in a precarious situation and temporary difficulty as a result of COVID-19. They must show that their financial structure offers realistic prospects for profitability. Businesses must show that their cash flow issues are temporary and that the liquidity shortage stems from:

- A problem involving the supply of raw materials or products (goods or services)
- An inability, or a substantially decreased ability, to deliver goods, products or services

Prospective applicants must contact their account or project manager directly if they are a client of Investissement Québec. If they are not already a client, they need to get in touch with your financial institution, which will then contact Investissement Québec.

Tax Deadlines Extended for Individuals and Businesses

Overview: Revenu Québec extended the deadline for filing the personal income tax return to June 1. For individuals and individuals in business, the deadline for applying balances due related to income tax returns for the 2019 taxation year is postponed to July 31, 2020.

All tax audit and collection activities are being suspended, and the organization will show greater flexibility in respect of payment agreements for tax debts.

Hydro-Quebec

Overview: Hydro-Québec will stop applying administration charges to unpaid bills for all customers and will not cut off power to anyone for non-payment.

Commission de la santé et de la sécurité travail (CNESST) premium deferral

Overview: The deadline to pay Commission de la santé et de la sécurité travail (CNESST) premiums has been extended to August 31. During this period the CNESST will not apply interests or fees.

Emergency assistance for small and medium-sized enterprises

Overview: This program aims to support, for a limited period, the working capital of enterprises whose financial situation is precarious due to COVID-19, so that they are able to maintain, to consolidate or revive their activities. The assistance will take the form of a loan or loan guarantee of up to \$ 50,000.

An initial envelope of \$ 150 million is therefore made available to MRCs and equivalent territories in order to help businesses. Montreal and Quebec will receive \$ 40 million and \$ 10 million respectively, while the other RCMs and equivalent territories will share \$ 100 million.

How it Works: The following organizations are eligible for the program:

- companies from all sectors of activity;
- cooperatives;
- non-profit organizations;
- social economy enterprises carrying out commercial activities.

To be eligible, the business must:

- have been in business in Quebec for at least one year;
- be temporarily closed, likely to close or show warning signs of closure;
- be in a context of maintaining, consolidating or reviving its activities;
- have demonstrated a cause and effect relationship between their financial or operational problems and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The financing relates to the company's liquidity needs and is determined on the basis of justified and reasonable expenses. The company will have to make up for the lack of liquidity caused by:

- an impossibility or a substantial reduction in the capacity to deliver products (goods or services) or goods;
- a problem of supply of raw materials or products (goods or services).

Interested companies must contact their MRC, municipality office, or the organization responsible for managing the Local Investment Fund (FLI) in your MRC. The list of MRCs is available here.

Measures to relax loans granted to businesses under the FLI

Overview: Businesses will have an additional three-month respite for the repayment of their loan (principal and interest), bringing the total business respite period to six months.

How it Works: A six-month moratorium has been introduced for the repayment (capital and interest) of loans already granted through the FLI. Interest accrued during this period will be added to the loan balance. This measure is in addition to the moratorium already in place under most of the investment policies in force in regional county municipalities (MRCs), which can reach twelve months.

Concerted Actions for Job Maintenance Program

Overview: The Concerted Actions for Job Retention Program (PACME) aims to provide direct support to businesses experiencing a reduction in their activities, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the self-employed, in particular through collective promoters recognized by the Commission for Labour Market partners. The program offers direct financial support to promote training and the implementation of good practices in human resource management, and optimize the functioning of businesses and the labor market. The program will provide reimbursement for eligible expenses of: 100% of expenses of \$ 100,000 or less and 50% of expenses between \$ 100,000 and \$ 500,000.

How it Works: Usual business activities must have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether by suspension, decline, increase or diversification of activity.

The program provides direct assistance to companies for their activities in human resources management and skills development of workers, in the workplace, online or remotely, so that they take advantage of the current break to increase skills of their workforce and thus be ready for economic recovery. The program can also support companies that will have to make changes to their usual activities in the short or medium term in order to continue their operations, as well as companies that, when the ups and downs of the current crisis are alleviated, will want to resume their operations. activities and increase their business income.

This program is available to:

- employers;
- self-employed workers (incorporated or not) with employees;
- employee and employer associations;

- professional groups;
- employer groups;
- workers' groups;
- collective promoters recognized by the Commission for labor market partners for the collective promoters component of the program:
- Collective promoters are groups of employers or workers able to create employment-related projects and who can supervise or ensure their implementation, such as sectoral labour committees, training mutuals and recognized employers' associations, legally constituted workers' associations, etc.
- cooperatives;
- social economy enterprises;
- non-profit organizations and community organizations active in communities.

For the Corporate and Group Promoter components, eligible training activities are

- basic employee training;
- francization;
- digital skills training;
- continuous training linked to the company's activities, whether or not directly linked to the position occupied by the trained employee;
- training recommended by professional orders;
- training made necessary for the resumption of business activities;
- training linked to a strategy for adjusting or modifying business activities in the context of economic uncertainty linked to COVID-19, which makes it possible to maintain or diversify business activities (health, telework, etc.) ;
- training for the retraining of workers.

Eligible program expenses are

- the wages of workers in training (excluding payroll taxes) for up to \$ 25 an hour;
- professional fees of consultants or trainers for a maximum of \$ 150 an hour;
- indirect costs for trainers (travel, meals, accommodation, etc.) at actual cost;
- indirect costs for workers in training (travel, meals, accommodation, etc.) at actual cost;
- the development, adaptation and purchase of teaching and teaching materials at real cost;
- the equipment and supplies necessary to carry out activities at real cost;
- developing and adapting training content at real cost;
- the transfer of face-to-face training into online training at real cost;
- registration fees or other fees related to the use of a platform at real cost;
- if applicable, the costs related to management and administrative activities (bank charges, equipment, supplies necessary to carry out the activities, etc.) assumed by the delegated body, up to 10% of the eligible costs.

Projects are accepted until September 30, 2020 or until the budget envelope of \$ 100 million has been used up. Requests can be made retroactive to March 15, 2020. Interested businesses and the self-employed should contact a [business advisor in their area](#). Interested collective promoters should submit a [grant request form](#) to partners@mtess@gouv.qc.ca.

Francais: Programme actions concertées pour le maintien en emploi (PACME–COVID-19)

Le Programme actions concertées pour le maintien en emploi (PACME) vise à fournir un soutien direct aux entreprises qui connaissent une réduction de leurs activités, en raison des effets de la pandémie de COVID-19, incluant les travailleurs autonomes notamment par l'entremise des promoteurs collectifs reconnus par la Commission des partenaires du marché du travail, soit les organismes dont les actions touchent plusieurs entreprises et personnes en emploi.

Ce programme du ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale est offert en collaboration avec la Commission des partenaires du marché du travail. Il offre un soutien financier direct pour favoriser la formation et l'implantation de bonnes pratiques en gestion des ressources humaines, et optimiser le fonctionnement des entreprises et du marché du travail. Les activités habituelles de l'entreprise doivent avoir été affectées par la pandémie de COVID-19, que ce soit par une suspension, une baisse, une augmentation ou une diversification de l'activité.

Admissibilité

Ce programme est composé de deux volets, un volet s'adressant aux entreprises et un volet s'adressant aux promoteurs collectifs.

Volet Entreprises

Le programme prévoit une aide directe aux entreprises pour leurs activités en gestion des ressources humaines et de développement des compétences des travailleurs, sur les lieux de travail, en ligne ou à distance, afin qu'elles mettent à profit la pause actuelle pour accroître les compétences de leur main-d'œuvre et ainsi être prêtes pour la relance économique. En plus, il permettra de diminuer les impacts négatifs que la crise sanitaire ou le ralentissement économique pourrait avoir sur les entreprises. Le programme peut aussi soutenir les entreprises qui auront, à court ou moyen terme, à apporter des changements à leurs activités habituelles, afin de poursuivre leurs opérations, ainsi que des entreprises qui, lorsque les soubresauts de la crise actuelle seront atténués, voudront reprendre leurs activités et augmenter leurs revenus d'affaires. Dans tous les cas de formation sur les lieux de travail, les modalités devront respecter en tous points les consignes de la santé publique.

Volet Promoteurs collectifs

La Commission des partenaires du marché du travail mise, entre autres, sur une approche collective pour répondre aux besoins de formation des entreprises et de la main-d'œuvre. Ce programme d'urgence s'adresse ainsi à des organismes dont les actions touchent plusieurs entreprises et personnes en emploi pour générer un effet multiplicateur. Sa souplesse permettra aux promoteurs de répondre rapidement aux besoins de leurs clientèles.

Les clientèles admissibles au programme sont

- les employeurs;
- les travailleurs autonomes (constitués ou non en société) avec employés;
- les associations d'employés et d'employeurs;
- les regroupements professionnels;
- les regroupements d'employeurs;

- les regroupements de travailleurs;
- les promoteurs collectifs reconnus par la Commission des partenaires du marché du travail pour le volet Promoteurs collectifs du programme :
- Les promoteurs collectifs sont des regroupements d'employeurs ou de travailleurs en mesure de créer des projets liés à l'emploi et qui peuvent en superviser ou en assurer la

réalisation, comme les [comités sectoriels de main-d'œuvre](#), les mutuelles de formation et les associations d'employeurs reconnues, les associations de travailleuses et de travailleurs légalement constituées, etc.

- les coopératives;
- les entreprises d'économie sociale;
- les organismes sans but lucratif et les organismes communautaires actifs au sein des collectivités.
-

Les activités admissibles au programme concernent la formation et la gestion des ressources humaines.

Pour les volets Entreprises et Promoteurs collectifs, les activités de formation admissibles sont

- les formations de base des employés;
- la francisation;
- les formations sur les compétences numériques;
- les formations continues liées aux activités de l'entreprise, qu'elles soient liées ou non directement au poste occupé par l'employé formé;
- les formations préconisées par les ordres professionnels;
- les formations rendues nécessaires en vue de la reprise des activités de l'entreprise;
- les formations liées à une stratégie d'ajustement ou de modification des activités des entreprises dans le contexte d'incertitude économique liée à la COVID-19 qui permettent de maintenir ou de diversifier les activités de l'entreprise (salubrité, télétravail, etc.);
- les formations permettant la requalification des travailleurs.

Considérant la situation actuelle, il est fortement recommandé que les formations puissent être suivies en ligne ou à distance, afin de [respecter les consignes et directives de la santé publique](#). Pour le volet Entreprises, les activités de gestion des ressources humaines (GRH) admissibles sont

- le diagnostic de la fonction ressources humaines et, s'il y a lieu, des autres fonctions;
- les mandats de consultation en GRH (ex. : communication organisationnelle, politique de télétravail, mobilisation des employés, planification des besoins en main-d'œuvre pour le maintien et la reprise des activités, soutien à la diversification des activités);
- les coachings et le développement des habiletés de gestion.

Les dépenses admissibles au programme sont

- le salaire des travailleurs en formation (excluant les charges sociales) pour un maximum de 25 dollars l'heure;
- les honoraires professionnels des consultants ou des formateurs pour un maximum de 150 dollars l'heure;

- les frais indirects pour les formateurs (déplacements, repas, hébergements, etc.) au coût réel;
- les frais indirects pour les travailleurs en formation (déplacements, repas, hébergements, etc.) au coût réel;
- l'élaboration, l'adaptation et l'achat de matériel pédagogique et didactique au coût réel;
- le matériel et les fournitures nécessaires à la réalisation des activités au coût réel;
- l'élaboration et l'adaptation de contenus de formation au coût réel;
- le transfert d'une formation en présentiel en une formation en ligne au coût réel;
- les frais d'inscription ou autres frais liés à l'utilisation d'une plateforme au coût réel;
- si applicable, les frais liés aux activités de gestion et d'administration (frais bancaires, matériel, fournitures nécessaires à la réalisation des activités, etc.) assumés par l'organisme délégué, jusqu'à concurrence de 10 % des frais admissibles.

Aide financière

Ce programme peut être jumelé et complémentaire à toutes les autres mesures annoncées du gouvernement fédéral ou provincial pendant la période visée.

Remboursement des dépenses admissibles des projets de formation des entreprises :

- 100 % des dépenses de 100 000 \$ ou moins;
- 50 % des dépenses entre 100 000 \$ et 500 000 \$.

Dépenses admissibles :

- Remboursement des salaires pouvant atteindre
 - 25 % de la masse salariale des travailleurs en formation (salaire maximal admissible de 25 dollars l'heure), si l'entreprise reçoit la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada de 75 %;
 - 90 % de la masse salariale des travailleurs en formation, si l'entreprise reçoit la subvention salariale temporaire du Canada de 10 %;
 - 100 % des salaires des travailleurs en formation, si l'entreprise ne reçoit aucune subvention salariale du gouvernement fédéral.
- Remboursement pouvant atteindre 100 % des dépenses de formation, des frais afférents et des frais liés aux activités de gestion des ressources humaines, selon les barèmes applicables (ex. : honoraires professionnels).

Durée du programme

Les projets sont acceptés jusqu'au 30 septembre 2020 ou jusqu'à ce que l'enveloppe budgétaire de 100 millions de dollars soit épuisée.

Les projets de formation ou de gestion des ressources humaines déposés peuvent être à durée variable (de quelques jours à quelques semaines ou mois) selon les besoins établis.

Les entreprises et les travailleurs autonomes doivent contacter un conseiller aux [entreprises de leur région](#). Les promoteurs collectifs doivent transmettre leur demande à l'aide du formulaire de demande de subvention, par courriel à l'adresse suivante: partenaires@mtess.gouv.qc.ca.

Deferral of Payments to Enterprise Registrar

Overview: Quebec companies will get a deferral of payment of the annual registration fee to the Registrar of companies (Registraire des entreprises) until September 1, 2020. The deferral will

allow businesses to concentrate on restarting their activities. The payment deferral represents \$24.5 million in relief for business owners and organizations.

