



# COVID-19: Cross-Canada Support Programs for Employers and Employees


This document sets out employment-related support programs across Canada for businesses and workers. It does not include the myriad of other programs designed to assist individuals or families independent of employment status. It is current to **October 23, 2021**.

## Canada-Wide

*Last updated on October 23, 2021*

### Support for Employers

- **Creation of the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program**, which would provide support through wage and rent subsidy programs, to hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and restaurants, with a subsidy rate of up to 75 per cent. The program will be available until May 7, 2022, with the proposed subsidy rates available through to March 13, 2022. From March 13, 2022, to May 7, 2022, the subsidy rates will decrease by half.  
*Status: proposed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creation of the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program**, which would provide support through wage and rent subsidy programs, to support other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50 per cent. The program will be available until May 7, 2022, with the proposed subsidy rates available through to March 13, 2022. From March 13, 2022, to May 7, 2022, the subsidy rates will decrease by half.  
*Status: proposed*  
[Information](#)
- **Creation of the Jobs and Growth Fund**; Delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs), the new fund provides \$700 million to support a regional response and stimulate economic recovery following the COVID-19 crisis by investing in projects that will help to create jobs over the next three years and beyond. This includes up to \$70 million dedicated to businesses created after January 2020 that meet eligibility criteria. By investing in job creators, the fund will help them to future-proof, build resiliency and position businesses for a strong recovery by adopting clean technology, increasing diversity, implementing new digital technologies and strengthening capacity in critical sectors. Businesses and the organizations that support them can now apply.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are being accepted on a continuous intake basis until March 31, 2024, or until funding is fully committed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creation of the Tourism Relief Fund**; Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs) will deliver \$485 million directly to businesses and organizations to help them adapt their operations to meet public health requirements while investing in products and services to facilitate future growth. As long-standing on the ground support to economic development and community growth, the RDAs are well positioned to deliver fast and efficient support to the tourism sector.  
*Status: in effect. More information on the Tourism Relief Fund, including how eligible applicants can apply is available through Canada's [regional development agencies](#) (RDAs).*  
[Information](#)
- **Creation of the Canada Recovery Hiring Program** Budget 2021 proposes to introduce the new Canada Recovery Hiring Program for eligible employers that continue to experience qualifying declines in revenues relative to before the pandemic. The proposed subsidy would offset a portion of the extra costs employers take on as they reopen, either by increasing wages or hours worked, or hiring more staff. This support would only be available for active employees and will be available from June 6 to November 20, 2021. Eligible employers would claim the higher of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy or the new proposed subsidy. The aim is to make it as easy as possible for businesses to hire new workers as the economy reopens.



**UPDATE:** On June 2, 2021, the government confirmed that this program would be available retroactively to June 6, 2021. The program would provide a subsidy of up to 50 per cent of eligible salary or wages. It would be available to eligible employers who have experienced qualifying revenue declines so they can hire more workers, increase workers' hours, or increase wages. The Hiring Program is designed to interact with the Wage Subsidy. The programs overlap so that, as Wage Subsidy rates gradually decline, eligible employers would still be able to receive the maximum support from the Hiring Program this summer if they hire more workers or increase workers' hours or wages.

**UPDATE:** On June 30, 2021, the government launched a hiring calculator to help eligible employers prepare their CRHP application.

**UPDATE:** Applications are now open.

**UPDATE:** On October 21, 2021, the government proposed the extension of this program until May 7, 2022 for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10 per cent and increase the subsidy rate to 50 per cent..

*Status: in effect. Applications are open.*

[Information](#), [update](#), [CRHP main website](#)

- **Modifications to the 2021 Canada Summer Jobs Program;** temporary flexibilities will be applied to help small businesses operate and participate in the program:
  - a wage subsidy, so that private and public-sector employers can receive up to 75 percent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee (not-for-profit organizations will continue to receive 100 percent);
  - an extension to the end date for employment to February 26, 2022; and
  - allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.

**UPDATE:** On January 28, 2021, the government announced an extension for the employer application period to February 3, 2021 to allow more employers to apply for funding to hire young people.

*Status: in effect. Applications are now closed for 2021.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for the Live Event and Arts Sectors** via allocating \$181.5 million in 2021-22 to the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts to support the planning and presentation of COVID-19-safe events and the arts — including both live and digital — and to provide work opportunities in these sectors. This includes a one-year renewal of funding provided in Budget 2019 for the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program, the Canada Arts Presentation Fund and the Canada Music Fund.  
*Status: in effect. Applications now open and accepted on a continuous basis -- organizations are encouraged to apply before October 15, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **New support for highly affected sectors;** the government has announced that it will create the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability program to support the hardest hit businesses, including those in sectors like tourism and hospitality, hotels, arts and entertainment. This stream would offer 100 per cent government-guaranteed financing for heavily impacted businesses, and provide low-interest loans of up to \$1 million over extended terms, up to ten years. Rates will be lower than those offered in Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) and beneath typical market rates for hard hit sectors.  
**UPDATE:** On January 26, 2021, the HASCAP has been launched. HASCAP is available to businesses across the country, in all sectors, that have been hit hard by the pandemic. This includes restaurants, businesses in the tourism and hospitality sectors, and those that rely on in-person service. To be eligible for HASCAP, businesses need to show a year-over-year revenue decline of at least 50% in three months, within the eight months prior to their application. They must also be able to show their financial institutions that they have previously applied for either the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy or the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy.  
**UPDATE:** On June 2, 2021, the government announced that both the Business Credit Availability Program and Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program are being extended to December 31, 2021. Both programs were set to expire on June 30, 2021.  
*Status: in effect. Interested businesses should contact their primary lender to get more information and to apply.*  
[Information](#), [Update](#)

