

COVID-19: Supports for Canadian Businesses

As the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds, we know these are challenging times for you and your business. BDC stands ready to support entrepreneurs like you through to a more stable period.

This compilation of federal and provincial government support measures for business focusses on:

- ① [Access to capital and other liquidity support measures](#)
- ② [Measures to avoid or minimize the impact from layoffs](#)
- ③ [Provincial / Territorial Measures](#)
- ④ [Resources and Additional Information](#)

BDC has also made available [free tools and tips](#) that can help you map out your next steps, identify new opportunities, mitigate risk and create resilience in your company, so you can emerge strong in recovery.

This information is up to date as of April 19, 2020 and will be updated weekly. The programs and services described in this document may change at any time and without notice. For the most up to date information on these support measures, please regularly consult the referenced links as well as the additional web resources at the end of this document.

① Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Access to Capital			
Canada Emergency Business Account	Provides up to \$25B to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses of up to \$40,000. These loans—guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada—will ensure that small businesses have access to the capital they need to cover their operating costs, at a 0% interest rate. If the loan is completely paid off by Dec. 31, 2022, a quarter of the loan will be forgiven.	Small businesses and not-for profits with a 2019 payroll of between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million.	Contact your primary financial institution to apply. For more information: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/additional-support-for-canadian-businesses-from-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html#_New_Loan_Programs https://ceba-cuec.ca/
BDC Co-Lending Program	BDC partners with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to businesses for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain Differing maximum finance amounts based on business revenues, up to \$6.25 million, 80% of which would be provided by BDC, with the remaining 20% provided by the financial institution.	All legal small and medium-sized enterprises	Details are being finalized and will be available shortly from your primary financial institution. https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx
EDC Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) Guarantee	EDC will provide a guarantee to financial institutions, giving businesses access to additional credit for payroll and operational costs. EDC is actively working with partners to make this solution available as quickly as possible. Available for all Canadian companies, including non-exporting businesses that sell domestically..	All legal small and medium-sized enterprises	https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/coronavirus-covid-19.html
BDC Working Capital Loan	Working capital loans of up to \$2M with flexible repayment terms such as principal postponements for qualifying businesses and reduced rates on new eligible loans.	Businesses of varying sizes	https://www.bdc.ca/en/financing/business-loans/working-capital-financing/pages/working-capital-loan.aspx
BDC Oil and Gas Sector Financing	BDC will be providing viable Canadian-based oil and gas producers, oilfield service companies and midstream providers with loans of between \$15 million and \$60 million at commercial rates, repayable within 4 years, for operational cashflow and business continuity purposes.	Viable Canadian-based oil and gas producers, oilfield service companies and midstream providers	Sign up to receive more information at http://www.bdc.ca/coronavirus

① Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures (cont.)

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Farm Credit Canada Increased Credit Available for Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture	Additional \$5 billion in lending capacity, offering increased flexibility to farmers and food producers who face cash flow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales. Farm Credit Canada has also put in place a deferral of principal and interest payments up to 6 months or a deferral of principal payments up to 12 months for existing loans as well as access to an additional credit line of up to \$500,000, secured by general security agreements or universal movable hypothec (Québec only)	Food producers, agribusinesses, and food processors	https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html
EDC: Increasing financial capacity to support Canadian oil and gas companies	EDC will increase its financial capacity over 12 months to support Canada's oil and gas sector. This business support will be provided through EDC's lending, bonding and accounts receivable insurance products. For those wishing to access support, they are encouraged to reach out to their financial institution.	Firms in Canada's oil and gas sector	https://www.edc.ca/en/about-us/newsroom/covid-19-oil-gas-support.html
Community Futures Program	The Government of Canada is providing \$287 million to the Community Futures Program to support rural businesses and communities, including through access to capital.	Rural businesses and communities	Contact your local Community Futures Development Corporation: https://communityfuturescanada.ca/
Support for Indigenous Businesses	The Government of Canada is providing \$306.8 million to Aboriginal Financial Institutions to provide interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures	Indigenous-owned businesses	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/18/prime-minister-announces-support-indigenous-businesses https://nacca.ca/covid-19/
Futurpreneur Canada	The Government of Canada is injecting \$20.1 million through Futurpreneur Canada to support ongoing lending to young entrepreneurs.	Entrepreneurs aged 18-39	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-new-support-to-protect-canadian-jobs.html
Regional Development Agencies	The Government of Canada is providing \$675 million to Regional Development Agencies to provide equivalent bridge financing support to businesses unable to access the government's broader support measures.	Businesses unable to access the government's other support measures.	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-new-support-to-protect-canadian-jobs.html
Industrial Research Assistance Program	The government is investing \$250 million through the Industrial Research Assistance Program to support firms that do not yet have revenue or are in the early stages of development.	Firms that are pre-revenue or in the early stages of development.	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-new-support-to-protect-canadian-jobs.html

① Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures (cont.)