How it Works: Note that businesses and organization are still required to file their annual updating declaration by the prescribed date. The payment deadline varies from one business to the next, because the deadline for filing the annual updating declaration varies with the type of business.

Francais: Report de paiements au Registraire des entreprises au 1er septembre 2020

Les quelque 391 000 entreprises du Québec obtiennent un report de paiement de leurs droits annuels d'immatriculation au Registraire des entreprises jusqu'au 1er septembre prochain. C'est l'annonce faite aujourd'hui par le ministre du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale et ministre responsable de la région de la Mauricie, M. Jean Boulet, pour permettre aux entreprises de concentrer leurs efforts à la relance de leurs activités.

Annuellement, les entreprises doivent payer leurs droits d'immatriculation. Pour l'année 2020, ces tarifs varient selon la forme juridique de l'entreprise. Le report de paiement permettra un allègement de 24,5 millions de dollars aux entrepreneurs et aux organismes. Il est à noter que les entreprises et organismes doivent tout de même compléter la mise à jour de leur immatriculation à la date prévue à leur dossier.

Cette mesure s'arrime avec celle de Revenu Québec qui consiste à reporter la date limite pour payer tout solde dû relativement à la déclaration de revenus pour l'année d'imposition 2019 au 1er septembre 2020. La date limite de paiement varie d'une entreprise à l'autre parce que les dates limites de production de la déclaration de mise à jour annuelle varient selon le type d'entreprise.

Web Platform for Businesses to Publish Job Offers

Overview: The Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale is proposing a [temporary web platform](#) enabling businesses offering essential services or commercial activities to publish job offers that quickly reach workers looking for a job.

How it Works: The platform is a temporary tool for posting job offers. It is intended solely for businesses offering essential services or commercial activities.

If you would like to publish job offers, you need to fill out the appropriate request form. You will be required to provide:

- A list of jobs to be filled at your company;
- The name of the person to contact;
- A link to your website (if you have one).

Once submitted, your request will be verified and, if accepted, the job offers will be posted. Information to be verified includes:

- The legal existence of the business;
- The business's status as an essential service or commercial activity.

You will be informed by email whether or not your request has been accepted.

Francais: Besoins urgents de main-d'œuvre dans le contexte de la COVID-19

Le ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale propose une plateforme Web transitoire d'affichage d'emplois qui permet aux entreprises qui sont considérées comme des services prioritaires ou qui exercent des activités prioritaires de publier des offres d'emploi et de les faire connaître rapidement aux personnes à la recherche d'un emploi.

La plateforme transitoire est un outil temporaire qui permet de présenter des offres d'emploi. Il est destiné uniquement aux entreprises qui sont considérées comme des services prioritaires ou qui exercent des activités prioritaires. Pour savoir quelles sont ces entreprises, il faut

consulter la [liste des services et activités prioritaires](#). Les autres entreprises sont invitées à utiliser l'outil Placement en ligne.

Si vous désirez publier des offres d'emploi, vous devez remplir le formulaire de demande prévu à cet effet. Vous devez fournir

- la liste des emplois à pourvoir dans votre entreprise;
- le nom de la personne à contacter;
- le lien vers votre site Web, si vous en avez un.

Par la suite, votre demande sera vérifiée et, si elle est acceptée, les offres d'emploi seront diffusées.

Voici des exemples de ce qui sera vérifié :

- l'existence légale de l'entreprise;
- le fait que l'entreprise est considérée comme un service prioritaire ou qu'elle exerce une activité prioritaire.

Vous recevrez un courriel vous informant de l'acceptation ou du refus de votre demande.

Contribution Credit for Health Services Fund Extended

Overview: The contribution credit for employers to the Health Services Fund in respect of employees on paid leave [is being extended](#) until August 29, 2020. Moreover, the payment of the tax balance payable of trusts for 2020 is postponed to September 1, 2020.

How it Works: To ensure that employers can benefit from the credit on employers contribution to the Health Services Fund for the same periods as those in respect of which they can obtain the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the credit on employers contribution to the Health Services Fund in respect of employees on paid leave will be extended until August 29, 2020.

In this respect, for the application of the credit on employers contribution to the Health Services Fund in respect of employees on paid leave, the new qualifying periods will begin and end on

the same dates as the new qualifying periods begin and end for the application of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

These changes will be adopted for the application of the credit on employers contribution to the Health Services Fund in respect of employees on paid leave although they do not require any amendment of Québec tax legislation.

Francais: Le gouvernement prolonge la durée d'une mesure de soutien aux entreprises et modifie certains délais fiscaux touchant les fiducies et les sociétés

Dans un premier temps, le crédit de cotisation des employeurs au Fonds des services de santé à l'égard des employés en congé payé [est prolongé](#) jusqu'au 29 août 2020.

Or, le 15 mai 2020, le ministre des Finances du Canada a annoncé la prolongation de la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada pour douze semaines, soit jusqu'au 29 août 2020. En conséquence, afin que les employeurs puissent bénéficier du crédit de cotisation au Fonds des services de santé pour les mêmes périodes que celles à l'égard desquelles ils pourront obtenir la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada, le crédit de cotisation des employeurs au Fonds des services de santé à l'égard des employés en congé payé sera également prolongé jusqu'au 29 août 2020.

À cet égard, pour l'application du crédit de cotisation des employeurs au Fonds des services de santé à l'égard des employés en congé payé, les nouvelles périodes d'admissibilité commenceront et se termineront aux mêmes dates que commenceront et se termineront les nouvelles périodes d'admissibilité pour l'application de la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada.

Par ailleurs, le ministre des Finances du Canada a aussi annoncé, le 15 mai dernier, des modifications apportées à la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada de façon que d'autres entités, telles que les organisations journalistiques enregistrées, les établissements d'enseignement et de formation non publics, les entreprises appartenant à un gouvernement autochtone, les associations canadiennes enregistrées de sport amateur et certaines sociétés de personnes, puissent également y être admissibles.

Il a, de plus, annoncé que des modifications législatives seraient proposées afin d'assurer une application adéquate de la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada aux sociétés issues de la fusion de deux ou plusieurs sociétés et afin de mieux harmoniser le traitement des fiducies et des sociétés en ce qui concerne l'admissibilité à la subvention salariale d'urgence du Canada⁴.

Ces modifications seront retenues pour l'application du crédit de cotisation des employeurs au Fonds des services de santé à l'égard des employés en congé payé bien qu'elles ne nécessiteront aucune modification de la législation fiscale québécoise.

Municipal Responses

Montreal

- Owners will have until July 2, 2020 to pay the second installment of their annual property taxes
- Private and social economy businesses that have loans received through the PME MTL fund, Fonds Locaux de Solidarité and Fonds de commercialisation des innovations will have a six-month moratorium on capital and interest.
- \$5 million assistance fund to support sectors that have been hardest in the short term: retail businesses, social economy, creative and cultural industries and tourism

Alberta

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

Restaurants, food preparation facilities, and food delivery services are allowed to provide delivery or takeout services, but dining room services are not permitted. Licensed restaurants and bars are permitted to sell liquor as part of their take-out and delivery services. Mixed drinks may not be provided – liquor must be delivered in a sealed, commercial container as supplied by the liquor supplier or agency.

On April 30, 2020, the Alberta government released a plan for [a phased re-launch](#) of the province.

Early actions

- Vehicle access to parking lots and staging areas in parks and on public lands opening May 1.
- Golf courses can open May 2, with restrictions including keeping clubhouses and pro shops closed. On-site shops and restaurants can open in stage one, consistent with other businesses and retailers.
- Alberta Health Services will resume some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries as soon as May 4.
- Dental and other health-care workers, such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dietitians and more, will be allowed to resume services starting May 4, as long as they are following approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.

Requirements to Move to the Next Stage

Before we move to stage one, several safeguards will be put in place:

- Enhancing our nation-leading COVID-19 testing capacity at the highest level in Canada.
- Robust and comprehensive contact tracing, aided by technology, to quickly notify people who may have been exposed.
- Support for those who test positive for COVID-19, to enable isolation and effectively contain the spread.
- Stronger international border controls and airport screening, especially for international travellers.
- Rules and guidance for the use of masks in crowded spaces, especially on mass transit.
- Maintaining strong protections for the most vulnerable, including those in long-term care, continuing care and seniors lodges.

Further Re-Opening: Stage 1

Progress to Stage 1 will occur once health measures are achieved to the satisfaction of the government based on the advice of the chief medical officer of health, as early as May 14.

- Retail businesses, such as clothing, furniture and bookstores. All vendors at farmers markets will also be able to operate.
- Some personal services like hairstyling and barber shops.

- Museums and art galleries.
- More scheduled surgeries, dental procedures, physiotherapy, chiropractic, optometry and similar services.
- Daycares and out-of-school care with limits on occupancy.
- Summer camps with limits on occupancy. This could include summer school.
- Cafés, restaurants (minors allowed in liquor licensed establishments) with no bar service to reopen for public seating at 50 per cent capacity.
- Some additional outdoor recreation.
- Post-secondary institutions will continue to deliver courses, however how programs are delivered – whether online, in-person, or a blend – will be dependent on what restrictions remain in place at each relaunch phase.
- The use of masks will be strongly recommended in certain specific crowded public spaces, like mass transit, that do not allow for physical distancing (two metres apart).

Still not permitted in Stage 1

- Gatherings of more than 15 people. (Gatherings of 15 people or fewer must follow personal distancing and other public health guidelines.)
- Arts and culture festivals, major sporting events, and concerts, all of which involve close physical contact.
- Movie theatres, theatres, pools, recreation centres, arenas, spas, gyms and nightclubs will remain closed.
- Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.
- In-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

Recommendations

- Non-essential travel, especially travel outside the province, is not recommended.
- Remote working is advised where possible.

Stage 2

Timing of this stage will be determined by the success of Stage 1, considering the capacity of the health-care system and continued limiting and/or reduction of the rate of infections, hospitalization and ICU cases.

Will allow additional businesses and services to reopen and resume operations with two metre physical distancing requirements and other public health guidelines in place. This includes:

- Potential kindergarten to Grade 12 schools, with restrictions.
- More scheduled surgeries, including backlog elimination.
- Personal services, such as artificial tanning, esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatments, massage and reflexology.
- Permitting of some larger gatherings (number of people to be determined as we learn more about the levels of risk for different activities) in some situations.
- Movie theatres and theatres open with restrictions.

Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited.

Still not permitted in stage 2

- Nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres, and arenas will remain closed.

- Arts and culture festivals, concerts, attendance at major sporting events and other mass gatherings will continue to not be permitted.

Recommendations

- Non-essential travel is not recommended.

Stage 3 highlights

Timing of this stage is to be determined based on the success of stages 1 and 2 and will involve:

- Fully reopening all businesses and services, with some limited restrictions still in place.
- Permitting larger gatherings (number of people to be determined).
- Permitting arts and culture festivals, concerts and major sporting events with some restrictions.
- Permitting nightclubs, gyms, pools, recreation centres and arenas to reopen with restrictions.
- Resuming industry conferences with restrictions.
- No restrictions on non-essential travel.

Rental Provisions

The province has changed the eviction process so that no one will be evicted for non-payment of rent and/or utilities until after April 30, 2020. Effective immediately and until the state of public health emergency is lifted, landlords are required to work with residential and mobile home site tenants to work out a payment plan before an application for possession of the premises due to non-payment of rent will be considered. Additionally, the government has suspended civil enforcements of evictions for non-payment of residential rent until April 30, 2020. Commercial leases are addressed by the terms of the specific agreement [and fall outside the scope](#) of the legislation being temporarily modified.

Support for Workers

Emergency Isolation Support

Overview: Albertans can receive a one-time emergency isolation support payment of \$1146. This is a temporary program to bridge the gap until the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is available in April.

How it Works: Individuals are eligible for the payment if they:

- Experienced total or significant loss of income as a result of having to self-isolate, or are the sole caregiver of a dependent who is self-isolating, and
- Have no other source of compensation, such as workplace sick leave benefits or federal employment insurance benefits

Individuals can apply [here](#).

Job-protected leave

Overview: The province has amended the Employment Standards Code to allow full and part-time employees to take 14 days of job-protected leave if they are required to self-isolate or caring for a child or dependent adult who is required to self-isolate.

How it works: To be eligible, employees are not required to have a medical note and do not need to have worked for an employer for 90 days. The leave will cover the 14-day self-isolation period recommended by public health guidelines. The leave does not apply to self-employed individuals or contractors.

Support for Businesses

Corporate income tax changes

Overview: Corporate income tax balances and instalment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 are deferred until August 31, 2020 to increase employers' access to cash so they can pay employees, address debts and continue operations.

Education property tax deferral

Overview: Education property tax rates will be frozen at last year's level – reversing the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020. Non-residential education property tax for businesses will be deferred for 6 months and repaid in future tax years. Commercial landlords are encouraged to pass savings on to their tenants through reduced or deferred payments to help employers pay their employees and stay in business.

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) premium payment deferral

Overview: Small, medium and large private-sector employers can defer their Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) premium payments until 2021.

How it Works: For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021. Large employers will have their payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due. Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.

Utility payment deferral

Overview: Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.

How it Works: This program is available to Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19 such as those who have lost their employment or had to leave work to take care of an ill family member. Albertans must call their utility provider directly to arrange for the 90-day deferral.

Tourism Levy Deferral

Overview: Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until Aug. 31 for amounts that become due to government on or after March 27, 2020. Payments deferred until Aug. 31 will not be subject to penalties or interest. Hotels and other lodging providers are still expected to file returns, as required by legislation, and must collect the tourism levy from guests staying at their properties during this period.

ATB Financial Supports for Small Business Customers

Overview: ATB small business customers can apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to 6 months and access additional working capital for ATB customers.