- **New measures to help Canadian small business access global markets amid COVID-19;** the Government of Canada announced changes to the CanExport SMEs program to help small businesses:
  - develop and expand their e-commerce presence by covering partial costs associated with online sales platforms and digital strategy consulting, as well as advertising and search engine optimization;
  - attend virtual trade shows and other business-to-business events; and
  - navigate new COVID-19-related trade barriers by helping pay for new international market certifications and requirements.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for small businesses through the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund;** on October 12, the federal government announced an investment of \$12 million in the fund. The Canada United Small Business Relief Fund, which is managed by the OCC, is supporting Canadian businesses across different sectors and industries with grants of up to \$5,000. These grants will help thousands of small business owners cover the costs of personal protective equipment, make physical modifications to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements, and enhance their digital or e-commerce capabilities. This is especially important as we enter the second wave of the pandemic. Applications are open to small businesses across sectors and industries in every part of the country that have between \$150,000 and \$3 million in annual sales; have up to 75 employees; are registered in Canada; and would use the grant to cover the costs of personal protective equipment, make physical modifications to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements, and enhance their digital or e-commerce capabilities.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Introduction of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** program for businesses which have experienced a drop in revenue. Different rules apply for the 9 existing claim periods under the CEWS. Presently, eligible employers who experienced any drop in revenue can now qualify for the wage subsidy. Businesses, charities and non-profits are eligible (except those that are publicly-funded). The amount of subsidy varies based on the extent to which the revenue of the business dropped. The federal government maintains a comprehensive guide to eligibility criteria [here](#).

The CEWS calculator can be found on the CRA's [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy web page](#), which includes detailed information to help employers understand how the CEWS can support their employees and operations, who is eligible to apply, and how claim periods are structured. The calculator allows employers to enter their information to get an estimate of the subsidy they can expect to receive. On September 25, 2020, the government proposed to extend the current treatment of furloughed employees under the wage subsidy program for the upcoming four-week period, from September 27 to October 24, 2020. This means employers who qualify for the wage subsidy would be able to continue to claim up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per week per employee to support remuneration of their furloughed workers until October 24, 2020.

**UPDATE:** On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Government announced that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be extended at a rate of up to 65% of eligible wages until December 19<sup>th</sup>. The program will operate until June 2021.

**UPDATE:** On November 5, 2020, the government released a [backgrounder](#) providing technical details in relation to the proposed extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program until June 2021.

**UPDATE:** On November 19, 2020 Bill C-9, *An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy)* received Royal Assent. The changes are as follows:

- the subsidy is extended to June 2021;
- the maximum subsidy rate for periods 8 to 10 will remain at 65% (40% base rate + 25% top-up)
- beginning in period 8, the top-up rate and base rate are now calculated using the same one-month revenue drop;
- for periods 8 to 10, employers will use either the new top-up calculation or the previous 3-month average drop, whichever works in their favour;

- the deadline to apply is January 31, 2021, or 180 days after the end of the claim period, whichever comes later;
- starting in period 9, the calculation for employees on leave with pay now aligns better with EI benefits; and
- employers can now calculate pre-crisis pay (baseline remuneration) for employees who were on certain kinds of leave, retroactive to period 5.

**UPDATE:** On December 18, 2020, the government increased the maximum subsidy rate for periods 11 to 13 to 75%.

**UPDATE:** On February 24, 2021, the Department of Finance released draft legislation which, if enacted, would provide applicants with more flexibility in determining the revenue decline for the wage subsidy for the qualifying period from December 20, 2020 to January 16, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On March 4, 2021, the government announced that it would extend CEWS at its current levels until June 5, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On April 20, 2021, the government announced that Budget 2021 proposes to extend CEWS until September 25, 2021. The rates for the wage subsidy will gradually decrease beginning July 4, 2021 to ensure an orderly phase-out of the programs as vaccinations are completed and the economy reopens.

**UPDATE:** On June 2, 2021, the government announced the proposed extension of the program until September 25, 2021.


**UPDATE:** On July 30, 2021, the government announced the proposed extension of the program until October 23, 2021, and increasing the rate of support employers can receive between August 29 and September 25, 2021.

**UPDATE:** The federal government has announced that existing income and business support programs will end on October 23, 2021, as previously announced. New support programs will be implemented to deliver targeted supports to specific sectors experiencing significant pandemic-related challenges.

*Status: Applications for past claims periods can be made. See [deadlines to apply for past claims periods](#), [Information](#), [July 2021 update](#), [October 2021 update](#)*

- **Creating the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy**, a program which provides direct rent and mortgage interest payment support to businesses. For businesses who have seen a revenue drop, the new rent subsidy can support up to 65% of eligible expenses, and up to 90% for businesses temporarily shut down due to a mandatory second wave public health order. Support will be accessible until June 2021 for businesses and organizations that have lost revenue due to the pandemic. Up to \$75,000.00 in rent may be partially subsidized per period. The subsidy percentage calculation will be calculated using the revenue reduction percentages provided for in CEWS. Eligible expenses include commercial rent, property taxes (including school taxes and municipal taxes), property insurance, and interest on commercial mortgages (subject to limits) for a qualifying property, less any subleasing revenues. Any sales tax (e.g., GST/HST) component of these costs would not be an eligible expense.
  - The new program will cover up to 65% of rent costs or mortgage interest payments for businesses that were hardest hit, meaning that their revenue decreased by 70% or more. For businesses that suffered a decline of revenue of less than 70%, there is a gradually decreasing level of support. This will enable the Government to deliver more targeted, accessible rent support. To simplify the process for businesses, the process will mirror the CEWS, and the Canada Emergency Rent Benefit will flow through the Canada Revenue Agency. The government stressed that the benefit is directly accessible to tenants.
  - Qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly limit their activities under a public health order may be eligible for additional Lockdown Support of 25 per cent of eligible expenses.
  - In response to concerns raised by stakeholders about the program, the Government is proposing to amend the CERS in order to allow applicants to include eligible expenses in their CERS application before the expense has been paid. This means that organizations can include rent and other eligible amounts already paid in respect of a claim period as well as amounts that are payable for the claim period when submitting their CERS applications. Amounts that are not paid at the time of the application will have to be paid no later than 60 days after payment of the subsidy.

