

# COVID-19: RESOURCES FOR BUSINESS

Document updated as of June 30, 2020

## FEDERAL

### Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)

LEEFF is aimed at helping businesses with larger financing needs access loans and avoid bankruptcies, whose needs during the pandemic have not been met through conventional financing. It is meant to provide bridge financing of at least \$60 million to large employers.

- Eligible entities are large for-profit businesses in all sectors (except financial sector) and certain non-profit organizations. More info to be released by the federal government.

Applicants should register their interest at [LEEFF-CUGE@cdev.gc.ca](mailto:LEEFF-CUGE@cdev.gc.ca). A CEEFC representative will promptly send applicants a non-disclosure agreement, application form and instructions. The application form will request important information relating to the applicant and its financial condition.

Applicants will be contacted by both representatives of CEEFC and ISED Canada to begin the process. LEEFF will be open while the current economic situation persists.

- Overview of the requirements known to be eligible are (1) annual revenues of \$300 million or more (2) seeking about \$60 million or more of financing (3) has significant operations or workforce in Canada and (4) not be involved in active insolvency.

### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

CEWS enables eligible Canadian employers who have been impacted by COVID-19 to a subsidy of up to 75% of employee wages. While initially available for up to a 12-week period, spanning from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2020, they announced that the qualifying period for CEWS will now be extended beyond June.

- Eligible employers (individual, partnerships, taxable corporations, non-profits, charities) must demonstrate a 30% drop in revenue compared to the same time last year (e.g. March, April, May 2020 revenues vs. March, April, May 2019 revenues), AND must prove they have already paid employees' wages. Eligible businesses must reapply to the CRA each month.

- Businesses who have already had to lay off workers are encouraged to put them back on payroll. Those businesses who have the ability to top up the remaining 25% of a worker's wages are encouraged to do so.

- An employer's entitlement will be based entirely on the salary or wages actually paid to employees. The subsidy will cover up to 75% of wages on the first \$58,700 that an employee earns, up to a maximum of \$847 a week. There is no overall limit on the subsidy amount that an eligible employer may claim.

- Those organizations that do not qualify for the CEWS may continue to qualify for the previously announced temporary wage subsidy of 10% of remuneration from March 18 to June 19, 2020, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

- Eligible businesses can apply online through the CRA's My Business Account portal, as well as a web-based application.



### **10% Temporary Wage Subsidy**

- The 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy is still available for three-month to eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency.
- The subsidy, which is considered a taxable income, is equal to 10% of the remuneration you pay from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020, up to \$1,375 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer.

### **Work-Sharing program**

Work-Sharing (WS) is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

- The federal government extending the maximum duration of the Work-Sharing program from 38 weeks to 76 weeks. The Work-Sharing program is offered to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.
- All members of a WS unit agree to reduce their hours of work by the same percentage and to share the available work.
- A WS unit must reduce its hours of work by at least 10% to 60%. The reduction of hours can vary from week to week, as long as the average reduction over the course of the agreement is from 10% to 60%.

### **Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB)**

CERB supports Canadians by providing urgently needed financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who have been directly affected by COVID-19. It provides a payment of \$2,000 for a 4-week period (equivalent to \$500 a week) for up to 16 weeks.

- CERB is now available if you earned \$1,000 (before taxes) or less during an eligibility period. If this applies to your situation, you may be eligible to apply for a previous period, starting March 15, 2020.

### **Temporary changes to Canada Summer Jobs program**

The Canada Summer Jobs program provides opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business, and public sectors, and supports the delivery of key community services. We are making temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program to allow employers to:

- Receive an increased wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee;
- Extend the end date for employment to February 28, 2021;
- Adapt their projects and job activities;
- Hire staff on a part-time basis.

### **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)**

The Government of Canada has introduced the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to help Canadian businesses obtain financing during the current period of significant uncertainty. They will also expand BCAP to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs. Support to mid-market businesses will include loans of up to \$60 million per company and guarantees up to \$80 million. BCAP will support access to financing for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions. Through this program, [Export Development Canada \(EDC\)](#) and the [Business Development Bank of Canada \(BDC\)](#) will provide direct lending and other types of financial support.

Programs and resources are continually evolving,  
for the latest updates on the resources available follow:



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## Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

CEBA will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$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 percent (up to \$10,000).

### \*\*\*Expanded CEBA Now Partially Available

The expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) is now open for applications. As of June 26, 2020, businesses eligible for CEBA now include owner-operated small businesses that do not have a payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, as well as family-owned corporations remunerating in the form of dividends rather than payroll. Applicants will have to demonstrate having eligible non-deferrable expenses between CAD \$40,000 and \$1,500,000 in 2020.