Business Link to provide advisory services for small businesses

Overview: Business Link will provide one-on-one guidance to Albertans who operate a small business or are pursuing an entrepreneurial venture.

How it Works: Small businesses can access a list of available supports on Business Link's website, or connect with a business strategist by phone, email or live chat. Business Link is also offering free programming through June, including webinars on a variety of topics, online events, and free expert sessions with lawyers, accountants, marketing specialists, e-commerce specialists and more.

To access Business Link services, contact 1-800-272-9675 or visit www.businesslink.ca.

Utility Deferral Payments

Overview: The government [announced its intention](#) to introduce the *Utility Payment Deferral Program Act* on May 6, which will allow residential, farm, and small commercial customers to defer bill payments for electricity and natural gas until June 18.

How it Works: This program is intended for Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19, such as those who have lost their employment or have had to leave work to take care of an ill family member.

Customers will need to contact their utility directly to sign up for the deferral program. Customers will still have to pay for their deferred electricity and natural gas bills after the program ends on June 18.

If passed, the *Utility Payment Deferral Program Act* will allow electricity and natural gas providers to apply for loans either from the Balancing Pool or from the Government of Alberta, ensuring they have the cash flow to support Albertans through the Utility Payment Deferral Program.

Bill 14 also lays out repayment criteria for individuals who defer payments through the program. Repayment can occur through equal, monthly instalments – starting when the program ends on June 18 – or through a repayment plan agreed to by the retailer and customer. All deferred payments must be paid back by June 18, 2021.

The bill will also provide the Alberta Utilities Commission with the authority to oversee the deferral program and the associated loans.

Program Details Outstanding: The legislation will be introduced on May 6 and will need to be passed into implementation.

Alberta Biz Connect

Overview: The Alberta government launched the Biz Connect resource to support businesses with re-opening during the province's phased re-launch. The resource provides business owners with information on health and safety guidelines for general workplaces and sector-specific guidelines for those able to open in stage one of relaunch to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it Works: The resource is available [at alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx](https://at.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx) and restaurant-specific guidelines are available [here](#).

SME Relaunch Working Capital Grant/Commercial Rent Protection

On June 5th the Alberta government announced both commercial rent protection and a working capital grant up to \$5,000 similar to Saskatchewan's SSEP program for Alberta small businesses [Alberta leads country supporting economic relaunch](#).

How it works: Starting June 29th, eligible small- and medium-sized businesses, co-ops and non-profits were able to start applying for the up to \$5,000 working capital grant. Read the [News Release](#)

- Eligible job creators can apply for up to \$5,000 through this program
- Must have 500 or fewer employees
- Full program details can be found in the [program guidelines](#)
- To manage the expected volume of applications, during the first week of application intake (June 29 to July 3), a specific application day was designated for specific regions of the province. Note: This is not a first-come-first-serve process. From July 4 onwards, organizations from all regions may apply at any time until application intake for the program closes.

If organizations applying can ensure the individual applying has the ability to make the necessary attestations (a signing officer for the organization) and that they have a MADI (<https://account.alberta.ca/>).

If you have specific questions about the program, email inquiries can be sent to: SMErelaunch.program@gov.ab.ca

Municipal Responses

Calgary

- Business Improvement Area (BIA) Tax penalties are cancelled until June 30, 2020. Any business that has not already paid their BIA tax has until June 30, 2020 to pay penalty free. A penalty of 7% would apply to taxes outstanding as of July 1, 2020.

British Columbia

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

Under the province's State of Emergency, Restaurants are only permitted to offer takeout or delivery. Restaurants must not have more than 50 people present at one time on the premises. Customers may be on the premises only for the time that it takes them to purchase and collect their purchase. When there are people on the premises, there must enough space available to enable them to maintain a distance of 2 metres from one another.

Alcohol is temporary permitted for delivery orders alongside the purchase of a meal. These alcohol permissions have been [extended October 31, 2020](#).

On June 5th the Ministry of Attorney General announced that on a temporary basis during the pandemic, licensees who may not be opening or using their liquor inventory can sell their inventory to other licensees [Hospitality Businesses Permitted to Sell Liquor Stock During Pandemic](#). This authorization is set to expire on July 15, 2020.

On May 6, 2020, the province released the [BC Restart Plan](#).

On June 24, 2020, the province moved to [Phase 3](#) of the restart plan. All guidelines and extra safety precautions for sectors in [Phase 2](#) are still in place. Phase 3 also includes guidelines for British Columbians wanting to travel in the province.

Under enhanced protocols:

- Restoration of health services
- Re-scheduling elective surgery
- Medically related services: Dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, and chiropractors
- Physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
- Retail sector
- Hairdressers, barbers, nail salons, aestheticians, and body artists
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, and pubs (with sufficient distancing measures)
- Museums, art galleries, and libraries
- Office-based worksites
- Museums, art galleries, and libraries
- Recreation and sports
- Parks, beaches, and outdoor spaces
- Child care and day camps
- Gyms, yoga and dance studios, recreation centres, and tanning services
- Hotel, motels, RV parks, cabins, resorts, hostels, lodges, and backcountry operators
- BC Parks overnight camping
- Motion picture and television production
- K-12 in-person classes, 2020/2021 school year
- Post-secondary in-person classes, 2020/2021 academic year

WorkSafeBC has developed [industry-specific guidance](#) to help employers bring workers and customers back safely. Any business restarting operations must ensure it is in compliance with the provincial health officer's orders and in accordance with occupational health and safety guidance provided by WorkSafeBC.

Phase 4 will only be achieved when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent.

Rental Provisions

The province has also made changes to the *Residential Tenancies Act*. The government has introduced a temporary rent supplement of up to \$500 per month, paid directly to landlords. The province is also halting new and active evictions so that no one is evicted due to COVID-19. Annual rent increases have been frozen.

On April 9, 2020, the province opened applications for the temporary rental supplement. The program will provide \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents and \$500 per month for eligible households with dependents. Eligible roommates will each be able to apply for the supplement. The supplement will be available for April, May and June 2020. Renters who are eligible for the program and have already paid their April rent are still able to receive the rental supplement for this month.

The supplement will be paid directly to landlords on behalf of renters to reduce tenants' rent owing and ensure landlords are getting some rental income right now. Once an application is completed and processed, funds will be direct deposited within approximately seven days. Eligibility criteria and applications are available [here](#).

Repayment Framework to Support Tenants and Landlords

The Government has laid out the details of a repayment framework to help renters and landlords transition and tenants when the ban on evictions for non-payment of rent is lifted ahead of Sept. 1, 2020.

The framework will apply once the ban on issuing evictions for non-payment of rent is lifted. It requires the landlord to give the tenant until July 2021 to repay any outstanding rent, as long as monthly instalments are paid.

Support for Workers

BC Emergency Benefit for Workers

Overview: A tax-free \$1000 payment to British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected by COVID-19. The benefit will be a one-time payment for B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance (EI), or the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This includes workers who have been laid-off, who are sick or quarantined, parents with sick children, parents who stay at home from work while child-care centres and schools are closed, and those caring for sick family members, such as an elderly parent. The workers can be EI-eligible and non-EI eligible, such as the self-employed. The benefit will be paid to B.C. residents, in addition to their federal income supports.

How it Works: To be eligible for the BCEBW, people must:

- have been a resident of British Columbia on March 15, 2020;
- meet the eligibility requirements for the CERB;
- have been approved for the CERB, even if they have not received a benefit yet;
- be at least 15 years old on the date of application;
- have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return; and
- not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance.

Payments will start to go out within days of application. While there may be minor delays during the initial surge, government staff will be working to quickly process payments.

Applying online is the fastest, easiest way to receive the benefit. To apply, British Columbians with their social insurance number and direct deposit information can go to: www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit

COVID-19 Temporary Layoff Period

Overview: To ease financial hardship on businesses and to keep employees connected with their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, government has extended the temporary layoff period to 24 weeks, expiring on August 30th, for COVID-19 related reasons.

How it Works: Temporary layoffs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic can be extended to 24 weeks, if the employee agrees.

Previously under the Employment Standards Act, a temporary layoff longer than 13 weeks in any 20-week period (or about three months in a five-month period) was considered a permanent layoff. With a permanent layoff, employers are required to provide employees with written working notice of termination and/or pay severance to qualifying employees, based on their length of service.

This change to the Employment Standards Act aligns B.C.'s temporary layoff provisions with the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit period. The federal period provides 24 weeks of financial support, allowing employees to take full advantage of those benefits.

The COVID-19 emergency temporary layoff provisions are not intended to be permanent and will be repealed when no longer needed.

On June 25th the BC government overturned the initial temporary layoff extension request denial by extending the temporary layoff provisions to August 30th.

The Labour Ministry has set up an online application process. The online application process is relatively straight forward and senior Ministry officials are requesting that applications for temporary layoff extensions be done ASAP. Click [here](#) for more details on the temporary layoff application process BC extended layoff process release.

Minimum Wage Increase

Overview: To support B.C.'s lowest paid workers, the general hourly minimum wage is [increasing](#) to \$14.60, and the minimum wage rates for liquor servers, resident caretakers and live-in camp leaders are also increasing, effective Monday, June 1, 2020.

How it Works: Effective June 1

- General minimum wage increases 5.4% to \$14.60 per hour, an increase of \$0.75 per hour.
- Liquor server minimum wage increases 9.8% to \$13.95 per hour, an increase of \$1.25 per hour.
- Resident caretaker minimum wage, per month, increases 5.4% to \$876.35 for those who manage nine to 60 units (an increase of \$35.12/unit), or \$2,985.04 for 61 or more units.
- Live-in camp leader minimum wage, per day, increases 5.4% to \$116.86.

Support for Businesses

Tax Deferrals

Overview: Effective immediately, provincial tax filing and payment deadlines are deferred to Sept. 30, 2020 for the following provincial taxes:

- Provincial sales tax (PST)
- Employer health tax
- Municipal and regional district tax on short-term accommodation
- Carbon tax
- Motor fuel tax
- Tobacco tax

Postponement of Scheduled Tax Increases

Overview: The scheduled April 1 increase to the provincial carbon tax, the new PST registration requirements on e-commerce, and the implementation of PST on sweetened carbonated drinks will be delayed until September 30, 2020.

Employer Health Tax (EHT) Payment Deferral

Overview: Effective immediately, businesses with a payroll over \$500,000 can defer their employer health tax payments until Sept. 30, 2020. Businesses with a payroll under this threshold are already exempt.

School Tax Reduction

Overview: Business and light- and major-industry property classes (classes 4, 5, and 6) will see their school tax cut in half for the 2020 tax year. This will provide \$500 million in immediate relief for business that own their property and allow commercial landlords to immediately pass savings on to their tenants in triple-net leases.

On April 16, 2020, the province introduced an equivalent tax reduction for Managed forest (class 7) and Recreation and non-profit (class 8) property classes, which will lower the overall commercial property tax bill for most businesses by an average of 25%.

BC Hydro Relief

Overview: BC Hydro will offer new, targeted bill relief to provide immediate help to those most in need. Small businesses that have been forced to close due to COVID-19 will have their power bills forgiven for three months. BC Hydro is waiving bills for these customers from April to June 2020. In addition to this new targeted bill relief, BC Hydro rates will be reduced by 1% on April 1, 2020, after the B.C. Utilities Commission provided interim approval of the application BC Hydro submitted last August.

How it Works: Applications will open the week of April 13, 2020. Eligible business customers can apply any time before June 30, 2020 to have their business' bills waived for April, May and June. Applications will open [here](#).

Late Payment Penalties Postponed for Commercial Properties

Overview: The province is postponing the date that late payment penalties apply for commercial properties in classes 4,5,6,7 and 8 to Oct. 1, 2020, to give businesses and landlords more time to pay their reduced property tax, without penalty.

B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service

Overview: A new B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service will serve as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic. The B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service will be operated by Small Business BC (SBBC), a non-profit organization. The service will act as a one-stop resource to answer questions about supports available to businesses from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners.

How it Works: Starting on Thursday, April 16, 2020, advisors are available Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Pacific time) and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1 833 254-4357. Inquiries can also be emailed to covid@smallbusinessbc.ca, or raised on the live-chat feature available on SBBC's dedicated website: <https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca>

Eviction Protection for Businesses

Overview: Under a new [Emergency Program Act](#), B.C. businesses eligible for rent support from the federal government will be protected from evictions.

How it Works: The EPA order restricts the termination of lease agreements and the repossession of goods and property. Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines.

The emergency order restricting evictions is effective immediately.

Liquor Wholesale Pricing

On June 16th, the BC government and Attorney General [announced full wholesale pricing for all BC liquor licensees](#).

Licensees will be able to access full wholesale pricing on liquor purchases effective July 20th. While the full wholesale price is temporary until March 31st, 2021.

You will not know the wholesale price if you don't register for a Hospitality Product Catalogue account before July 20th. Given the volume of registrations in a short period of time the processing time to activate accounts is expected to take up to 10 – 15 days.

Wholesale prices will NOT be visible in BC Liquor Stores. Only retail prices will continue to be posted on BCLS shelves and the BCLS website. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you register for your Hospitality Product Catalogue account ASAP.

How to register:

1. Complete a registration form (download it [HERE](#))
2. Email your completed registration form to the LDB Wholesale Customer Centre: wholesalehelp@bclddb.com

What do I need to register for an account?

- Hospitality licensee ID number
- Unique email address

Note: Hospitality customers with Web Store accounts will have automatic access to wholesale prices via Web Store on July 20th and do not need to register for any additional accounts. Register for your account now.

What is the Hospitality Product Catalogue?

The Hospitality Product Catalogue is your access to wholesale pricing. It is designed for pubs, bars, and restaurants purchasing from the Wholesale Customer Centre and BC Liquor Stores. The catalogue provides product search capabilities and features the SKU, product name, price, case configuration, alcohol content, and the representing agent plus additional product attributes.