**UPDATE:** On February 24, 2021, the Department of Finance released draft legislation which, if enacted, would provide applicants with more flexibility in determining the revenue decline for the rent subsidy for the qualifying



period from December 20, 2020 to January 16, 2021. It would also ensure that Lockdown Support is available to an eligible property owner whose tenant is not arm's length but has a qualifying business at the property that is subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly restrict their activities under a public health order.

**UPDATE:** On March 3, 2021, the government announced that it would extend CERS at its current levels until June 5, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On April 20, 2021, the government announced that Budget 2021 proposes to extend CERS until September 25, 2021. The rates for the rent subsidy will gradually decrease beginning July 4, 2021 to ensure an orderly phase-out of the programs as vaccinations are completed and the economy reopens.

**UPDATE:** On June 2, 2021, the government announced the proposed extension of the rent subsidy and lockdown support programs until September 25, 2021.


**UPDATE:** On July 30, 2021, the government announced the proposed extension of the program until October 23, 2021.

**UPDATE:** The federal government has announced that existing income and business support programs will end on October 23, 2021, as previously announced.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#), [July 2021 update](#), [October 2021 update](#)


- **Establishment of the Canada Emergency Business Account program**, a \$25 billion program to provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover their operating costs during the pandemic. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019 and were operating as of March 1, 2020. Small businesses and not-for-profits should contact their financial institution to apply for these loans. If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25 per cent (up to \$10,000) will be forgiven. The government has announced an expansion to the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs. Support for mid-market businesses will include loans of up to \$60 million per company, and guarantees of up to \$80 million. Through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with private sector lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions. On May 19, the government announced an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many 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. On June 15, 2020, the government announced an expansion to CEBA. As of Friday, June 19, 2020, applications will be accepted so that more small businesses can access the CEBA. Owner-operated small businesses that had been ineligible for the program due to their lack of payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, as well as family-owned corporations remunerating in the form of dividends rather than payroll will become eligible this week. To qualify under the expanded eligibility rules, CEBA applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 will need: a business operating account at a participating financial institution; a Canada Revenue Agency business number; A 2018 or 2019 tax return; and eligible non-deferrable expenses of between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million.  
**Extension:** The Government of Canada announced that the application deadline for the Canada Emergency Business Account is extended to December 31, 2020. The BCAP is extended to June 2021.  
**Expansion:** For businesses that have already qualified for a CEBA loan, they will be able to get an additional loan of up to \$20,000. Up to half of this additional financing can be transformed into a forgivable loan if the loan is paid back by June 31, 2022. In order to be eligible for the second round of support, businesses must attest that they have income losses attributable to the pandemic. Details about how to access this financing will be forthcoming.  
**Expansion:** On October 26, the government announced that CEBA is to be extended to include businesses operating out of a personal bank account. To be eligible, businesses must have been operating as a business as of March 1, 2020, must successfully open a business account at a Canadian financial institution that is participating in CEBA, and meet the other existing CEBA eligibility criteria.  
**Expansion:** On November 30, 2020, the government announced that qualifying businesses would soon be allowed to access an additional interest-free \$20,000 loan in situations where there is need; 50% of this additional amount would be forgivable if the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022.  
**UPDATE:** On March 22, 2021, the government extended the deadline for applications to June 30, 2021. This deadline extension applies to any new applications for CEBA loans of \$60,000 or to new applications from businesses that have already received the \$40,000 loan and intend to apply for the additional \$20,000.



*Status: expired. New applicants can no longer apply for a \$60,000 CEBA loan or the \$20,000 expansion at their financial institution..*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of a co-lending program for small and medium enterprises** to provide additional liquidity support for Canadian businesses through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and financial institutions. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts up to \$12.5 million, 80% of which would be provided by BDC, with the remaining 20% by the financial institution.  
*Status: In effect. Interested businesses should contact their primary lender to get more information and to apply.*  
[Information](#)
- **Changing the Work Sharing Program** to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction (of at least 10%) in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. This measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance (“EI”) benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers. This program entails having a group of employees with similar job duties all agree to reduce their hours by the same percentage, between 10% and 60% of regular hours worked. The federal government introduced temporary special measures that extend the maximum duration of work-sharing agreements from 38 weeks to 76 weeks across Canada for those businesses affected by the downturn in business due to COVID-19.  
**UPDATE:** The Government of Canada has extended these measures to September 24, 2022 and employers may be eligible to apply for a subsequent 26 week agreement.  
*Status: in effect. Application forms can be found on the Government of Canada website and submitted via email.*  
[Information](#)
- **Supporting farmers through Farm Credit Canada** by allowing an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. Additionally, the government has announced a \$100-million Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund to support proven, viable companies through unexpected business disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are open for payment deferrals and the credit line program.*  
Information [\(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#)
- **Providing relief to the broadcasting sector via waiver of regulatory charges;** the CRTC will not issue letters requesting payment for Part I license fees by broadcasters for the 2020-21 fiscal year.  
*Status: in effect. UPDATE: On November 30, 2020, the government announced additional COVID-19 relief to local television and radio stations by supporting the waiving of broadcasting Part II licence fees in 2020-21, which are collected annually by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Waiving these fees will provide up to \$50 million in relief to these companies*  
[Information](#)
- **Deferral of tax filing and payment deadlines;** while most extended filing deadlines have now passed, the filing deadline for charities with Form T3010 due between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020 has been extended to December 31, 2020.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for Indigenous businesses** via the Indigenous Community Business Fund; the fund will provide \$117 million in non-repayable financial contributions. The fund seeks to provide support for businesses that do not qualify for other Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures.  
*Status: in effect. There are no submission deadlines. Applications for funding are accepted on an ongoing basis until all funding has been allocated.*  
[Information](#)
- **Establishing the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility program** to provide bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic downturn, and avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable firms where possible. This support will not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms, nor will it provide



financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis. The additional liquidity provided through LEEFF will allow Canada's largest businesses and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time, and position them for a rapid economic recovery.