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Other Liquidity Support Measures			
Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance	The Government of Canada has announced its intent to introduce the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. The program will seek to provide loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who in turn will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June.	Commercial property owners and small businesses	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/16/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-small-businesses
Income Tax Deferrals	The Canada Revenue Agency has deferred all payment of any income tax amounts owing on or after Mar. 18 and before Sept. 2020 until after Aug. 31, 2020. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. The filing date for the 2019 tax year has also been extended until June 1, 2020.	All businesses	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/covid-19-filing-payment-dates.html
HST/GST Remittances and Customs Duty Deferrals	The Canada Revenue Agency and Canada Border Services Agency are permitting businesses to defer all HST/GST remittances as well as customs duty owing on their imports until June 30, 2020.	All businesses	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/covid-19-filing-payment-dates.html

② Avoiding or Minimizing the Impact from Layoffs

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	<p>Qualifying businesses can receive up to 75% in a wage subsidy, for up to three months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. The subsidy will provide up to \$847 per week per employee. As well, employers eligible for the CEWS will be entitled to receive a 100-per-cent refund for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan for remuneration paid to furloughed employees in a period where the employer is eligible for the CEWS.</p>	<p>Businesses that have experienced a reduction in revenue of 15% in the month of March and 30% in the months of April and May as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenue reduction test can be applied to year-over-year monthly revenue in 2019, or the average of revenue for January and February 2020. Cash or accrual accounting may be used.</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html</p>
10% Temporary Wage Subsidy	<p>Small businesses that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may be eligible for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy, which covers employee wages up to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and up to \$25,000 per employer. Employers can claim this subsidy immediately by withholding a portion of payroll tax remittances.</p>	<p>All legal small and medium-sized enterprises</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html</p>
Work-Sharing Program	<p>The program provides Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to top off the wages (based on an EI formula) to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. As part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 response, the maximum length of a work-sharing agreement has been doubled from 38 to 76 weeks and processing time has been reduced from 30 days to 10 days. 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.</p>	<p>Year-round businesses that have been in business in Canada for at least one year.</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html</p>

② Avoiding or Minimizing the Impact from Layoffs (cont.)

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Canada Emergency Response Benefit	Provides \$2,000 a month for up to four months for individuals who have lost all of their income as the result of COVID-19. Employees who are furloughed can also receive the Benefit.	Individuals residing in Canada who have lost employment income as the result of COVID-19 or who are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits and who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ceerb-application.html
Canada Summer Jobs	The Government of Canada is extending the Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum wage for 2020, extending the end date of employment to February 28, 2021, allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services, and allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.	Businesses participating in Canada Summer Jobs 2020	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs/temporary-flexibility.html

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures

Province	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Alberta	Deferrals: Tax and Other Payments	Corporate income tax balances and instalment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and Aug. 31, 2020 are deferred until Aug. 31, 2020. Additionally, Workers Compensation Board premiums have been deferred until early 2021, education property taxes have been deferred by 6 months, and small businesses can defer their electricity and natural gas payments by 90 days.	All businesses	https://www.alberta.ca/corporate-income-tax.aspx
	Resources: Business Link	Free advice, coaching and information on COVID-19 resources and supports.	Small businesses	https://businesslink.ca/
British Columbia	Deferrals and Relief: Tax, premiums and payments	Extending the filing and payment deadlines for the Employer Health Tax, sales taxes, municipal and regional district tax, motor fuel tax and carbon tax until September 30, 2020. Additionally, the school property tax rate for commercial properties has been reduced for commercial properties to achieve an average 25% reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses and the provincial Carbon Tax and sweetened carbonated drinks tax will remain at current levels until further notice. WorkSafeBC is also postponing reporting and payment deadlines and BC Hydro is providing customers the option to defer payments with no penalty for up to three months.	All businesses	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/taxes/sales-taxes/publications/notice-2020-002-covid-19-sales-tax-changes.pdf https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/announcements/2020/March/covid-19-situation-your-reporting-payment-deadline https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2020/covid-19-updates.html
	Resources: Business COVID-19 Support Service Online	Support services operated by Small Business BC to offer information to support businesses during COVID-19. This will serve as the single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for more information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic.	All businesses	https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us
Manitoba	Deferrals: Tax, interest	Extending the April and May tax filing deadlines until June 22, 2020 for small and medium businesses with monthly RST remittances of no more than \$10,000. No interest or penalties will be charged for Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas, Workers Compensation Board, Manitoba Public Insurance, Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries receivables, or education property taxes.	Small and medium businesses	https://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/pubs/bulletins/noticerst2003.pdf