The expanded CEBA is being made available gradually by more than 230 financial institutions across the country, starting with the larger banks. Other participating financial institutions will start offering the program over the coming weeks.

## Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

CECRA for small businesses will help eligible commercial property owners reduce or forgive rent for impacted small business tenants for the months of April, May, and June 2020.

- The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover up to 50% of gross rent for the three monthly rent payments payable by eligible small business tenants experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The loans will subsequently be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner complies with all applicable program terms and conditions, including the agreement not to seek to recover rent abatement amounts after the program is over.
- The small business tenant would be required to cover the remainder of the gross rent payments, up to a maximum of 25%.

The federal, provincial, and territorial governments continue to urge property owners to provide flexibility to tenants facing adversity in this uncertain time. It is expected that the CECRA program for small business will be made available by mid-May. Details have yet to be released on how funds will be disbursed and how commercial property owners are to apply.

## Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

The RRRF is focused on helping more businesses and organizations in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, tourism, and others that are key to the regions and to local economics.

- \$675 million to support regional economics, businesses, organizations, and communities in regions across Canada
- \$287 million to support the national network of Community Futures Development Corporations, which will specifically target small businesses and rural communities across the country.



### **Indigenous Businesses**

The Government of Canada announced up to \$306.8 million to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses.

- Up to \$40,000 will be available to small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses
- Funding can be obtained for short-term, interest-free loans, and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions offering financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Metis businesses.

### **Futurpreneur Canada**

Federal government is providing \$20.1 million in support for Futurpreneur Canada to support young entrepreneurs across Canada and will allow FC to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.

### **Income Tax Deferral**

Federal government allowing 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 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as installments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

### **Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments**

Businesses, including self-employed individuals, will be allowed to defer until June 30, 2020, their payments of the GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports. Any GST/HST payment that becomes owing from March 27 until the end of May can be deferred until the end of June. For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April and May.

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## PROVINCIAL

### Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP)

The SSBEP provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19. Grants will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business's monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000.

### Provincial Sales Tax

Saskatchewan businesses which are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have three-month relief from penalty and interest charges.

Audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and help prevent the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel.

### Provincial Utilities

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.

### Workers' Compensation Board

Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board (WCB) is [waiving premium penalties for employers](#) effective April 1 until June 30, 2020.

## MUNICIPAL

### Property Tax

Your 2020 Property Tax notice will be delivered by the end of May 2020.

To offer assistance and best service to citizens experiencing the effects of the economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has extended the 2020 Property Tax deadline to September 30, 2020, allowing additional time for residents to pay their 2020 Property Tax. Citizens will not incur any late payment penalties on your 2020 Property Tax if you pay the full amount due by September 30, 2020.

### Utility Payments

The City will continue to bill for utility services as normal. However, to best serve the City's customers in these extraordinary times, the City has made the following changes to current utility collections activities:

1. Utility disconnections due to arrears will be suspended until September 30, 2020;
2. Late payment charges will be suspended on all utility accounts until September 30, 2020; and
3. We will continue to generate utility bill reminders and other related notices for customers who are in arrears to keep them informed of their current situation.



## OTHER RESOURCES

- [Canadian Business Resilience Network Small Business Relief Fund](#): Sixty-two businesses that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic will each be the recipient of a \$10,000 grant to help them recover and support their business resilience. These grants are made possible through the generosity of Salesforce.
- Government of Canada announces [\\$650 million in additional funding](#) for health, economic, and social support for Indigenous peoples and communities
- [Facebook Small Business Grants Program](#): offering \$100 million in cash grants and advertising credits for up to 30,000 eligible small businesses in over 30 countries.
- [Google Ads Credit for Small & Medium-Sized Businesses](#): giving SMBs worldwide \$340 million in ad credits, which can be used at any point until the end of 2020 across the Google Ads platforms. SMBs who have been active advertisers since the beginning of 2019 will see a credit notification appear in their Google Ads account in the coming months.

## TOOLKITS AND INFORMATION

- [Canada Post Toolkit](#)
- [Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Canadian Business Resilience Network Reopening Toolkit](#)
- [BDC COVID-19 Supports for Canadian Business](#)
- [BDC Business Continuity Plan and Templates for Entrepreneurs](#)
- [BDC Support from Entrepreneurs Impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [What Supports to Access and How: Advisors for Small Business from Advocis Connect](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Indigenous Governments, Organizations, Businesses, and Individuals](#)
- [Ten Strategies to Help Your Business Make It Through the Economic Storm](#)

## Other Recommended Resource Lists:

<https://saskchamber.com>  
<https://sreda.com>

To review the supports and resources for specific sectors, please visit:  
<https://www.canada.ca>

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