Where can I learn more?

- Visit [the LDB Hospitality Product Catalogue page](#)
- [Read the FAQs](#) for the Hospitality Product Catalogue Onboarding Process
- Download the [BCLS Serviced Hospitality Customer Handbook](#)

Saskatchewan

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

Restaurants may offer takeout or delivery services (including alcohol) so long as restaurants provide two-metre distancing between customers and the delivery of alcohol or food products.

On April 23rd, the province announced a plan to [re-open Saskatchewan](#) in five phases, beginning on May 4th, 2020.

Phase One – Beginning May 4, 2020

- The first phase of the plan includes the re-opening of medical services restricted under the current public health order, and the resumption of low-risk outdoor recreational activities, including fishing and boat launches, golf courses and a fixed date for parks and campgrounds. The size restrictions of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people.
- On May 4, public access to medical services will be reinstated, including access to dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, opticians, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic treatment. When it is not possible to physically distance, providers will be required to take precautionary measures as outlined by the Chief Medical Health Officer.
- Low-risk outdoor recreational activities will be allowable with precautionary measures, including fishing and boat launches (May 4), golfing with physical distancing guidelines (May 15) and a fixed date (June 1) and clear guidelines for the operation of parks and campgrounds.

Phase Two – May 19, 2020

- The second phase of the plan includes the May 19 re-opening of retail businesses and select personal services that were previously not deemed allowable.
- The size restrictions of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people.
- A full list of retail businesses and select personal services that will be deemed allowable in phase two is included in the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, along with guidance, protocols, and physical distancing measures that allowable businesses and services are required to observe.

Phase Three – June 8, 2020

- The third phase will be implemented following an evaluation of transmission patterns of COVID-19, and does not have a pre-determined date. The third phase will include the re-opening of remaining personal services, along with the re-opening of restaurant-type facilities, gyms and fitness facilities, licensed establishments and childcare facilities. Capacity limits will remain in some facilities, such as limits to 50 per cent of regular capacity for restaurants and licensed establishments.
- All businesses and customers will be expected to maintain physical distancing practices, guidelines and recommendations.
- Other than in allowable businesses, the size of public and private gatherings will increase to a maximum of 15 people.

Phase Four – Part 1 on June 22 and Part 2 on June 29, 2020

- The fourth phase includes the re-opening of indoor and outdoor recreation and entertainment facilities.
- All businesses and customers will be expected to maintain physical distancing practices, guidelines and recommendations.
- Effective July 6th, the 50% patron capacity requirement will be eliminated. Instead these facilities are permitted to maintain an occupancy level that allows staff and customers to maintain appropriate physical distancing. These [guidelines](#) apply to both indoor and outdoor patio seating areas.
- Other than in allowable businesses, the size of public and private gatherings will increase to a maximum of 30 people.

Phase Five – Date To Be Determined

- The fifth phase will be implemented following an evaluation of transmission patterns of COVID-19 and the preceding four phases, and will include the consideration of lifting long-term restrictions.

Rental Provisions

The province is temporarily suspending eviction hearings. The Office of Residential Tenancies (ORT) will not be accepting applications for eviction related to missed or late rent, or for other non-urgent claims. Previous eviction orders for non-urgent matters (i.e. – not related to health and safety concerns) will not be enforced, and previously scheduled hearings for non-urgent matters have been cancelled as of today. The ORT will only be conducting eviction hearings for urgent situations where there is a potential risk to health or safety resulting from violence or damage to property. Hearings may also take place for situations where a tenant has been locked out by their landlord or where a landlord has been accused of not providing essential services such as power and water. Tenants who are unable to pay their rent during the state of emergency will be expected to pay their rent in full once the state of emergency is over.

On June 5th the Government of Saskatchewan [announced temporary commercial eviction](#) protection for small business tenants during the COVID-19 emergency. The moratorium on evictions applies to landlords that are eligible to apply for the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#) program but choose not to. The emergency order restricting commercial evictions is effective immediately.

Support for Workers**Job Protected Leave**

Overview: The province has amended The Saskatchewan Employment Act to ensure:

- Employees can access unpaid public health emergency leave;
- Removal of the requirement of 13 consecutive weeks of employment with an employer prior to accessing sick leave; and
- Removal of the provision requiring a doctor's note or certificate

Self-Isolation Support Program

Overview: The Self-Isolation Support Program will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900. The Self-Isolation Support Program is targeted at Saskatchewan residents forced to self-isolate that are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports.

How it Works: The program is anticipated to cost a total of \$10 million and will mostly benefit self-employed residents of Saskatchewan that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- They have contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms;
- They have been in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19;
- They have recently returned from international travel and have been required to self-isolate;

AND

- If they are not eligible for compensation including sick leave, vacation leave from their employer
- If they do not have private insurance covering such disruptions
- If they are not covered by other programs such as federal employment insurance that has been updated.

Support for Businesses

Three Month PST Remittance Deferral and Audit Suspension

Overview: Effective immediately, Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges. Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected.

Applications can be submitted [here](#).

Provincial Utility Deferral Program

Overview: All Crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan customers whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

Business Response Team

Overview: The province has launched a Business Response Team to support businesses in the province dealing with the economic challenges resulting from COVID-19. The Team is led by the Ministry of Trade and Export Development and will work with businesses to identify program supports available to them both provincially and federally.

Businesses can contact the Business Response Team at supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca or 1-844-800-8688 or visit [this website](#).

Workers' Compensation Board Waives Premium Penalties for Employers for Three Months

Overview: The provincial Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) is waiving penalties and interest charges for late premium payments from April 1 until June 30, 2020. The WCB is also forgiving interest and penalties for late payments applied in the Month of March.

Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP)

Overview: The \$50 million program will provide financial support to small and medium-sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SSBEP provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19.

How it Works: Grants will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business' monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000. Payments can be used for any purpose, including paying fixed costs or expenditures related to re-opening the business following the pandemic.

To be eligible for the SSBEP, a business must:

- have been fully operational in Saskatchewan on February 29, 2020;
- have ceased or curtailed operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health order;
- have experienced a loss of sales revenue that affects the applicant's ability to pay for fixed costs
- have less than 500 employees;
- attest to reopen business operations within 90 days following the cancellation of the COVID-19 public health orders; and
- Have not received any payments or amounts from any other sources, including insurance, to replace or compensate for the loss of sales revenue other than amounts from other government assistance programs

Businesses must apply on or before July 31, 2020.

The Government of Saskatchewan will be requesting that the federal government exempt the SSBEP from business income for tax purposes.

Businesses can apply [here](#).

On May 8, 2020, the government [announced](#) that the program will be extended to the month of May for businesses that are required to remain closed or substantially curtail operations after May 19, 2020. Businesses will not need to reapply to the program. Businesses that qualify for the program will automatically receive a second payment after May 19.

Temporary Authorization of Patio and Service Area Expansions to Support Re-Opening

Overview: To support businesses in their reopening efforts, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation branch (LCRB) will now permit food-primary, liquor-primary and manufacturer licensees, such as wineries, breweries and distilleries, to apply through a simplified online process to temporarily expand their service areas until Oct. 31, 2020.

How it Works: The temporary authorizations are focused on expanding a licensed service area's footprint only and will not permit an increase in an establishment's overall occupancy. Licensees must comply with all local bylaws and liquor-primary and manufacturer licensees must also receive the approval of their local government.

There are no fees associated with the temporary expansion applications, which will be reviewed in the order they are received using an expedited approval process for faster processing times. While there will not be a site inspection prior to approval of the permit, inspectors will conduct regular compliance inspections.

Local governments will have two options for approval of temporary expansion authorizations for liquor primary and manufacturer licences:

- Pre-approval to cover all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments within their jurisdiction who may apply for an expanded service area; or
- Review/approval of all individual applications of all liquor primary and manufacturer expansions prior to licensees submitting their completed application package to the LCRB.

If a local government chooses to review all individual requests for liquor primary and manufacturer applications, the LCRB will require those licensees to provide written approval from their local government with their application. Local government approval can be in the form of a letter or email and must include the following information:

1. Establishment name
2. Licence number
3. Establishment address
4. Local Government's confirmation of "no objection"
5. Permission to use publicly owned spaces, if applicable
6. Comments, if any.

Applicants are encouraged to get in touch with their local government to determine their approach prior to submitting applications.

Applications are available [here](#).

Temporary Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) Program

On June 18th, the province announced a new temporary training program to help businesses train employees to enhance safety protocols and adjust business models as they reopen. The [RSTS](#) program will reimburse private sector employers 100 percent of employee training costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per business. This measure provides working capital assistance on top of the Small Business Emergency Payment Program's two \$5,000 working capital grants. Combined these two programs will provide restaurants with up to \$20,000 in grants.

The application deadline for RSTS is July 31, 2020.

Manitoba

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

On March 30th, 2020, Manitoba issued [a new public health order](#) that prohibits all restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food from serving food to customers in their premises. Restaurants and other commercial facilities will be permitted to prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. Restaurants [may sell alcoholic beverages](#) with takeout and delivery meal service by licensed establishments.

On April 29, 2020, the province released [a phased plan](#) to ease restrictions and re-open the economy. Each phase will require a period of a minimum three to four weeks to observe the results of the previous phase, and to make determinations about acceptable next steps.

On July 14th, the government announced that it will [extend the province wide state of emergency under](#) The Emergency Measures Act to continue to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The extension takes effect at 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 for a period of 30 days.

Restoring Services (Phase One) - *Beginning May 4*

Critical public health measures and current travel restrictions will remain. This includes mandatory self-isolation upon one's return to Manitoba and limits on travel to the north. Priority elective surgeries have been restarted, diagnostics screening will resume and some non-essential businesses will be reopened:

- schools will remain closed
- non-urgent surgery and diagnostic procedures restored
- therapeutic and health care services restored
- retail businesses reopen
- restaurants - patio/walk-up services restored
- hairstylists and barbers reopen
- museums, galleries and libraries reopen
- outdoor recreation and campgrounds reopen

If results during or at the end of phase one or any future phases are not favourable, the province will not proceed with further easing of secondary public health measures and may reintroduce others. If disease activity remains low, we will give serious consideration in mid-May to reducing the restrictions on group size.

Restoring Services (Phase Two) - *Beginning no earlier than June 1*

Critical public health measures and travel restrictions will remain. This includes mandatory self-isolation upon one's return to Manitoba and limits on travel to the north. Any changes made in this phase will depend on the evaluation of the previous phase. This may include:

- expanding public gatherings
- restaurants - dine-in services restored

- film production reopened
- non-contact children's sports restored

Restoring Services (Phase Three) - Beginning June 21st

Premier Pallister announced [Phase Three of the Reopening Plan](#) which will take effect on June 21st. The 75% capacity for restaurants was removed as long as the two meter distance or physical barriers are utilized. The [Phase Three Roadmap](#) requirements for restaurants, bars, beverage rooms, brew pubs, microbreweries and distilleries states:

- These businesses may fully operate if they implement measures to ensure that members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others, except for brief exchanges.
- These businesses may fully reopen patios and indoor spaces as long as tables and seating are arranged so there is a permanent or temporary physical barrier or a two-metre separation between persons sitting at different tables.
- Restaurants must implement measures to ensure that members of the public when not seated are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others, except for brief exchanges.
- Bars, beverage rooms, micro-brewers and similar businesses must continue to implement measures to ensure that members of the public are seated at a table, and are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others, except for brief exchanges.
- Standing service is not allowed.
- Dance floors are to remain closed.

Future Phases

Public health measures may be further eased based on ongoing public health data and surveillance. Physical distancing measures will remain in place. Travel restrictions may be eased, depending on public health data and surveillance. Specific considerations are included relating to:

- performing arts venues
- other non-essential businesses
- large gatherings / events

Rental Provisions

The government has postponed eviction hearings and has frozen rent increases scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2020 or later. The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) and Residential Tenancies Commission (RTC) will postpone all hearings for non-urgent matters to halt evictions. The RTB and the RTC will only issue eviction orders to address issues affecting health and

safety including unlawful activities. Measures to suspend non-urgent eviction hearings are in place until May 31 and will be monitored to determine if additional adjustments are required.

The province [announced](#) on May 29, 2020 that it will continue to postpone non-urgent eviction hearings and suspending any rent increases scheduled to take effect in June. The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) and Residential Tenancies Commission (RTC) will continue to postpone all hearings for non-urgent matters to halt evictions, and all scheduled hearings are delayed to protect Manitobans from evictions during the pandemic, with certain exceptions to deal with urgent issues that involve the health and safety of tenants. Eviction orders will only be issued to address issues affecting health and safety including unlawful activities.

On June 24th the provincial government [implemented a ban on commercial evictions](#) during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The commercial eviction ban protects businesses from forced closure during the pandemic and it is hoped this will also encourage landlords to enroll in the [Canada Emergency Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#) program.

Support for Workers

Temporary Exception to Employment Standards Layoff Rules

Overview: Under current employment standards legislation, employees who have been laid off for eight or more weeks in a 16-week period are deemed to have been terminated and are entitled to wages in lieu of notice. The province is making temporary amendments that would ensure any period of layoff occurring after March 1, 2020, will not be counted toward the period after which a temporary layoff would become a permanent termination. This measure is temporary and specific to situations where employees will eventually be rehired once the COVID-19 crisis has subsided and economic activity picks up again.