*Status: In effect. Applications opened on May 20 and will remain open "while the current economic situation persists"*

[Information](#)

- **Establishing an Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations** to help these sectors manage the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Partner organizations will be contacted so that funds can begin to flow to cultural and sport organizations. Canadian Heritage is working closely with its partners – in particular, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Canada Media Fund, FACTOR, Musicaction, and Telefilm Canada – to distribute the funds as quickly as possible using existing channels.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund;** this fund will now be available to support businesses and organizations that are key to the regions and local economies. The fund is specifically aimed at those that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been unable to access existing support measures. This funding will be delivered through six regional development agencies as follows:
  - \$110 million for Atlantic Canada – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency;
  - \$211 million for Quebec – Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions;
  - \$34.3 million for Northern Canada – Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency;
  - \$252.4 million for Southern Ontario – Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario;
  - \$49.5 million for Northern Ontario – Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario; and
  - \$304.2 million for Western Canada – Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Businesses interested in this support can apply now through their local regional development agency.

*Status: in effect. UPDATE: On October 2, 2020, the government announced an additional \$600 million in funding to provide further support for businesses. UPDATE: On November 30, 2020, the government announced a further \$500 million in funding.*

**UPDATE:** Effective January 20, 2021, partially forgivable RRRF loans for eligible businesses increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000. RRRF recipients with up to \$40,000 in partially forgivable RRRF loans from FedDev Ontario may apply for the RRRF expansion.

**UPDATE:** On February 5, 2021, the government announced that it was proceeding with its previously-announced expansion of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to align with the increased funding available under the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This will make a total of more than \$800 million available to meet strong demand to help western Canadian small businesses and organizations with liquidity needs that cannot be met by other federal support programs.

**UPDATE:** On April 2, 2021, the government announced that businesses now have until June 30, 2021 to apply for an interest-free repayable contribution of up to \$60,000 to help alleviate financial hardship resulting from COVID-19 during the period of April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021.


*Status: expired.*

[Information](#), [Expansion](#), [Further Expansion](#)

- **Support for women entrepreneurs;** the government will provide \$15 million in additional funding to support women entrepreneurs through the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES). This money will go directly to select organizations that are currently WES Ecosystem Fund recipients and will help women entrepreneurs through the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)

- Youth Employment and Skills Program in Agriculture Sector.** An investment of up to \$9.2 million was announced to enhance the Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) and fund up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture industry. The YESP will provide agriculture employers up to 50% of the cost of hiring a Canadian youth up to \$14,000. Indigenous applicants and those applicants hiring a youth facing barriers are eligible for funding of up to 80% of their costs. Eligible applicants include producers, agri-businesses, industry associations, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations and research facilities. Employers may apply for this funding retroactive to April 15, 2020, with projects to be completed by March 31, 2021.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are now open and will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis as long as funds are available.*  
[Information](#)
- Waiver of customs duties on medical supplies.** The Certain Medical Goods Remission Order (COVID-19) waives otherwise applicable customs duties on imports of medical supplies, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Relief is available to all importers of specified goods including businesses, distributors, and individual Canadians. Key categories of products covered by the Order include diagnostic test kits, face and eye protection, gloves, protective garments, disinfectants/sterilization products, medical devices, thermometers, wipes, and medical consumables, and other goods (e.g. soap).  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- Government relief for pension plan sponsors.** Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced the coming into force, on May 27, of the government's Solvency Special Payment Relief Regulations, 2020, which establish a temporary moratorium on solvency special payments. This relief is meant to help ensure that employers have the financial resources they need to maintain their operations and their pension plans, and to protect the retirement security of their workers and retirees. Under the regulations, until December 30, 2020, federally regulated defined benefit pension plan sponsors are not required to make solvency special payments. The regulations also provide accommodations for solvency special payments made since April 1, 2020.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- Support for businesses to open safely;** On June 10, the Canadian Government announced that it has partnered with the People Outside Safely Together (POST) Promise program, an initiative launched by Canadian private sector organizations to help businesses across the country reopen safely. The "POST Promise" is a voluntary commitment that business owners and managers can make by following five key public health actions that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19: maintaining physical distance; washing and sanitizing hands; cleaning and disinfecting regularly; staying home if unless and self-monitoring for symptoms; and practicing respiratory etiquette. By displaying the "POST Promise" logo, participating businesses can reassure customers that they are doing their part to help protect Canadians' health and safety.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- Food Rescue Program;** On June 17, 2020, the \$50 million Surplus Food Rescue Program was launched. The program aims to move surplus food commodities such as potatoes and other possible horticulture, fish and seafood, and meat through the food system as efficiently as possible to help vulnerable Canadians. The Surplus Food Rescue Program has two core objectives: connect surplus food commodities to vulnerable populations to avoid food waste; and provide assistance to organizations serving vulnerable populations to acquire and process surplus commodities and food that would otherwise be lost or destroyed and distribute them to populations in need. Eligible applicants include for-profit and not-for-profit organizations (industry groups, processors, distributors, food serving agencies, regional and municipal governments and agencies (including schools or school boards) that can demonstrate an ability to handle the full logistical requirements for acquiring, processing, transporting and ensuring shelf-life stability of surplus commodities and delivery to organizations serving vulnerable populations.  
*Status: available.*  
[Information](#)
- Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund opens;** The Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund (CSSF) is a \$62.5 million fund that will help fish and seafood processors in Western Canada, Quebec and Atlantic Canada through





COVID-19. Applications for the fund open on June 22, 2020. The CSSF is meant to help fish and seafood processors put in place health and safety measures to help protect workers against COVID-19 and to maintain Canadian jobs. It is also meant to strengthen Canada's food supply chain by increasing plant capacity and helping to adapt processes and marketing to suit changing consumer demands.