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
New Brunswick	Access to Capital: New Brunswick Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program	Working capital loans of up to \$100,000 to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, at an interest rate of 4% with six months of deferred interest payments and 12 months of deferred principal payments. Loans are funded by the Government of New Brunswick and administered by the Community Business Development Corporation. Applicants must have explored options with their primary financial institution and federal support programs.	Small businesses employing 1 to 49 employees with sales of less than \$10 million and that were financially viable prior to the COVID-19 crisis.	https://www.cbdc.ca/en/gnb-small-business-emergency-working-capital-program
	Access to Capital: Opportunities New Brunswick COVID-19 Working Capital Loans	Opportunities New Brunswick will provide working capital loans of \$100,000 to \$1 million, at an interest rate of 4% with six months of deferred interest payments and 12 months of deferred principal payments. Max term 5 years. Applicants must have explored options with their primary financial institution and federal support programs.	Privately-held businesses in business for at least 24 months and that were financially viable prior to the COVID-19 crisis.	https://onbcnada.ca/covid19-working-capital-loans-new-brunswick/
	Deferrals: Tax, Loan Payment and Premiums	While the deadline for paying business property taxes remains May 31, late penalties will be reviewed and potentially waived on a case by case basis. Principal and interest payments on loans from the Government of New Brunswick may also be deferred on a case-by-case basis. WorkSafeNB premium payments for February, March and April will be deferred for three months without charge.	All businesses	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html https://www.worksafenb.ca/about-us/news-and-events/news/2020/as-we-face-the-global-pandemic-of-covid-19-worksafenb-defers-premium-payments-for-three-months-with-qa/
Newfoundland and Labrador	Deferrals: Tax	Deferring tax returns until June 23, 2020 for the Gasoline Tax, Carbon Tax, Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax, Insurance Companies Tax, Mining and Mineral Rights Tax, Tax on Insurance Premiums, Tobacco Tax	All businesses	https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2020/fin/0407n05/
Northwest Territories	Access to capital: NWT Business Development Investment Corporation (BDIC) COVID-19 Economic Relief	Loans of up to \$25,000 (or more if the need is clearly addressed) are being made available to qualified NWT-owned businesses at a rate of 1.75%. Loans will be amortized for up to five years with options for payment deferment for 3 months upon request. Principal postponement on existing loans for up to three months.	All businesses	https://www.bdic.ca/
	Deferrals: Tax	The Government of the Northwest Territories is waiving interest charges on all late tax returns between March 15 and June 30, 2020.	All businesses	https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/flagship/files/documents/backgrounder.pdf

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Nova Scotia	Relief: Small Business Impact Grant	Eligible small businesses will receive a grant of 15% of their revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000.	Small Businesses	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/support/#support-for-business
	Access to Capital: Small Business Loan Guarantee Program	Enhancing the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, delivered through Nova Scotia Credit Unions, to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000. For those who do not qualify for a loan, the Government of Nova Scotia will guarantee the first \$100,000. Principle and interest payments under the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program will also be deferred until June 30.	Small Businesses	http://www.novascotia.coop/programs/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/ https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20200320003
	Deferrals: Loans and Fees	The Government of Nova Scotia will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, as well as workers compensation premiums and licence, permit, registration, renewal and service fees	Small Businesses	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support
Nunavut	Relief: Small Business Support Program	Small businesses can apply for up to \$5,000 in the form of a non-repayable contribution.	All self-employed Nunavut residents and businesses majority-owned by Nunavut residents	https://gov.nu.ca/economic-development-and-transportation/news/covid-19-department-economic-development-and
Ontario	Relief: Electricity and Employer Health Tax Exemption	Ontario is setting the electricity prices for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, 24 hours a day for 45 days. The province is also providing a temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million for 2020. With this plan, more than 90% of private-sector employers would not pay EHT in 2020.	All businesses	https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-providing-electricity-relief-to-families-small-businesses-and-farms-during-covid-19.html https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/action-plan.html#section-3
	Deferrals: Tax and Premiums	From April 1 to August 31, the Province will not apply any penalty or interest on any late-filed returns or incomplete or late tax payments under the majority of provincially administered taxes. Additionally, all employers covered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board will be able to defer premium payments for six months.	All businesses	https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/relief-measures.html https://news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2020/03/ontario-enabling-financial-relief-for-businesses-1.html