Manitoba Risk Recognition Program

Overview: The \$120 million [Manitoba Risk Recognition Program](#) provides a one-time payment to low-income, essential, front-line workers, who have taken extraordinary risks to keep Manitobans safe during the period of March 20, 2020 to May 29, 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it Works: Eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria below:

- You worked in an eligible position and organization in healthcare, social services, justice, essential retail, food and beverage, and transportation (see the following list of [eligible organizations and positions](#))
- You worked a minimum of 200 cumulative hours during the period of March 20, 2020 (the date of the first COVID-19 public health order) to May 29, 2020 on a part-time or full-time basis, or would have worked a minimum of 200 cumulative hours during the eligibility period, but had to self-isolate under public health orders
- You earned a total pre-tax employment income of less than \$6,250 during the period of March 20, 2020 to May 29, 2020 (average \$2,500 per month x 2.5 months)
- You are *not* enrolled in the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program

Eligible categories include store shelf stockers, retail salespersons, cashiers, cooks, security guards, light-duty cleaners in retail facilities, early childhood educators, licensed home-based child-care providers, family violence shelter workers, social workers, nurses and nurse practitioners, paramedics, health-care aides, community services workers (including personal care homes, home care, public health, mental health and addictions), direct service workers for adults and children with disabilities, law enforcement (including Winnipeg Police Service, Brandon Police Service and RCMP), correctional officers, long-distance truck drivers and bus drivers.

To complete the application, eligible applicants must:

- have a valid social insurance number (SIN)
- have an email address
- have a valid Canadian bank account
- apply by June 18, 2020

Eligible applicants will receive a one-time payment paid directly by the Manitoba government as risk recognition. The amount will be determined by dividing the available pool of funds by the total number of eligible applicants who applied before the application deadline.

The application deadline is Thursday, June 18, 2020. Applications are available [here](#).

Manitoba Job Restart Program

On June 23rd the Manitoba government introduced [Manitoba Job Restart program](#). The program provides payments to a maximum of \$2,000 to help qualified Manitobans return to work.

To qualify program participants must:

- safely return to work for a cumulative 30 hours/week with one or more eligible employers
- voluntarily stop collecting Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) or similar COVID-19 financial support programs delivered by the federal government

The province will fully finance the program, which does not require any contributions from employers in order for workers to qualify.

Those who wish to participate in the Manitoba Job Restart Program can now [apply online](#).

Support for Businesses

Extended Tax Filing Deadlines for Businesses

Overview: The province extended the Retail Sales Tax (RST) filing deadlines for April and May for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than

\$10,000. Businesses will have up to two additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy (HE Levy). The Minister of Finance committed to working with businesses regarding flexible repayment options above the \$10 000 cap.

How it Works: RST remittances for small and medium businesses of no more than \$10 000 per month that would normally be due on April 20th and May 20th will now be due on June 22, 2020. Businesses that qualify for the above filing extension that were not able to file and remit their February sales tax return by the March 20th due date will not be assessed a late filing penalty and interest will not be applied until after June 22, 2020.

HE Levy returns for small and medium businesses of no more than \$10 000 per month that would normally be due on April 15th and May 15th will now be due on June 15, 2020. Businesses that qualify for the above filing extension that were not able to file and remit their February HE Levy tax return by the March 16th due date will not be assessed a late filing penalty and interest will not be applied until after June 15, 2020. Interest will continue to apply on all outstanding tax debts established prior to the March remittance deadlines.

On May 29, 2020, the province announced that it will extend the deadlines for June as well. Businesses will now have up to three additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax.

New Measures in Manitoba Protection Plan

Overview: The province announced additional measures under the Manitoba Protection Plan to provide extra support and relief to homeowners and businesses.

How it Works: As part of the Manitoba Protection Plan, the province is providing the following protections for the next six months until Oct. 1:

- instructing Manitoba Hydro, Central Gas and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) to not charge interest or penalties in the event that Manitobans are unable to pay at this time;
- instructing MPI to relax ordinary practices on policy renewals and collections;
- instructing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores;
- supporting Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to do the same and asking WCB to extend relief from penalties for late payments;
- directing Manitoba Hydro and Central Gas to not disconnect customers during these times; and
- working with municipal partners to ensure municipalities do not charge interest on provincial education taxes and school division fees and the province is encouraging municipalities to do the same with respect to their own taxes and will start discussions to support implementation.

The government is also deferring provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to Aug. 31 and has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until Oct. 1, should the federal government agree.

The province is also accelerating the removal of \$75 million of annual PST from residential and business properties, effective July 1.

This will save residential property owners an estimated \$38 million per year and business property owners \$37 million a year.

Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba Returns \$37M to Employers

Overview: The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba is returning [a \\$37-million surplus](#) to provide financial relief to eligible employers in the province. Of the \$37 million, WCB expects \$29 million will be returned to the private sector, with approximately \$7 million going to small businesses in Manitoba.

How it Works: In May, eligible employers will receive a credit to their account based on 20 per cent of their 2019 premium. To be eligible to receive the surplus, employers must have fulfilled their payroll reporting responsibilities for 2019 and paid a WCB premium in 2019. Employers can still report their 2019 payroll to receive the surplus distribution.

Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP)

Overview: The [Manitoba Gap Protection Program \(MGPP\)](#) is available to any of the approximately 120,000 businesses in Manitoba who have fallen into a gap in failing to qualify for the various federal government assistance programs and wage subsidies created because of COVID-19. Application deadline has been extended to August 31st.

How it Works: The province will advance each eligible business the non-interest bearing forgivable MGPP loan of \$6,000. The province has allocated \$120 million in funding for this program. The loan will be forgiven on Dec. 31, 2020, if the recipient attests at that time the business has not received any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account, as well as sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic. If the applicant has received benefits under a federal COVID program, then the loan will be added to the recipient's 2020 tax bill.

To be eligible for the MGPP funding, a business must:

- have been operational on March 20, 2020, the date the Manitoba government declared a provincewide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act because of COVID-19;
- have temporarily ceased or curtailed operations as a result of a COVID-19 public health order and have been harmed by the health order;
- be registered and in good standing with the Manitoba Business and Corporate Registry;
- have not qualified for federal government COVID-19 grant support; and

- have an email address and a bank account.

Eligible businesses are now able to submit online applications forms at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/business/mgpp.html>.

To apply online, applicants must have:

- a valid Manitoba Business Number;
- a Companies Office registry number;
- good standing with the Companies Office;
- Manitoba Workers Compensation Board and Manitoba Retail Sales Tax account numbers, if applicable;
- the sole proprietor's social insurance number (SIN) as well as one other partner's SIN (if the business is a partnership);
- business email address; and
- business bank account information for purposes of depositing the payment.

The full form and list of eligibility criteria is available online. Individuals that require assistance in completing the online form can contact the Manitoba Economic Assistance Office (toll-free) at 1-888-805-7554.

Manitoba Public Insurance Rebate Cheques

Overview: Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) is [returning](#) up to \$110 million to provide financial relief to its policyholders.

How it Works: Rebates will be based on what policyholders paid last year and expected to be around 11 per cent, or between \$140 to \$160, per average policyholder.

Under existing legislation, MPI is able to return approximately \$50 million to its ratepayers and will require the approval of the Public Utilities Board (PUB) for the additional \$60 million. MPI will apply to the PUB in the coming days in respect of the incremental \$60 million in order to be able to return these amounts to Manitoba ratepayers. If PUB approval is obtained in the next few weeks, the entire \$110 million will be returned as part of the rebate cheques mailed to Manitobans.

Program Details Outstanding: Details of the rebates will be made in the coming weeks and further details will be available at www.mpi.mb.ca/Pages/Home.aspx.

“Back to Work This Summer” program

On June 18th the Manitoba government introduced the [Manitoba Back to Work This Summer program](#). The program will allow businesses to hire or re-hire employees of any age. This builds on the previously announced [Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Jobs Plan](#) which was geared only to students.

The program will reimburse 50% of the total wages paid from June 18-August 30, to a maximum of \$5,000 per worker and \$25,000 per business. This program is in addition to other Manitoba government [business support initiatives](#) which are separate from [Federal Programs](#) designed to support businesses hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information can be found on the [EngageMB website](#).

“Back to Work” Wage Subsidy Program

The Government is it's [expanding the 'Back to Work' wage subsidy program](#) and providing additional financial support for businesses.

The enhanced Back to Work program will reimburse up to \$5,000 for up to 10 new workers to a maximum of \$50,000 per business, not for profit or charity. Businesses that have already benefited from provincial summer wage subsidies are eligible for this new wage subsidy benefit to hire or bring back an additional 10 employees. The program will now reimburse half of all wages for those newly hired to October 31. Employers that have received financial support from other various provincial and federal programs are all eligible.

The application deadline is October 1st, with a deadline to submit proof of wages of Jan. 4, 2021. Businesses can apply for the wage subsidy starting July 16 at noon at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/business/btwmp.html>.

Nova Scotia

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

As of March 19th, the Government of Nova Scotia established that restaurants will be take-out and delivery only and all drinking establishments -- including winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms -- will be closed until further notice. Restaurants are allowed to include alcohol purchases with takeout and delivery orders as long as the alcohol cost is not more than three times the value of food ordered.

On May 1, 2020, the provincial government [extended](#) the province's state of emergency until May 17, 2020.

On May 1, 2020 the province [announced](#) that some public health measures were being eased.

The initial steps are:

- provincial and municipal parks can reopen, but playground equipment will continue to be off limits
- trails are allowed to open
- people are allowed to use and visit community gardens
- garden centres, nurseries and similar businesses can open
- sportfishing is permitted from shore or boat, but fishing derbies are not allowed
- people can attend boating, yacht or sailing clubs for the purpose of preparing boats for use
- golf driving ranges can open, including those at golf clubs, but the course must remain closed; golf clubs can perform necessary maintenance and preparations for opening
- people can use their cottages. Use is restricted to one household unit at a time, travel must be directly to the cottage and back, and travelling back and forth frequently from cottage and primary residence is discouraged
- provincial and private campgrounds remain closed, but they can perform necessary maintenance and preparations for opening. An exception is recreational vehicles parked year-round at private campgrounds, which can be used but must follow the same rules as cottages
- drive-in religious services will be allowed, as long as people stay in their cars, they are parked two metres apart and there are no interactions between people in cars or between people in cars and others

These measures take effect immediately.

Rental Provisions

Under the provincial state of emergency, as of March 31, 2020, all retail and other commercial landlords are prohibited from exercising the remedies of notice to quit or distress available under a commercial lease, commercial agreement, the *Tenancy and Distress for Rent Act*, or otherwise for rent due on or after March 22, 2020 from a retail or commercial tenant who has been required to close their business or their business has been substantially and directly

restricted under the requirements of a Medical Officer's order issued under the *Health Protection Act*. No tenant can be evicted because their income has been impacted by COVID-19, effective March 19, 2020 for the next three months.

Support for Workers

Worker Emergency Bridge Fund

Overview: The new \$20 million Worker Emergency Bridge Fund is designated to help the self-employed and those laid-off workers who do not qualify for Employment Insurance.

How it Works: The provincial government will provide a one-time, \$1000 payment to help bridge the gap between layoffs and closures and the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

If you were laid off or out of work on or after 16 March 2020 because of COVID-19 and you aren't eligible for Employment Insurance, you may be eligible for the Worker Emergency Bridge.

You may qualify for the Worker Emergency Bridge if you:

- are a Nova Scotia resident
- are 18 or older
- were employed and laid off, or self-employed and lost all revenue because of COVID-19 on or after 16 March 2020
- earned between \$5,000 and \$34,000 in 2018
- have applied (or plan to apply) for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

You do not qualify if you're:

- receiving Employment Insurance benefits
- eligible for Employment Insurance benefits – [check your eligibility](#) if you're not sure
- receiving Income Assistance
- receiving any income or benefit (like salary, sick leave, disability insurance or workers' compensation) because you lost your income for reasons other than COVID-19
- incarcerated in a federal or provincial institution

Applications will open on April 10, 2020 at 8:00 AM AT. A toll-free phone line for applications for the worker fund will be open starting at 8 a.m. Call 1-800-863-6582 after checking eligibility online.

Support for Businesses

Three-month rent deferral program

Overview: The government is encouraging retail and commercial landlords to defer lease payments for the next three months for businesses that were forced to close under the province's public health order.

How it Works: Landlords who participate by granting such businesses a three month deferral and register by April 3 will be able to claim losses of up to \$5,000 per month, if the renting

business does not continue operating. Landlords are not permitted to change locks or seize property of businesses who cannot pay rent, if the business closed directly because of COVID-19 public health orders.

Landlords must register with the Department of Business by April 3, 2020 by emailing NSRentDeferral@novascotia.ca. The rent deferral agreement must be in place by April 1, 2020.

Payment Deferrals on Government Loans

Overview: The provincial government will defer payments until June 30 for the following:

- All government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia
- Small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums

Program Details Outstanding: A complete list of small business renewal fees that are included will be released in the coming days.

Small Business Loan Guarantee Program Changes

Overview: The province has made changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee program to include:

- Deferring principal and interest payments until June 30
- Enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500 000
- For those who may not qualify for a loan, government will guarantee the first \$100 000

Deferral of Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Premiums

Overview: Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Premiums are being deferred until July 2020. Late fees and interest will not be charged until further notice.

Accelerated Payments for Small Businesses that Do Business with the Province

Overview: Small businesses that do business with the province will be paid within five business days of invoicing instead of the standard 30 days.

Small Business Impact Grant

Overview: The new \$20 million Small Business Impact Grant will give eligible small businesses and social enterprises a grant of 15% of their revenue from sales – either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5000. This one-time, upfront grant can be used for any purpose necessary.

How it Works: The one-time grant is equal to 15% of sales revenue from either April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per business. You can choose which month will be

used to calculate the grant amount. You can use the grant for anything your business, non-profit or charity needs.

The grant is stackable and can be used in combination with the Small Business Rental Deferral Guarantee Program and other provincial and federal Covid-19 programs to support small businesses.

Small businesses, non-profits, or charities ordered to close or substantively reduce operations because of the COVID-19 Health Protection Act Order can access the grant, including restaurants with dining rooms and drinking establishments.