*Status: in effect.*

Western Canada - [Information](#) (Update: Applications are now closed)

Atlantic Canada - [Information](#) (Update: Applications are now closed)

Quebec - [Information](#) (Applications remain open)

- **Funding for COVID-19 safety measures in forest operations;** The Federal Government has announced its intention to provide up to \$30 million dollars for small and medium enterprises in the forest sector to offset costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures. Specifically these funds will primarily cover costs for: sanitization stations; additional accommodations and/or transportation facilities and services targeted at maintaining social distancing; and personal protective equipment. This funding will help support the scheduled planting of 600 million trees.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Safe Restart Agreement;** On July 17, 2020 Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and to make Canada more resilient to possible future waves of COVID-19. This investment, through the Safe Restart Agreement, will help address seven priority areas for the safe restart of Canada's economy over the next 6 to 8 months:

- enhanced capacity for testing, contact tracing, and data management and information sharing to mitigate future outbreaks;
- investments in health care to respond to the pandemic, including support for Canadians experiencing challenges with substance use, mental health, or homelessness;
- support for vulnerable Canadians – including those in long-term care, home care, and palliative care – who are at risk of more severe cases of COVID-19;
- funding to secure a reliable source of personal protective equipment, and to recover some of the costs from previous investments made by provincial and territorial governments;
- support to ensure that safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents' gradual return to work;
- joint funding with the provinces and territories to support municipalities on the front lines of restarting the economy, including by putting in place precautions for public spaces and essential services to reduce the spread of the virus, as well as a dedicated stream of funding for public transit; and
- a temporary income support program that will provide workers who do not have paid sick leave with access to 10 days of paid sick leave related to COVID-19.

*Status: in effect.*


[Information](#)

- **Support for women entrepreneurs in Western Canada.** The Government of Canada will be investing \$8.3 million through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to support the Women's Enterprise Initiative organizations across Western Canada. Each of the Western provinces will receive \$2 million in additional loan funds for women entrepreneurs. In addition, \$300,000 in operating funding will be divided equally to meet the increased demand for advisory services and business supports. This investment is meant to remedy the fact that many of the sectors where women entrepreneurs operate, such as retail, accommodation and food services, have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- Essential Services Contingency Reserve.** As part of the Safe Restart Agreement, the Canadian Government is establishing the Essential Services Contingency Reserve to ensure that essential service organizations have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies, including KN95 respirators, surgical masks, non-medical cloth and disposable masks, gowns, face shields, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and gloves. The reserve is designed to help essential services organizations bridge urgent, short-term gaps in their supplies.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are open.*  
[Information](#)
- Safe Restart Funding for Municipalities;** To help communities recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Government will be providing cities and towns across Canada with funding of up to \$2 billion to help support front line workers and critical municipal services. Provincial and territorial governments will cost match these investments. The Canadian Government has also agreed to match up to \$1.8 billion of provincial and territorial funding to support local public transit. For British Columbia, this means an additional \$540 million in federal transit funding.  
**UPDATE:** The Ontario government is providing an additional \$500 million to help the province's 444 municipalities address ongoing COVID-19 operating costs.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information, Update](#)
- Extension of Deadline for Payment of Annual Cannabis Fees;** The Order Amending the Cannabis Fees Order (Extension of Deadline for Payment of 2020–2021 Annual Fee) defers the payment due date of the 2020–2021 annual fee for licence holders in their first full and subsequent fiscal years from September 30, 2020, to March 31, 2021. The payment due date for licence holders in their entry year does not change. The objective of this Order is to provide short-term economic relief to the cannabis industry in light of COVID-19, while continuing to recover the costs associated with the regulation of the industry.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- Online Course Provides Guidance on Returning to Work Safely during the COVID-19 Pandemic;** Organizations can now use the e-course “Pandemic Planning: Reopening for Business” that was released by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) as a guide to safely returning to work. The course will guide employers and employees on how to best prepare for a safe return to work for everyone in light of the pandemic. Some of the topics covered include how COVID-19 spreads, its symptoms, employer and employee duties and responsibilities and how to manage the workplace for a safe return of employees.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- Support for Niagra Region’s Tourism Sector;** The Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for FedDev Ontario, Mélanie Joly, announced \$900,000 to help tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. This amount is to support the recovery and growth of tourism as the economy reopens during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
**UPDATE:** Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre announced a non-repayable FedDev Ontario investment of \$2 million for the Regional Municipality of Niagara to support the recovery of the Niagara Region tourism industry. The announcement was made on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for FedDev Ontario.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- CRA Increases Flat Rate Amount for Meal Claims and Reasonable Amount for Meal Benefits and Allowances;** The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has increased the amount employers can use to determine whether an overtime meal or allowance, or the meal portion of a travel allowance is taxable, from \$17 to \$23. The CRA also increased the rate at which transport employees and other individuals can claim expenses, using a flat rate per person, from \$17 to \$23 per meal. These increases are effective immediately and retroactive to January 1, 2020. The increase in the amount for meal claims and meal benefits is meant to ensure that all



employees, including essential workers, can access meals that meet today's inflation, as they continue to provide services through the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Status: in effect. Increase are retroactive to January 1, 2020*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Black Entrepreneurs and Business Owners;** To help address systemic racism and the impact of COVID-19, on September 9, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced investments of up to nearly \$221 million in partnership with Canadian financial institutions – including up to nearly \$93 million from the Government of Canada over the next four years – to launch Canada's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program. This program is meant to help Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country recover from the COVID-19 crisis and grow their businesses. More details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, are expected in the coming weeks.