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Prince Edward Island	Access to Capital: Emergency Working Capital Financing	Small business loan of up to \$100,000 at a fixed interest rate of 4%, with a 12-month deferral of principal and interest payments.	All businesses, except start-ups	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-working-capital-financing
	Relief: COVID-19 Business Adaptation Advice Program	Grant of up to \$2,500 covering the costs of professional business advice for addressing a COVID-19 related business challenge.	All businesses	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/covid-19-business-adaptation-advice-program
	Relief: Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed	Self-employed individuals who have lost income as the result of COVID-19 can receive \$500 per week retroactively for the period of March 16 to March 29, 2020	Self-employed individuals	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-income-relief-self-employed
Quebec	Relief: Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers	Essential workers making gross wages of \$550 or less per week can apply to receive a taxable benefit of \$400 per month to make up the difference between the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and their wages.	Essential workers	https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/online-services/online-services/online-services/apply-for-the-incentive-program-to-retain-essential-workers/
	Access to Capital: Aide d'urgence aux petites et moyennes entreprises (COVID-19)	Provides loans or guarantees of up to \$50,000, administered through Regional County Municipalities or Local Investment Funds	All businesses that can demonstrate the impact of COVID-19 on their operations	https://www.quebec.ca/entreprises-et-travailleurs-autonomes/aide-urgence-pme-covid-19/
	Access to Capital: Investissement Québec Concerted temporary action program for businesses	Loan guarantees or working capital loans of at least \$50,000	All businesses, with some exclusions	https://www.investquebec.com/quebec/en/financial-products/all-our-solutions/Concerted-temporary-action-program-for-businesses.html
	Deferrals: Tax	Businesses can defer payment on any tax balance owing to Revenu Quebec until September 1.	All businesses	https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/relief-measures-for-individuals-and-businesses/

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Saskatchewan	Relief: Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment	One-time grant for small and medium-sized businesses directly affected by government public health orders. Grants will be based on 15% of a business' monthly sales revenue in either April 2019 or February 2020, to a maximum of \$5,000.	Businesses with less than 500 employees that have been ordered to temporarily close or curtail operations through a COVID-19 public health order.	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/saskatchewan-small-business-emergency-payment-program
	Deferrals: Tax, payments and premiums	Saskatchewan businesses which are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have three-month relief from penalty and interest charges. 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. The Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board is also waiving premium penalties for employers from April 1 until June 30, 2020.	All businesses	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses
Yukon	Relief: Event Cancellation Grant	The Government of Yukon is establishing a criteria-based grant program that would address certain expenses related to event cancellations due to COVID-19. Criteria to be established will focus on losses related to perishable goods and cancellation of accommodation and services.	Businesses that have had to cancel events	https://yukon.ca/en/news/premier-silver-announces-stimulus-package-support-businesses-and-workers
	Deferrals: Fees and Premiums	The Government of Yukon will waive, reimburse or delay government fee collection, such as airport landing fees. Additionally, Workers' Compensation Health and Safety premium payments will be deferred, and penalties and interest will be waived. Any payments made up front will be reimbursed.	All businesses	https://yukon.ca/en/news/premier-silver-announces-stimulus-package-support-businesses-and-workers

Resources and Additional Information

Information contained within these websites is subject to change without notice. For the most up to date information, check these links regularly.

National	Government of Canada COVID-19 Portal	https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?topic=tilelink
	Government of Canada Economic Response Plan	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html
	Canadian Chamber of Commerce – Canadian Business Resiliency Network	https://www.canadianbusinessresiliencenetwork.ca/
	Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support	https://ca.portal.gs/
Provincial / Territorial	Alberta	https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx
	British Columbia	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support
	Manitoba	https://manitoba.ca/covid19/business/index.html
	New Brunswick	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html
	Newfoundland and Labrador	https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/resources-2/
	Northwest Territories	https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/covid-19-information-businesses-tourists-and-program-applicants
	Nova Scotia	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support
	Nunavut	https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus
	Ontario	https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-businesses
	Prince Edward Island	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/for-business
	Quebec	https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/
	Saskatchewan	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses
Yukon	https://yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/support-yukon-businesses	