Your business must also:

- have an anticipated revenue loss for April 2020 of 30% or more
- have been established on before March 15, 2020—if you're within 15 days of earning your first sales revenue on March 15, you should still apply, as we may be able to help
- be a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, society, social enterprise, not-for-profit, charity in business, or other similar organization—if your business is incorporated, it must pay the small business corporate tax rate on income taxes

Small businesses typically have fewer than 200 employees.

When you apply, you'll need:

- your business number
- banking information
- unaudited income statement for April 2019 or February 2020
 - depending on your business type, a recent tax document like a T1, T2, T3010 or HST return
- image of a voided cheque

The deadline to apply is April 25, 2020.

Deferral of Small Business Fees until June 30, 2020

Overview: The province announced that it will defer the payment of more than 480 small-business fees until June 30, 2020 to keep cash in small business plans.

Program Details Outstanding: A full list of fees being deferred will be released in the coming days.

COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support Program

Overview: The [COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support Program](#) as a temporary stream for access to credit, cash grants and support delivered through participating credit unions.

How it Works: To be eligible, small businesses must have a payroll less than \$20,000 in the previous fiscal year and have experienced a decline in revenue from sales of at least 15 per cent in March or at least 30 per cent in April, May or June.

The program is 100 per cent guaranteed by the province. Maximum loan amount is \$25,000.

Upon approval, businesses will receive a grant up to \$1,500, as well as a COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher of up to \$1,500, to help hire a private consultant for advice and support

An additional \$20 million has been made available through the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program that will help fund the new temporary COVID-19 response. The grant has a cap of \$3 million

The program will be available starting Wednesday, April 29.

Program Details Outstanding: Application details will be made available shortly.

Support Measures by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation

Overview: To further support businesses impacted by COVID-19, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation announced [provincial actions](#) for eligible business clients.

How it Works: The measures are as follows:

- Current deferral of loan payments, under the Innovation and Business Investment Corporation's Business Investment Fund, has been increased to six months. This measure sees an additional three months added to the original three month deferral action announced on March 18, 2020, which started with April payments.
- The hiring eligibility for commercial Research and Development (R&D) projects will be temporarily increased. Specifically, salary support for up to six positions may be considered for eligible commercial R&D projects. The positions may include existing employees, new or a combination of both. This temporary policy pertains to applications approved between April 1 and September 30, 2020.
- Contribution levels have been temporarily increased for eligible project applications under R&D commercial and Business Development Support. Eligible costs will now be covered up to 75 per cent, up from 50 per cent, for applications approved between April 1 and September 30, 2020.

The aim of these temporary measures by the Provincial Government is to disrupt the current and future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for business clients.

Small Business Reopening and Support Grant

Overview: The Small Business Reopening and Support Grant is a \$25 million fund that [will provide grants](#) to help them open safely and business continuity vouchers for advice and support to become more resilient in the coming months.

How it Works: The program helps small businesses affected by COVID-19 by providing a grant and a business continuity voucher for advice and services from a business consultant. Funding includes a:

- one-time grant of up to \$5,000 to help your business safely reopen
- business continuity voucher of up to \$1,500 for advice and services to help your business adapt to and become more resilient in a COVID-19 world

The grant is intended to help businesses reopen and adapt to COVID-19, not to replace lost revenues.

You can apply for the Small Business Reopening and Support Grant if your small business, non-profit, charity or social enterprise is in 1 of the groups of eligible businesses below. All groups are also eligible for the Business Continuity Voucher.

Group 1 - Businesses and organizations approved for the Small Business Impact Grant or that were eligible but didn't apply for the Small Business Impact Grant and plan to reopen

This group includes businesses established before 15 March 2020 that are paying the small business tax rate, were required to close or greatly reduce their operations, and are specifically named in the Public Health Order. These businesses must have experienced a decline in sales revenue of at least 30% in April 2020 (if they received the Small Business Impact Grant) or in April or May 2020 (if they didn't receive the Small Business Impact Grant).

Those businesses that received the Small Business Impact Grant in April 2020 will be contacted directly with instructions on how to apply through a streamlined process.

New applicants (you were eligible but didn't apply for the Small Business Impact Grant and plan to reopen) are eligible for a grant of 15% of revenue from sales for the month of April or May 2019 or February 2020 (up to \$5,000). Only new applicants in these sectors are eligible:

- restaurants and restaurants in golf courses with onsite dining (food trucks and restaurants without onsite dining are not eligible)
- drinking establishments (like bars, winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms)
- personal care services (like hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments)
- fitness establishments (like gyms, yoga and Pilates studios and rock-climbing establishments)
- unregulated health professionals (like massage therapists, acupuncturists, naturopathic doctors, Chinese medicine practitioners, other complementary and alternative medicine practitioners and podiatrists)
- self-regulated health professionals (like audiologists, chiropractors, physiotherapists, self-employed dental hygienists, opticians and optometrists; physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses, paramedics and dentists are not eligible)
- veterinarians
- live, performing arts events for audiences scheduled to take place in April or May 2020 (while these businesses are still ordered closed by the Public Health Order, the grant can help them prepare for eventual reopening)
- in-person trade shows, exhibitions, paid keynote speakers, event planners and event support companies scheduled to take place in April or May 2020, if at least 50% of their revenue is dependent on live events (while these businesses are still ordered closed by the Public Health Order, the grant can help them prepare for eventual reopening)

Group 2 - Independent, Nova Scotian owned small retail businesses

Small retail businesses and social enterprises with permanent leased or owned retail premises, total annual sales of more than \$25,000 and less than \$300,000, that experienced a loss of monthly sales in April or May 2020 of more than 30% compared to April or May 2019 are eligible for a grant of 15%, up to \$5,000, of the business's revenue from sales for the month of April or May 2019 or February 2020.

These businesses include:

- motor vehicle and parts dealers
- furniture and home furnishings stores
- electronics and appliance stores
- building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers
- small food and beverage stores
- health and personal care stores (except pharmacies)
- clothing and clothing accessories stores
- general merchandise stores (except those that primarily sell food)
- miscellaneous store retailers, including florists, gift, novelty and souvenir stores, tailors and dressmakers, used merchandise stores, pet and pet supplies stores and art dealers

Stores and retailers without a physical shop are not eligible.

Group 3 - Small independent retail gas dealers

Small, independent retail gasoline dealers, with less than 3 retail outlets, paying the small business tax rate and operating in Nova Scotia between 16 March 2020 and 1 June 2020. Retailers who have experienced a decline in revenue of 30% or more in April or May 2020 are eligible for a one-time grant of \$5,000.

Larger gas retailers paying the corporate tax rate and owning more than 3 retail locations are not eligible. Wholesalers are also not eligible.

Group 4 - Dental offices

Dental offices planning to restart service to patients in June 2020 are eligible for a one-time grant of \$5,000 to assist with safely reopening.

Applicants in Groups 1 or 2 can apply online starting June 1. Applicants in Groups 3 or 4 can apply online later in June. Applications will open [here](#).

Newfoundland and Labrador

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has ordered the closure of bars; however, restaurants are permitted to still operate at a reduced capacity. Takeout and delivery services are permitted and encouraged. As of April 7, 2020, no special permissions have been given to restaurants to allow for the sales of alcohol with delivery and takeout orders. On April 19, 2020, the state of emergency was extended to May 3, 2020.

On April 30, 2020, the province released “A Foundation for Living with COVID-19,” a plan to re-open the province, which includes five alert levels. Depending on which level the province is in, as determined by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, public health restrictions will be gradually relaxed. The province is currently in Alert Level 3. The province will continue to release information on what will be allowed to re-open as the province transitions through Alert Levels.

A Business Response Team has been established to support businesses as they prepare to re-open. Businesses who have questions will be able to email covid19info@gov.nl.ca or call 1-833-771-0696 beginning 12:00 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

Alert Level 3 Re-Opening

Gatherings and Public Spaces

- Gatherings are expanded to 20 people, as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Gatherings at funerals, burials and weddings are restricted to no more than 20 people, including the officiant. Visitations and wakes continue to be prohibited.

Recreational Activities

- Recreational angling and hunting are permitted.
- Golf courses and driving ranges can open.
- Municipal parks are open. Playground equipment in municipal parks is not to be used. Outdoor activities such as walking, riding your bike or hiking, are encouraged as long as physical distancing can be maintained and you are not required to self-isolate for any reason.
- Campsites are permitted to open for limited overnight camping, with restrictions.
- Summer day camps can operate, with restrictions.
- Medium-risk outdoor recreational activities can resume (e.g., sports). Spectators must maintain physical distancing.
- Outdoor pools can operate with a limited number of people.
- Large playgrounds in municipal parks must not be used.
- Gym and fitness facilities, yoga studios, tennis and squash facilities, arenas, dance studios and performance spaces remain closed.

- Outdoor activities, including walking, hiking, or riding your bike, are encouraged as long as physical distancing can be maintained and you are not required to self-isolate for any reason.

Businesses and Services

- Limited expansion of child care services.
- Professional services such as accounting firms, law firms, and financial services can offer in-person services. Work from home policies are encouraged, where possible.
- In-person worker and workplace safety training will be permitted.
- Gardening centres can open for in-person sales and service.
- Landscaping and lawn care services can operate.
- Retail stores, including those in shopping malls, can open with restrictions.
- Retail stores are permitted to sell scratch and break open lotto tickets in store.
- Personal service establishments, including spas, esthetic services, hair salons, body piercing, tattooing and tanning salons, can open in accordance with guidelines.
- Animal grooming facilities can resume operations.
- Further expansion of daycare operations.
- Restaurants can re-open at reduced occupancy; buffets remain prohibited.
- Bars, lounges and cinemas remain closed.

Health Care Services

- Regional health authorities will continue to allow some health care services to resume.
- Visitation in health care is expanded.
- Orders for long term care, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities remain in place.

Rental Provisions

The provincial government passed legislation to ensure tenants of rental properties cannot be evicted if they have lost income resulting from COVID-19 and not able to pay rent.

Ensure tenants of rental properties cannot be evicted if they have lost income resulting from COVID-19 and not able to pay rent.

Support for Businesses

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Premium Payment Deferral

Overview: WorkplaceNL has provided employers with a workers' compensation premium payment deferral until June 30, 2020.

Amendments to the Labour Standards Act

Overview: The amendments provide for a leave of absence without pay and job protection where an employee is unable to work for the following reasons:

- The employee has returned from travel and must self-isolate;

- The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19;
- The employee is in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19;
- The employee is acting in accordance with public health direction;
- The employer directs the employee not to work due to COVID-19;
- The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure; or
- The employee is directly affected by travel restrictions and cannot reasonably be expected to travel back to the province.

The amendments also make it clear that the employee will not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave.

Provide employees with protections from losing their job if they must take time away from work as a result of COVID-19.

The Provincial Government has [extended the period](#) that an employee can remain temporarily laid off to 26 weeks in a period of 33 consecutive weeks, thereby helping employees stay connected to their jobs. This is retroactive to March 18, 2020 and will end on September 18, 2020.

Changes to Tax Filing Deadlines and Remission of Interest and Penalties

Overview: the province has made changes to tax filing deadlines and allowed for the remission of interest and penalties to support businesses dealing with circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it Works: International Fuel Tax Agreement returns for the first quarter of 2020 (January 1 to March 31, 2020) due on April 30, 2020 from interjurisdictional carriers, are now due and payable on June 1, 2020. All other tax returns falling under the purview of the Revenue Administration Act and Regulations, which would otherwise be due March 20, 2020 to May 31, 2020, are now due June 23, 2020. The tax returns applicable to this extension include:

- Gasoline Tax
- Carbon Tax
- Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax
- Insurance Companies Tax
- Mining and Mineral Rights Tax
- Tax on Insurance Premiums
- Tobacco Tax

For monthly filers, this means they will have the option to extend the filing and remittance of tax amounts for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods to June 23, 2020. Taxpayers can email taxadmin@gov.nl.ca or call 709-729-6297 (toll free 1-877-729-6376) to set up electronic funds transfer, wire payment, or e-file payment options.

If a taxpayer is prevented from making a payment when due, filing a return on time, or otherwise complying with a tax obligation, they can submit a written request to the Department of Finance, Tax Administration Division, to seek a remission of interest and penalties. Requests should validate how the taxpayer was prevented from complying with these requirements as a result of COVID-19 circumstances. These requests should be submitted by e-mailing to taxadmin@gov.nl.ca. Please include “Remission Request (COVID-19)” as the subject line of the e-mail to help facilitate timely processing. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Changes to Credit Union Regulations to Help Businesses Access the Canada Emergency Businesses Account (CEBA) Program

Overview: The Provincial Government has [amended](#) the Credit Union Regulations, 2009 to allow credit unions to avail of the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program.

The Credit Union Regulations, as currently worded, could impact the access for some provincial credit unions to this program which would provide much-needed financial assistance to existing commercial customers, especially small to medium-sized businesses. To support the province’s credit unions and their commercial members, government has amended the Regulations to provide all of the province’s credit unions with the ability to access federal commercial loan programs to help Newfoundland and Labrador businesses deal with the financial impacts from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

How it Works: The CEBA is a federal initiative that provides up to \$40,000 in commercial loans to businesses to alleviate unusual financial pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is provided to qualifying businesses through an application process designed by Export Development Canada and must be made through the business’s primary financial institution.

Compensation for Private Sector Employers with Staff who had to Self-Isolate due to COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

Overview: The Provincial Government is providing compensation for private sector employers for continuation of pay to employees who were required to self-isolate for 14-days due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. This includes individuals who are self-employed.

How it Works: Employers should apply for any available federal funding under the CEWS or the Temporary Wage Subsidy program. The maximum amount of funding under the provincial program will be \$500 per week for each employee (to a combined maximum of \$1,000 per week for each employee when receiving both federal and provincial funding). The amount paid under this program will depend on federal funding received.