*Status: in effect. Applications for the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund is open whereas applications for the National Ecosystem Fund and Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub are closed.*

[Information](#)

- **EI premium rate freeze,** holding the EI premium rate for employers, who pay 1.4 times the employee rate, will remain unchanged at \$2.21 per \$100 of insurable earnings for two years.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

## Support for Workers

- **Creation of the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit:** The government is proposing to introduce legislation for the new **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit**, which would provide income support to workers whose employment is interrupted by specific government-imposed public health lockdown scenarios and who are unable to work due to such restrictions. The new benefit would be:
  - \$300 a week.
  - Strictly available to workers whose work interruption is a direct result of a government-imposed public health lockdown.
  - Available until May 7, 2022, with retroactive application to October 24, 2021 should the situation warrant it.
  - Accessible for the entire duration of a government-imposed public health lockdown (up until May 7, 2022).
  - Available to workers who are ineligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and those who are eligible for EI, as long as they are not paid benefits through EI for the same period.

Individuals whose loss of income or employment is due to their refusal to adhere to a vaccine mandate would not be able to access the benefit.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- **Interest relief on 2020 income tax debt due to COVID-19 related income supports;** To qualify for targeted interest relief, individuals must have had a total taxable income of \$75,000 or less in 2020 and have received income support in 2020 through one or more of the following COVID-19 measures:
  - the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB);
  - the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB);
  - the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB);

- the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB);
- the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB);
- Employment Insurance benefits; or
- similar provincial emergency benefits.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will automatically apply the interest relief measure for individuals who meet these criteria. Additionally, any CRA-administered credits and benefits normally paid monthly or quarterly, such as the Canada Child Benefit and the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax credit will not be applied to reduce individuals' tax debt owing for the 2020 tax year

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of three successor programs to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit:** With the end of the CERB program on October 3, the government has announced the creation of three new temporary recovery benefits for Canadians unable to work due to COVID-19:
  - The [Canada Recovery Benefit \(CRB\)](#) - \$500/week for up to 26 (**UPDATE: now 38**) (**UPDATE: now 42**) weeks for workers who are self-employed or not eligible for EI. The CRB would aid Canadians who have not returned to work or who have returned to work but have had their income decrease by at least 50%. Workers receiving this benefit must be available and looking for work and must accept work where the request is reasonable
  - The [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit \(CRSB\)](#) - \$500/week up to 2 (**UPDATE: now 4**) weeks for workers who are sick or must self-isolate
  - The [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit \(CRCB\)](#) - \$500/week for up to 26 (**UPDATE: now 38**) (**UPDATE: now 42**) weeks per household, available for Canadians who are unable to work because they have to care for a child under the age of 12 or another family member because schools, day cares, or care facilities are closed because of COVID-19 or because the individual receiving care is sick or must quarantine.

*Status: Applications for CRB, CRSB and CRCB are now open. CRB, CRSB, and CRCB will be available for Canadians to apply for through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for up to one year until September 21, 2021. Employees cannot claim CRCB or CRSB while on EI or CRB.*

**UPDATE:** on January 11, 2021, the Government stated that modifications to the program will be made so that international travellers cannot access the benefits during mandatory quarantine.

**UPDATE:** On February 19, 2021, the government announced extensions to its emergency benefits. The CRB and the CRCB have been extended by 12 weeks, allowing a claim of up to 38 weeks in total. The CRSB will now cover up to 4 weeks of missed work.

**UPDATE:** The government has further extended the CRB and the CRCB to allow for claims of up to 42 weeks in total.

**UPDATE:** On July 30, 2021, the government announced the proposed extension of the CRB, the CRCB, and the CRSB until October 23, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On October 21, 2021, the government proposed to extend the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit until May 7, 2022, and increase the maximum duration of benefits by 2 weeks. This would extend the caregiving benefit from 42 to 44 weeks and the sickness benefit from 4 to 6 weeks.

[Information, update](#)

- **Changes to Employment Insurance Benefits** to facilitate access to employment insurance (EI) benefits for claimants seeking to establish claims on or after September 27, 2020. These measures include a one-time hours credit of 480 hours for those establishing a claim for special benefits, and of 300 hours for those establishing a claim for EI regular benefits. New EI claimants as of September 27, 2020 will receive a minimum benefit rate of \$400 per week (or \$240 for extended parental benefits). An extension of the qualifying period by 28 weeks will be



provided for those who have claimed the EI Emergency Response Benefit or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

**UPDATE:** On January 29, 2021, the Government indicated that the one-week waiting period for EI claimants will be waived between January 31, 2021 and September 25, 2021. This will allow people who are applying for benefits to be paid for their first week of unemployment.

**UPDATE:** On February 19, 2021, the government announced that it is increasing EI availability up to 50 weeks in total, meaning an additional 24 weeks can be claimed.

**UPDATE:** On February 25, 2021 the government introduced legislation to implement the above-noted increase to EI benefits. In addition, self-employed workers who have opted in to the EI program to access special benefits would be able to use a 2020 earnings threshold of \$5,000, compared to the previous threshold of \$7,555. This change would be retroactive to claims established as of January 3, 2021 and would apply until September 25, 2021. As part of this proposed legislation, all international travellers who need to quarantine or isolate upon their return to Canada, including people returning from vacation, would be made ineligible to receive support from any of the Canada Recovery Benefits for the period of their mandatory quarantine or isolation. These changes would be retroactive to October 2, 2020.

