Coronavirus support programs for businesses

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The following information has been compiled to help support your business during the coronavirus pandemic. Please check back regularly for updates.

Government of Canada programs for businesses

Payroll support

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) provides a 75% wage subsidy ($58,240 per year or up to $840 per week, per employee) retroactively from March 15 to June 6,2020 to eligible employers demonstrating at least a 15% drop in revenues in March 2020 and 30% for the following months compared to the same period last year. January and February 2020 can be used as reference periods for companies that cannot compare to the same period last year. Certain employer-paid contributions (EI, CPP, QPP, QPIP) will be 100% refunded as well and is not included in the $847 weekly maximum. Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) portal will open in the next 3 weeks. Companies can be eligible for both the original 10% wage subsidy and the enhanced 75% wage subsidy but any benefit from the former will likely reduce the amount to be claimed under CEWS.
- Canada Emergency Response Benefit, providing $2,000/month for up to 4 months, applies to contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).
- The Canada Summer Job program will offer subsidies to businesses of up to 100% to cover the costs of hiring students part time. The end date for employment has also been extended to Feb. 28, 2021.
- Work-Sharing Program – an option for companies that fail to meet the 75% wage subsidy requirements. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for EI benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers. It is a three-party agreement involving employers, employees and Service Canada. The program has been extended to allow agreements of 76 weeks.

Filing business taxes

- The CRA is allowing businesses to defer payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 until after Aug. 31, 2020.
- Businesses, including self-employed individuals, can defer payments of the GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports, until June 30, 2020.
- The CRA will not contact any small or medium enterprise (SME) to initiate post assessment GST/HST or income tax audits for the next 4 weeks.

Ensuring businesses have access to credit

- Two financing programs are available through the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP): The Canada Emergency Business Account and SME Loan and Guarantee program. Both initiatives will be administered by private-sector financial institutions.
- Canada Emergency Business Account
- program will provide interest-free loans of up to $40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations. To qualify, an organization's 2019 payroll total must be between

$50,000 and $1 million. Organizations who repay the balance of their loans by Dec. 21, 2022 will have 25% of their loans forgiven, up to $10,000. Businesses can now apply through their banks; approvals are expected to take several days.

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- SME Loan and Guarantee program will provide up to $6.25 million at a commercial interest rate with a 10-year repayment period.
- Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is receiving an extra $5 billion in lending capacity. Sign up for FCC Online Services.

Useful links

- Government of Canada Economic Response Plan
- Canada Business App
- Additional Support for Canadian Businesses
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Coronavirus Resources
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Resilience Network

Provincial support for businesses

Province	Government support
Alberta Support for businesses	~~• The Emergency Isolation Support program is now closed.~~ • Employers who already paid their 2020 WCB premium payment are eligible for a rebate or credit. • The government will cover 50% of the 2020 WCB premium for small and medium businesses when it's due in 2021. • Collection of corporate income tax balances and installments payments deferred to Aug. 31, 2020. • Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until Aug. 31, 2020.
British Columbia Financial Supports COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information	• Businesses with a payroll over $500,000 can defer employer health tax payments to Sept. 30, 2020.

More support for businesses City of Vancouver COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Business Communications and Support Office	• Provincial tax filings and payments deferred to Sept. 30, 2020.
Manitoba Information for Businesses	• The WCB will defer premium payments until the end of May, waive late payment penalties until further notice, and extend the payroll reporting deadline without penalties until the end of May 2020.
New Brunswick COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses	• Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB) will administer working capital loans for New Brunswick businesses in excess of $100,000 up to a maximum of $1 million at a 4% interest rate. Businesses with questions should contact: nav@navnb.ca or, call the Business Navigator line at 1-833-799-7966. • WorkSafeNB defers premium payments for 3 months. • Deferring interest and principal payments on existing Government of New Brunswick loans.
Nova Scotia Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) support for Nova Scotians, businesses and healthcare	• All government loans and small business fees deferred to June 30, 2020. • The government will guarantee the first $100,000 through the Credit Union Atlantic for businesses that might not qualify for a loan. • The commercial rent deferral program is encouraging landlords to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for 3 months and spread the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term. Use these forms to arrange the deferral agreement with tenants (Gross Lease Net Lease). • Small Business Impact Grant will offer small businesses 15% of their revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of