To qualify for provincial compensation, the following criteria must be met:

Employers should apply for federal funding;

- International travel must have originated on or before March 14 with arrival into Newfoundland and Labrador on or after March 14 and interprovincial travel must have originated on or before March 20 with arrival into Newfoundland and Labrador on or after March 20. This applies to individuals who travelled for personal or professional reasons;
- Reimbursement is only for employees who are residents of Newfoundland and Labrador for pay between the period when an employee is scheduled to return to work and the end of the 14-day isolation period; and
- Employers with employees who work part-time/shift work, but were not scheduled to work during the isolation period due to the timing of when a schedule is set can avail of compensation based on the average weekly hours worked in the preceding month. Proof of this prior compensation will be required.

Compensation assistance will not apply in the following circumstances:

- If an employee is/was able to work from home while in isolation. Employers will not be compensated for employees who are working during their period of self-isolation;
- If an employee is/was scheduled to use vacation/leave days during the period of isolation. Employees would be expected to use this leave or any other special leave with pay that is available before applying for this program;
- Compensation through this program is only available for individuals who have travelled and were self-isolating, compensation will not be provided for others in the household; and
- Any individual who falls ill or is diagnosed with COVID-19 after the 14-day self-isolation period will be required to follow their regular sick leave arrangement with their employer, or apply for the CERB program.

Qualifying employers can submit an application to the Department of Finance's Tax Administration Division.

Changes to Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation

Overview: The Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation (NLC) has announced [a number of initiatives](#) to support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it Works: The measures are as follows.

- In support of licensees, which includes lounges, bars and restaurants, effective immediately the NLC will waive liquor license fees for the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- The NLC will work with the licensee community to return general list product in an effort to help with working capital.
- The NLC is also temporarily waiving warehousing service fees for microbrewers with annual production of 1,000 hectoliters or less for those who use the NLC's distribution network.
- To further assist the province's beverage industry, the NLC has been approved to implement a wholesale pricing discount for licensees, by providing a five per cent discount for wines and spirits, and ready to drink beverages.

- Government has approved an increase in product commission discounts for craft breweries, wineries, distilleries and cideries producing 1,000 hectoliters or less to 55 per cent for non-NLC distributed products.
- Government has also approved a temporary regulatory change to permit ferment-on premise operations (U-Brew) to bottle beverages for their customers that started batches of wine or beer prior to the COVID-19 health restrictions.
- The NLC will further support businesses through its distribution and marketing capabilities by listing products of local microbreweries not already supported in this way.

Financial Measures for Electricity Consumers

Overview: The province announced various measures to help electricity consumers deal with the financial impact of COVID-19.

How it Works: residential and general service customers including businesses and other organizations whose rates are based on Holyrood fuel costs, will receive a one-time credit on their bills as early as July. This credit is expected to vary based on customers' usage and is made possible due to fuel savings at the Holyrood Thermal Generating Facility.

Government will request that the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities adopt a policy so that a credit will be disbursed immediately up-front to help people and businesses now when they need it most. The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities will determine the details of this initiative, including the amount and timing of the credit.

For customers who require flexible bill payments, government is providing up to \$2.5 million to waive the interest on overdue accounts for residential and general service customers throughout the province. This includes residents, businesses and other organizations that are struggling as a result of COVID-19 and will be for a period of 15 months commencing June 1, 2020. Customers will be required to continue to make agreed upon monthly payments to their accounts.

Customers who find themselves in a difficult financial situation may call Newfoundland Power at 1-800-663-2802 or Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro at 1-888-737-1296 to discuss options regarding flexible payment arrangements.

Fees Waived or Deferred to Support Businesses

Overview: The government is [waiving or deferring](#) more than \$6 million in fees will help ease some of the operational pressures facing businesses and free-up cash flow in these uncertain times.

How it Works: Effective immediately, the following measures are in place:

- Collection of WorkplaceNL assessments from employers has been deferred to after August 31, 2020, with no interest or penalties;
- Clearance letters will continue to be provided during the payment deferral period to allow contractors that meet certain reporting criteria to continue to bid on work and operate;
- The interest-free payment plan for workplace injury insurance is extended beyond 2020 to March 31, 2021 to allow employers more flexibility to pay;

- Safety training certificates are extended to August 31, 2020 for confined space entry, fall protection, mine rescue, power line hazards, traffic control person, first aid and Occupational Health and Safety Committee members;
- Elimination or offer of rebates on aquaculture licence fees, and deferral of annual Crown Lands fees for aquaculture sites;
- Full rebate of base fish processor and buyer licensing fees to assist fish processing plants and fish buyers;
- Licences will not be cancelled for non-application for renewals until the public health restrictions have been lifted for real estate salespersons and agents; mortgage brokers; insurance companies; insurance adjusters, agents, representatives and brokers; and prepaid funeral services;
- New licence applications will be processed for real estate salespersons and agents; mortgage brokers; insurance companies; and insurance adjusters, representatives, agents and brokers;
- Businesses are eligible to have a portion of vehicle registration fees for vehicles registered to the business refunded, if they are not in use;
- Commercial vehicles of 4,500 kilograms or greater are not required to have their safety inspection completed while they are not operational;
- Deferral of the requirement for businesses to file yearly returns under Companies and Deeds Online (CADO) and remittance of the accompanying filing fee; and
- Payment of water use charges for 2019 related to microbreweries and wineries and aquaculture due in the 2020-21 fiscal year have been waived. Payment of water use charges for all other industries will be deferred until March 31, 2021.

Tourism and Hospitality Support Program

Overview: The Tourism and Hospitality Support Program is a [\\$25 million fund](#) to provide support to eligible tourism and hospitality based operators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

How it Works: Eligible small and medium-sized tourism operators will be able to apply for a one-time, non-repayable working capital contribution of either \$5,000 or \$10,000, dependent on gross sales to allow operators cover some of their business costs. This support will provide immediate financial relief to operators who are dealing with substantial losses and continued fixed operating costs, providing support as many in the industry prepare to re-open.

Program Details Outstanding: More information on the program and eligibility criteria will be released in the coming days.

New Brunswick

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

The state of emergency has been [extended](#) to May 14, 2020. Under the state of emergency, all in-room dining at restaurants have been ordered to be closed. Pick-up, delivery and drive-thru service is still permitted. All bars have been closed until further notice. For the duration of the state of emergency and at the request of restaurant owners, restaurants with a licence will be allowed to sell liquor off their menu for take-out or delivery. Owners will also need to ensure they do not sell liquor to minors.

On April 24, 2020, the province announced the first phase of a loosening of public health restrictions. The plan to re-open businesses, educational facilities, the health-care system, recreational activities, and cultural events will be guided by four distinct public health alert levels:

- Red: This is the present phase aimed at flattening the curve and containing the virus as quickly as possible.
- Orange: The goal of this phase is to balance the reopening of social and economic settings while preventing a resurgence of transmission.
- Yellow: The goal of this phase is to further increase the reopening of social and economic settings after the ability to control transmission has been demonstrated.
- Green: This phase will likely come after a vaccine is available or more is learned about how to protect people from the virus.

As a first step, the following will be allowed effective today:

- Two-household bubbles: Households may now choose to spend time with one other household, if both households agree. The selection made is not interchangeable.
- Golf courses and driving ranges: If all physical distancing and safety measures are in place, golf courses and driving ranges can now open.
- Recreational fishing and hunting: The delay on springs seasons has been lifted.
- Outdoor spaces: With physical distancing, people can now enjoy the outdoors including parks and beaches.
- Carpooling: Co-workers or neighbours can carpool if physical distancing measures are maintained by transporting the passenger in the backseat.
- Post-secondary education: Students requiring access to campus to fulfill their course requirements will be able to do so.
- Outdoor religious services: As an alternative to online worship, religious organizations can hold outdoor services if parishioners stay in their vehicles that are two metres apart.

A guidance document of the public health measures during the recovery phases is available [here](#).

On July 3rd, the province announced that it was transitioning to Phase 3 (Yellow) of the recovery plan. Under Phase 3 (Yellow), several activities and openings are permitted, subject to maintaining physical distancing measures, [general guidelines from Public Health](#) and the [Guidelines for New Brunswick Workplaces](#) issued by WorkSafe NB.

Businesses do not need to be inspected before re-opening, but they must prepare an [operational plan](#) that can be provided to officials, if requested. Businesses may open immediately, but it is up to each business operator to decide if they are ready and if all guidelines have been met.

Re-openings and activities include:

- Elective surgeries and other non-emergency health services, including dental, physiotherapy, optometry and massage therapy.
- Outdoor public gatherings, with physical distancing, of 10 or fewer people.
- Indoor public gatherings, with physical distancing, of 10 or fewer people for in-person religious services, weddings and funerals.
- All in-person programs at post-secondary institutions, subject to the COVID-19 directives from Public Health. Virtual education options should be continued wherever possible.
- Cultural venues such as museums, galleries and libraries.
- Offices not deemed essential during the initial phase.
- Retail establishments, including malls.
- Restaurants.
- Campgrounds and outdoor recreational activities, such as zoos and outfitters.
- Early learning and child care centres regulated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be permitted to reopen as of **May 19**. The department will contact operators to provide further information in the coming days.
- Non-regulated child care providers may open as of today but must adhere to Public Health guidelines, including having an operational plan.
- Day camps, if the organization can adhere to Public Health measures set out in the document called *COVID-19 Recovery Phase: Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Day Camps*.
- ATV trails across the province.
- Non-regulated health professionals and businesses can open, including acupuncturists and naturopaths
- Personal services businesses can open, including: barbers, hair stylists, spas, estheticians, manicurists, pedicurists, and tattoo artists
- Outdoor gatherings in uncontrolled venues with distancing of 50 or fewer
- Indoor religious services with physical distancing
- Increase in elective surgeries and other non-emergency health care services
- Outdoor and indoor visitation with physical distancing and controls in long-term care facilities
- Swimming pools, saunas and waterparks
- Gyms, yoga and dance studios
- Rinks and indoor recreational facilities
- Pool halls and bowling alleys
- Organized sports

- Overnight camps under guidance to Early Learning and Childcare
- Casinos and bingo halls
- Amusement centres and arcades
- Cinemas, bars (without seating) and large live performance venues
- Trade shows and conferences

In addition, face masks will be required to be worn in public if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Rental Provisions

Under section 19 of the renewed and revised [Mandatory Order COVID-19](#), no landlord shall, in relation to any commercial and any other type of non-residential lease, whether written or verbal, give any sort of notice to quit, re-enter or re-possess, or exercise any right of distress, [until May 31 2020](#), for non-payment of rent that came due after March 19 2020.

Support for Workers

Worker Emergency Income Benefit

Overview: A one-time income benefit of \$900 will be provided to self-employed and workers in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency.

How it Works: Applications will open [here](#) at 12:00 PM on Monday, March 30th, 2020. The benefit will help to bridge the gap between when a person lost their job or closed their business on or after March 15, 2020, to when the national benefit takes effect. The benefit will end on April 30, 2020.

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- I am an individual and have lost my job; been laid off on or after March 15th due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick OR I am self-employed and have lost all revenues through self-employment on or after March 15th due to the state of emergency in New Brunswick;
- I have earned a minimum of \$5,000 (gross) earnings in the last 12 months or in the last calendar year;
- I have lost my primary source of income;
- I have applied (or plan to apply) for support through the Federal government (either Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit);
- I have no other income;
- I am 18 years of age or older;
- I have been a resident of New Brunswick for the last 12 months.

Job Protection

Overview: [Job protection](#) is now in place, retroactive to March 12, for those who are not able to work because they have COVID-19, are caring for a person with whom they have a close family relationship who has the virus, or are following self-isolation or quarantine protocols as directed by Public Health.

The regulation also provides job protection for employees who cannot report to work because they are caring for their children due to school or daycare closures.

How it Works: Employees must request this emergency leave from their employers, in writing, as soon as possible. The request must include the reason for the leave, the anticipated start date and the duration of the leave.

Employers are not required to pay employees while they are on a leave due to COVID-19.

Support for Businesses

Elimination of interest on WorkSafeNB assessment premiums

Overview: WorkSafeNB is deferring the collection of assessment premiums related to employer payrolls for February, March and April for three months without interest charges.

Program Details Outstanding: WorkSafeNB is still working out the details of the program.

Deferring interest and principal payments on existing Government of New Brunswick loans

Overview: On a case-by-case basis, effective immediately, the provincial government will defer loan and interest repayments for existing business loans with government departments for up to six months. This support will enable businesses to have immediate relief if they are experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19.

How it Works: Businesses can request deferrals by contacting the department that issued the loan.

New Operating Loans for Small Businesses

Overview: Small business owners will be eligible for operating loans up to \$200,000. They will not be required to pay principal on their loan for up to 12 months.

How it Works: Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB) will work with a trusted partner to administer the application process.

Program Details Outstanding: More information on the application process will be released in the coming days.

Up to \$25 million in working capital for medium-sized to large employers

Overview: The province will provide working capital of more than \$200,000 to help medium-sized to large employers manage the effects of COVID-19 on their operations.

How it Works: Businesses can apply directly to Opportunities NB for this support.

Late Penalties on Property Taxes Waived

Overview: Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19.

NBPower Payment Deferral

Overview: NB Power will defer electricity bill payments for residential and small business customers for up to 90 days for impacted customers, waive interest for past due balances and late payment charges issued after March 19, 2020 for impacted customers and extend existing payment arrangements for impacted customers. NBPower will also suspend disconnections for non-payment and collection efforts until further notice.

Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program

Overview: The provincial government has made funds available to Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) to provide small businesses with emergency working capital to provide relief. Small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for working capital loans up to \$100,000 through the Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program.