**UPDATE:** On March 17, 2021, the above-noted changes came into effect.

**UPDATE:** On September 26, 2021, a new series of changes came into effect. All EI claims established between September 26, 2021 and September 24, 2022 will require 420 hours of insurable employment to qualify for regular or special benefits. The previous hours top-up has been eliminated, and the minimum amount an EI claimant can receive under a new claim is \$300 per week. Another notable change is that workers applying for EI sickness benefits on or after September 26, 2021 must now be able to prove with a medical certificate that they are sick and unable to work. Additionally, until September 24, 2022, monies paid to an employee by an employer by reason of separation (including severance pay and vacation pay when paid by reason of separation) upon layoff will not affect the payment of EI benefits. [Information](#); [September 26, 2021 Update](#)

- **EI premium rate freeze;** the Government is freezing the EI premium rate for employees at the 2020 level of \$1.58 per \$100 of insurable earnings for 2 years.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Reducing the time it takes a temporary foreign worker to start a new job;** under this temporary policy, a worker who is already in Canada and has secured a new job offer (typically backed by a labour market test) can get approval to start working in their new job even while their work permit application is being fully processed, and without having to leave the country. This will reduce the waiting period down to 10 days or less.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#); [more](#).
- **Support for Childcare;** Through the Safe Restart Agreement, the Federal Government will be providing \$625 million for Canada's child care sector to help ensure safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents' return to work. This financial support is designed to address new challenges created by COVID-19, including temporary closures and loss of critical revenue from placement fees.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Measures to Protect Temporary Foreign Workers and Farms:** There have been a number of outbreaks on Canadian farms that have significantly impacted the health and safety of workers. To address this, the Federal Government is investing \$58.6 million to strengthen the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and safety on farms by:
  - increasing supports to temporary foreign workers, including for direct outreach to workers through migrant support organizations;
  - strengthening the employer inspections regime; and
  - improving health and safety improvements to farms and employee living spaces to prevent and respond to the spread of COVID-19.*Status: announced.*



[Information](#)

- **Temporary Change to Employment Insurance Program;** The Government of Canada is preparing to transition as many Canadians as possible from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) back to the Employment Insurance (EI) system at the end of the month. Effective August 9, 2020, to determine the number of weeks of benefits available, plus the minimum number of weeks of qualifying employment that is needed, a minimum employment rate of 13.1% will be applied temporarily for all EI economic regions across Canada. Those living in EI regions with an unemployment rate lower than 13.1% will have their EI benefits calculated on the basis of the 13.1% rate. Individuals living in regions with a higher unemployment rate will have their benefits calculated using the actual rate for that region.

*Status: in effect*

[Information](#)



## British Columbia

Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Digital marketing training for small and medium-sized businesses;** The Digital Marketing Bootcamp provides participants with a foundation in digital marketing, including search-engine optimization (SEO), paid advertising, analytics, content marketing and other tools. The program, valued at \$6,000 per seat, is offered to small and medium-sized businesses (i.e., with 1 to 149 employees) at no cost.  
*Status: the program is open until March 31, 2022.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating a COVID-19 safety certificate program (BSAFE)** for the tourism and hospitality businesses to increase consumer confidence as businesses resume operations. The province has allocated \$640,000 to develop the program and provide the training for workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors. B.C. organizations participating in the training program will receive a decal to make it easy for visitors to identify that staff have taken BSAFE training.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Supports for BC's anchor tourism organizations;** Eligible expenses include payroll, rent and utility costs related to restarting or ramping up operations in preparation for gradual reopening in alignment with provincial health orders. The funding is available for not-for-profit organizations and businesses.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Relief funding for hard-hit businesses via the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant;** the BC government will provide more than \$50 million to help the 14,000 restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres affected by the March 30, 2021, provincial health orders. The Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant will provide affected businesses with up to \$10,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance and utilities. The grant can also help cover unexpected costs that resulted from the restrictions, such as the purchase of perishable goods. The Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant is open to eligible businesses of any size that have been in operation since Feb. 1, 2021. To ensure affected businesses can access the funds quickly, the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant has a streamlined application.  
**UPDATE:** On April 26, 2021, the government announced an additional \$75 million in grant funding. About \$25 million is now available to hotels, motels, and other BC-owned short-term accommodation providers affected by the April 23<sup>rd</sup> emergency order. Grant amounts have increased to \$2,000 to \$20,000.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant Program;** which provides funding to eligible businesses to help them adjust to the economic changes created by the COVID-19 pandemic and better prepare for the future.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#); [Information 2](#)
- **Creating the Increased Employment Incentive,** a tax credit which sets aside up to \$190 million for businesses that were able to hire new workers, hire back people who were let go or increase workers' hours during the last three months of 2020. With 2020 payrolls finalized, businesses will know if they are eligible for a credit that could equal up to 15% of any increase in total eligible payroll paid in the last quarter of 2020. The tax credit could be as much as \$2,230 per employee. The credit is available to all employers in B.C., except for public institutions and political parties. For employers required to pay the employer health tax (EHT), the credit will be first applied to any EHT outstanding and will be available as a refund to the extent the credit exceeds the amount of EHT or other debt owed to government.




*Status: in effect. Applications are now open.*

[Information](#)