	$5,000 and can be used for any purpose. Deadline to apply is April 25. Apply online.
Newfoundland and Labrador	• Government to announce support for self-employed.
Ontario Ontario's Action Plan City of Toronto Support for Businesses	• Allow employers to defer Workplace Safety and Insurance Board payments for up to 6 months. • Electricity prices to switch to off-peak rates for 45 days. • The 2020 Employer Health Tax exemption was increased from $490,000 to $1 million. Employers can get relief of up to $9,945. Employers must be eligible under the EHT Act.
Prince Edward Island Province announces more financial support for Islanders Supports for Business	• Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed giving - $500/week • Emergency Relief – Workers Assistance Program for eligible employers - $250/week • Emergency Working Capital Financing for small businesses $100,000 working capital loans • Employee Gift Card Program - $100 Sobeys gift card to any employee, living and working on Prince Edward Island, who has received a Record of Employment as lay-off notice. Application form is to be completed by the employer. • PEI Broadband Fund (PEIBF) for businesses will provide a contribution of up to 50% of the eligible costs for a project approved for funding • Commercial Lease Rent Deferral Program seeks to encourage landlords to defer rent payments from commercial tenants for 3 months. Coverage up to a maximum of $50,000 per landlord and $15,000 per tenant. Landlords must apply to Finance PEI by April 15, 2020 by emailing financepei@gov.pe.ca • The Business Adaptation Advice program will provide a non-repayable

	contribution towards the cost of hiring a professional to provide advice and support. Apply here.
Quebec City of Montreal COVID-19: Support measures for businesses	• Minimum of $50,000 offered to companies in loans and loan guarantees. Details available at Investissement Québec (IQ)or at 1 844 474-6367. Non-clients seeking a loan guarantee should contact their financial institution, which will then get in touch with one of IQ' s account managers. IQ is also offering its existing clients a deferral on capital repayment for up to 6 months. Payments will be deferred until the end of the term such that the term will be extended by the duration of the deferral – to apply, existing IQ clients must contact their account managers. • Deadline for businesses to pay any tax balance due is deferred to Sept. 1, 2020. • The Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) is offering financing to all Québec companies that meet certain criteria, including having been profitable before the COVID-19 crisis, having a promising growth outlook in their sector and seeking financing of over $5 million. Apply here. • Businesses will be eligible to receive a maximum of $100,000 each, which can be used to target digital skills, organizational communication, languages, telecommuting, marketing, online commerce or any training that aims to enhance the skills of employees. Businesses have until Sept. 30, 2020 to apply. Details to come. • The Fonds de solidarite (FSTQ) is offering its portfolio companies a 6-month deferral of loan interest and principal payments. Existing clients are invited to contact the person responsible for their file within the FSTQ network. Entrepreneurs may also contact FSTQ by email at entreprise@fondsftq.com

Saskatchewan COVID-19 Information for Businesses and Workers Financial support for employers and employees impacted by COVID-19	• The province has launched a Business Response Team to identify support programs available to businesses both provincially and federally. It can be reached at 1-844-800-8688 or by emailing supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca • The Self-Isolation Support Program will provide $450/week for a maximum of 2 weeks for Saskatchewan residents not covered by the recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. • Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly impacted by the pandemic. Grants will be based on a 15% reduction in monthly sales, to a maximum of $5,000. Applications are now open (link). • Workers' Compensation Board is waiving premium penalties for employers effective April 1, 020 to June 30, 2020. Employers should contact the WCB to discuss options.
Nunavut Northwest Territories COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) Yukon Information about COVID-19	• $5,000 grant for small businesses in Nunavut is being offered through the Small Business Support Program. • The NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC) is offering low-interest loans to new and existing BDIC clients. Application found here. • Yukon businesses and NGOs can apply to the Temporary Support for Events Funding Program to recover certain costs from the cancellation of major events (events with >50 people). Events that were to run between March 7, 2020 and July 31, 2020 are eligible. • Yukon Business Relief Program - Yukon businesses will receive funding from the territorial government to cover fixed business costs including rent, utilities and business insurance. Eligible businesses can apply for a

grant of up to $30, 000 per month to cover fixed costs from March 23 to May 22, 2020. Contact the Department of Economic Development for an application and submit it to ecdev@gov.yk.ca

Private sector measures

Canada's largest banks, in coordination with the Government of Canada, the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada, have made a joint commitment to help customers manage challenges during these difficult times. Different forms of relief are available such as expanded credit access and payment deferrals.

The Government of Canada has also established the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) for businesses whose needs extend beyond what is available through the private sector.

The Canadian Emergency Business account is a program offering government-guaranteed loans of up to $40k to eligible businesses. Qualifying businesses apply online through the bank or financial institution that holds their primary business operating account.

Businesses seeking financial support through the BCAP or information about other forms of support should first contact their banks. Due to the large volume of customer inquiries, delays are to be expected.

Please find more information at Manulife Bank Coronavirus financial relief forms or at the Canadian Bankers Association website.