How it Works: The program is available to small businesses engaged in commercial enterprises employing 1 to 49 employees, with sales for the most recent fiscal year of less than \$10 million. Businesses must have experienced adverse effects on or after March 15, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and have a reasonable plan or prospect to remain viable after the pandemic. The small business must be registered with Service NB and have its primary place of operations in New Brunswick.

Applicant must have been in good standing and current with their financial institutions, and government remittances prior to the COVID-19 crisis, and have no prior history of bankruptcy or default. Applicant must have explored options with their financial institution and federal support programs.

Examples of eligible small businesses include restaurants, seasonal tourism operators, service sectors, and self-employed business owners impacted directly by the pandemic.

Businesses will not be required to pay interest for the first six months. After the first six months, the interest rate is 4% per annum. Interest payments will be required in months 7-12. Principal and interest payments will begin in month 13.

Applicants must contact their CBDC to express interest; a full list is available [here](#).

Prince Edward Island

Status of Closures and Alcohol Permissions

The Government of Prince Edward Island has ordered that all in-room dining at restaurants be closed. Pick-up, delivery and drive-thru service is still permitted. All bars have been closed until further notice. As of April 7, 2020, no special permissions have been given to restaurants to allow for the sales of alcohol with delivery and takeout orders.

On April 28, 2020, the province revealed [*Renew PEI, Together*](#), a plan which outlines the guiding principles and phased approach to the reopening of businesses, services and public spaces.

The plan will be implemented in four distinct phases with a progressive lifting of public health measures on individuals, communities and organizations over three-week periods. Progression will be gradual and constantly evaluated based on the latest public health information from PEI's Chief Public Health Office.

Phase 1: Beginning May 1, 2020

- Priority non-urgent health care services
- Outdoor gatherings and non-contact outdoor recreational activities of no more than five individuals from different households, while maintaining physical distancing, will be permitted
- Re-opening of select outdoor and construction services

Phase 2: Beginning May 22, 2020

Phase 2 will be implemented with a progressive lifting of public health measures on individuals, communities and organizations **over three-week periods**.

- Re-introducing indoor gatherings of no more than five individuals and outdoor gatherings of no more than 10 individuals involving people from different households, as well as non-contact indoor recreational activities, while maintaining physical distance.
- Allow all unlicensed child care providers and licensed child care centres to re-open and operate under the guidance set by the Chief Public Health Office.
- Additional non-urgent health care services
- Allow additional businesses to re-open to serve the public including:
 - retail outlets - no trying on clothing in stores
 - greenhouses and nurseries
 - remaining construction, maintenance and repair services, cleaning and restoration services
 - extermination and pest control
 - car washes
 - bottle depots
 - select personal services including hairdressers, barbers, and pet grooming.

Phase 3: Beginning June 12, 2020

- Potential to re-introduce gatherings of no more than 15 people indoor, and 20 people outdoors (for example, religious gatherings, large families having visitors or playing frisbee in the park)
- Potential to re-introduce organized recreational activities, recreational facilities, services and public spaces while following physical distancing and mass gathering guidance
- Potential to re-open such services **for PEI residents only**
 - Additional personal services permitted to re-open may include:
 - nail and other salons and spas
 - tattoo and piercing studios
 - Indoor dining at food premises permitted with the following restrictions:
 - no recreational spaces open (for example, pool tables, dance floor, VLTs)
 - no buffet style serving
 - no sharing of utensils
 - only members of a household can dine together
 - Accommodations permitted to re-open for PEI residents only:
 - campgrounds
 - hospitality homes
 - inns
 - bed and breakfasts

Phase 4: TBD

Rental Provisions

The province has introduced a moratorium on evictions. On March 30, 2020, the Commission advised the public that the Rental Office will not hold hearings for non-payment of rent. It will only hold hearings for urgent matters, such as serious threats to the health and safety of tenants and landlords. The province has also introduced the Commercial Lease Rent Deferral Program (details below).

Support for Workers

Emergency Income Relief Fund for Self-Employed People

Overview: The Emergency Income Relief Fund is a temporary program put in place to support the self-employed who have been significantly affected by COVID-19. The program will provide A maximum of \$500 per week for the period of March 16 to March 29, 2020 (the period will be reviewed and may be extended).

How it Works: To be eligible for this component self-employed individuals must;

- Have declared business income on their most recent tax return.
- Business income must be their primary source of income.
- Be able to demonstrate direct financial losses resulting from the COVID -19 isolation measures at the time of application.

- Not be EI eligible or receiving any other income support (ie. Business Interruption Insurance).

Individuals can apply [here](#).

COVID-19 Special Situation Fund for Individuals

Overview: The COVID-19 Special Situation Fund will provide up to \$1,000 to Islanders who have experienced urgent income loss as a result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for other federal and provincial funding support. This is a temporary program put in place to support Islanders that have been significantly affected by COVID-19 and have an urgent need. Individuals may be eligible for up to \$1000 between March 16 and June 16, 2020.

How it Works: Individuals may be eligible for if their income has been impacted between March 13, 2020 and June 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health state of emergency in Prince Edward Island, and are:

- over the age of 16, and
- a PEI resident for tax purposes as of December 31, 2019, and
- not eligible for EI.

This program is only for people who aren't eligible for other federal and provincial government programs, such as EI, social assistance, and COVID-19 emergency funding programs. If you are eligible for other programs or have applied for any other programs, you should wait to hear back from those programs before applying for this one.

Individuals can apply [here](#).

Support for Businesses

Emergency Working Capital Financing

Overview: The province will provide up to \$100 000 to eligible small businesses to help them maintain normal business operations.

How it Works: Eligible applicants can apply to receive a working capital loan of up to \$100,000 with a fixed interest rate of 4% per annum to be used to assist with fixed operating costs (including payroll, rent, utilities etc) with principal & interest payments deferred for a minimum of 12 months. Repayment of this loan will commence 12 months after the first disbursement, with the balance outstanding to be repaid over the remaining 5 year period (for a total term of 6 years).

To qualify, applicants must be:

- An existing small businesses (startups not eligible) located and operating in the Province of PEI, and have been generating revenue on PEI
- Registered to conduct business within the Province of PEI

- Satisfactory in terms of credit rating and without any defaulted outstanding debt obligation on file in the Province's Central Default Registry

Small businesses must submit an application and supporting documentation to Finance PEI at financepei@gov.pe.ca. The application form is available [here](#).

Supporting documentation must include:

- Financial statements for the most recent year end;
- Interim financial statements for the current year to date;
- Detailed listing of what the loan proceeds will be used for and when funding will be needed;
- [Statement of Personal Financial Affairs](#) (personal net worth statement) from all applicable shareholders
- [Eligible Working Capital Expense Worksheet](#)

Emergency Relief Worker Assistance Program

Overview: The Worker Assistance Program provides funding for employers who have employees working a reduced number of hours.

How it works: Registered private sector businesses or non-profit organizations who have workers who have seen a reduction in weekly hours by at least 8 hours per week during the two-week period in March 16-29 are eligible to apply. Employers will receive a maximum of \$250 per week per employee whose hours were reduced. Workers laid off during this period are not eligible for support under this program.

Employers must fill out [this application form](#), and submit along with:

- A [Payee Registration Form](#). This form must be uploaded during the application process. Do not email the Payee Registration Form to Payment Processing.
- Banking Information - Void Cheque OR Correspondence from Financial Institution for Direct Deposit.

Online applications can be submitted until April 30, 2020.

Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Premium Payment deferral

Overview: Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Premiums are being deferred until June 30. Interests and penalties will not accrue during this time. Businesses are asked to submit any revisions to their 2020 payroll estimates before May 15 to ensure changes are reflected in their June statement.

Commercial Lease Rent Deferral Program

Overview: Landlords are encouraged to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for 3 months, spreading the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term.

How it Works: Landlords who are deferring rent because their tenant's business is closed to the public due to the related to the COVID-19, pursuant to the Public Health Act, could be eligible for coverage (up to a maximum of \$50,000 per landlord and \$15,000 per tenant) if they can't recover the deferred rent.

To be eligible for the COVID-19 Small Business Rental Deferral Guarantee Program, landlords must register with Finance PEI by April 15, 2020 by emailing financepei@gov.pe.ca with:

- landlord's legal name
- for each deferral agreement:
- business's legal name
- business's address
- total dollar amount of rent being deferred for the period of 1 April to 30 June 2020

Business Adaptation Advice Program

Overview: The province announced the new Business Adaptation Advice Program, which will cover the entire cost for businesses and entrepreneurs, up to \$2,500, to hire a professional to provide advice and support on how to adapt or recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Professional services may include human resources and financial planning, digital or IT solutions, or even marketing.

How it Works: All PEI Businesses who have been impacted by the effects of COVID -19 measures are eligible to apply.

This assistance will contribute to the costs associated with:

- obtaining business, human resources or financial planning and advice
- obtaining advice on transitioning to digital or IT solutions
- obtaining advice on exporting, marketing, and logistics
- obtaining other professional services which may be of assistance in adapting or recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, determined in consultation with Innovation PEI

This assistance may contribute up to 100 per cent of the cost (to a maximum of \$2500) to engage a professional business consultant.

Applications must clearly identify the COVID 19 challenge the business is looking to address. Applicants are encouraged to discuss with an Innovation PEI representative to determine if the activity could be eligible for funding.

Interested businesses can apply [here](#).

COVID-19 Special Situation Fund for Businesses and Organizations

Overview: The COVID-19 Special Situation Fund for businesses and organizations will provide funding to businesses, community groups and non-government organizations that have experienced urgent income loss as a result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for other federal and provincial funding support. This is a temporary program put in place to support

organizations that have been significantly affected by COVID-19, have an urgent need, and are not eligible for federal or provincial financial support.

How it Works: An organization may be eligible if it is experiencing an urgent financial impact between March 16, 2020 and April 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health state of emergency in Prince Edward Island. This program is only for organizations that aren't eligible for other federal and provincial government programs, including COVID-19 emergency funding programs. Businesses must have declared business income on their most recent tax return. Only one application per organization will be accepted.

Businesses must confirm that their organization is not eligible for other programs by emailing peibusinesshelpline@gov.pe.ca. Businesses must apply by April 15, 2020.

After an application are made, a special committee will review the application to ensure it meets the criteria.

Interested businesses can apply [here](#).

COVID-19 Incentive to Support Essential Workers

Overview: The province will commit \$16.7 million to the COVID-19 Incentive to Support Essential Workers. This temporary wage top-up program is for Island workers employed by any business or organization, including for-profit, non-profit or other entity providing essential services, as defined by the Prince Edward Island Chief Public Health Office.

How it Works: Essential workers who have been working through the pandemic and make less than \$3,000 per four-week period will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 through their employers. Approximately 17,000 Islanders will benefit from this incentive. Employers can fill out the application form on behalf of their eligible employers by visiting the [COVID-19 business page](#).

COVID-19 Workspace Adaption Assistance Fund

Overview: The [COVID-19 Workspace Adaptation Fund](#) will help small businesses purchase and install protective measures such as plexiglass dividers or handwashing stations to safeguard employees and customers.

How it Works: Businesses can receive up to \$2,000 and the program will be retroactive to March 16th to support businesses that have already put measures in place to operate safely.

Program Details Outstanding: Application details will be released in the coming weeks.

Temporary Wage Top-Up for Essential Workers

Overview: In partnership with the federal government, [the program](#) is intended to provide a temporary wage top-up to essential workers employed during the PEI Public Health State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible employees earning \$3,000 per month or less will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000, administered through their employer.

How it Works: Eligible employers can request assistance under the program to provide a \$1,000 payment to eligible employees who:

- have earnings less than \$3,000 (gross) in a consecutive four-week period during the program eligibility period from April 6, 2020 through to July 26, 2020;
- have an hourly wage less than \$18.75/hr; and
- have worked a minimum of 60 hours during the selected four week period;

Program eligibility period is from April 6, 2020 through to July 26, 2020.

Employers are required to provide eligible employees with a one-time \$1,000 payment.

Employers will also be eligible for 10% administrative costs to cover the Mandatory Employer Related Costs (MERC's).

Eligible PEI employers include any business or organization including for-profit, non-profit, public sector or other entity providing goods and services, deemed to be providing an essential service as defined by the PEI Chief Public Health Office as of April 25, 2020. Eligible employers include food Premises (including food and beverage serving businesses for take-out, drive-through and delivery service only; no public seating is permitted). An eligible employee must:

- be a resident of Prince Edward Island and legally authorized to work in Canada;
- be employed in any business or organization providing 'essential services' as defined by the PEI Chief Public Health Office as of April 25, 2020;
- have earnings less than \$3,000 (gross) in a consecutive four-week period during the program eligibility period from April 6, 2020 through to July 26, 2020;
- have an hourly wage of less than \$18.75/hr; and
- have worked a minimum of 60 hours during the consecutive four week period selected (ie. April 6, 2020 – May 1, 2020)

Employees are only eligible to receive this support once and cannot access this support from multiple employers.

Employers must complete the application on behalf of the employees. Employers are permitted to submit multiple applications during the program eligibility period to support their business requirements.

Applications can be submitted online by clicking the 'Apply Now' button at the bottom [of this page](#) or by contacting SkillsPEI at skillspei@gov.pe.ca (link sends e-mail) to request a paper application.

To assess your application, Skills PEI requires:

- a completed COVID-19 Support for Essential Workers Organization Application form;
- a completed and signed [Payee Registration Form](#). **It is recommended this form be uploaded during the application process. Do not email the Payee Registration Form to Payment Processing.**
- Banking Information - Void cheque OR correspondence from financial institution for direct deposit

In order to complete the online application, you will need the following information:

- Legal Business Name
- Provincial Corporate Registry Number or Business Number/HST Number
- Workers Compensation Firm Number
- Date Business Established
- Legal Signing Officers

Employer applications can be submitted **until August 28, 2020.**