- **Extension to the book publishing tax credit;** the government announced an extension of the program to March 2026 to increase book publishers' competitiveness and strengthen their economic recovery out of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Status: expired. The deadline to claim the tax credit was December 30, 2020.*  
[Information](#)
- **Funding Support for Businesses to Launch Online;** the Launch Online Grant Program will provide small and medium-sized business owners, including those in hard-hit sectors such as retail, tourism and restaurants, with up to \$7,500 to build or improve their online store and promote BuyBC at a local, national and international level. Grant recipients can use the funding for a variety of online-related expenses, including pictures, creating an online inventory system, advertising costs, subscription costs of an e-commerce platform and training staff to manage the website.  
**UPDATE:** On March 17, 2021, in response to a high number of applications, the BC government announced that it is investing an additional \$30 million in the program. 30% of the grant funds will be reserved for Black, Indigenous, and people of colour-owned businesses, as well as rural businesses.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#), [application](#)
- **Help for the Agritech sector;** The \$3-million grant program is part of StrongerBC, B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan. The program will help accelerate the growth of B.C.'s agritech sector and help agritech companies grow and anchor in B.C. The base eligibility for the program is: the company must operate and pay taxes in B.C.; employ at least 10 B.C. residents; and raise at least 25% of the funding from another source. Applications close on Feb. 12, 2021, with successful applicants notified in early March 2021. The grants will be disbursed to recipients by March 31, 2021. Eligible companies can receive grants of up to \$500,000.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Help for the forest sector;** the province is delivering relief to small- and medium-sized forestry businesses for the extra costs of keeping their employees and communities safe, while operating through the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible companies must have on average fewer than 500 employees across all offices in Canada with primary business activities in forestry and logging, support activities for forestry, wood product manufacturing, or pulp and paper manufacturing.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Additional support for arts and culture organizations** via the Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement and the new Pivot Program. The supplement helps existing BC Arts Council clients pay for operating costs like rent and utilities, and rehire people who work in the sector. Arts and culture organizations are already starting to receive their supplements and the BC Arts Council has extended the deadline to Jan. 29, 2021. The new Pivot Program helps arts and cultural organizations adapt to new realities resulting from the pandemic. Organizations can apply for assistance to modify their business model and practices, or get support for operational changes, such as going carbon neutral or buying better equipment for livestreaming events. This program will help B.C. organizations plan for the future so the arts can stay resilient and recover strong. Applications are open until Jan. 4, 2021.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*
- **Creating the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant;** this program will invest up to \$300 million in targeted financial support for some of the hardest hit businesses in B.C. that employ between two and 149 B.C. residents and have experienced declines in revenue since March 10, 2020. Grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 are available. An additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 grant is available to eligible tourism-related businesses that have been hit especially hard by COVID-19.  
**UPDATE:** On December 21, 2020, the government announced enhancements to this program, including a streamlined application process and simplified criteria. For example, the criteria has been expanded from a minimum revenue drop of 50% to a drop of 30%. This change will allow more businesses to be eligible.






Additionally, the previous three-year operation requirement has been reduced to 18 months. This means businesses only need to have been in operation nine months before the pandemic to apply for the grant. Businesses impacted by the pandemic will be eligible to receive a grant up to \$30,000. The grant for the tourism sector has been increased, meaning those hardest-hit businesses in the tourism sector will now be eligible for a grant up to \$45,000.

**UPDATE:** On June 4, 2021, the government announced additional funding to keep the program operating until the start of Step 3 of BC's restart plan on July 1, 2021. Applications will now close on July 2, 2021.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#), [update](#), [June update](#)

- **BC PST Rebate on Select Machinery and Equipment:** Under this temporary program, corporations can apply to receive an amount equal to the PST they paid between September 17, 2020 and September 30, 2021 on qualifying machinery and equipment.  
*Status: in effect.*
- **BC Increased Employment Incentive:** A one-time refundable tax credit for employers. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2021.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are now open*
- **Implementation of the BC Economic Recovery Plan**, including a 15% refundable tax credit based on eligible new payroll. It will also introduce a small- and medium-sized business recovery grant to support approximately 15,000 hard-hit businesses. Tourism operators will be eligible for a special top-up. The plan will also provide a temporary 100% PST rebate on select machinery and equipment.  
*Status: in effect. See page for various programs*  
[Information](#), [update](#)
- **Creation of a Motion Picture Fund**, investing \$2 million to launch the new Domestic Motion Picture Fund to support B.C. creators and producers in relation to the development and production of motion picture projects. The fund is intended to help local production companies attract investment and leverage federal funding.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Rent Relief for Outdoor Adventure Operators;** Holders of Land Act tenures and Park Act permits that are commercial recreation operators may qualify to have the annual base rent they pay to the government waived for one year. This is meant to help outdoor adventure businesses, fishing and hunting lodges, guest ranches, ecotourism lodges, seasonal campgrounds and other commercial recreation operators during the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure is aimed at commercial recreation operators whose primary purpose is outdoor recreation activities, with ancillary uses related to transportation, accommodation or food and beverage. Eligible operators will have one year of annual base rent waived for invoice due dates between May 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021.  
*Status: in effect.*  
**UPDATE:** On March 30, 2021, the government announced additional funding for this program.  
[Information](#), [Update](#)
- **Extension for Patio Expansions and Sale/Delivery of Packaged Liquor;** all Temporary Expanded Service authorizations were originally set to expire on October 31, 2020. However, the Province has now made amendments allowing for their extension to October 31, 2021, as long as local governments support the extension. All licensees with current TESA authorizations and whose local governments support extension will be reissued authorization letters, automatically extending the expiry date of their authorizations. New applications for TESA authorization will be considered up until October 31, 2021. Additionally, the temporary authorization that allows food-primary and liquor-primary licensees to sell and deliver sealed, packaged liquor products alongside the purchase of a meal for off-site consumption has been extended from October 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021.  
*Status: in effect*  
**UPDATE:** On March 12, 2021, the government announced that the temporary authorization allowing liquor-primary and food-primary licensees to sell and deliver sealed, packaged liquor products alongside the purchase



of a meal for off-site consumption is now permanent.

[Information](#)

- **Extension of tax filing and payment deadlines** for a variety of tax obligations.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Delay of Tax Measure Implementation Dates;** To help with the COVID-19 recovery, implementation dates are being delayed to April 2021 for changes to provincial sales tax (PST) and B.C.'s carbon tax. The carbon tax rate had been scheduled to increase from \$40 to \$45 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in April 2020. This was delayed until October and has now been further delayed until April 2021. The carbon tax will further increase to \$50 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e in April 2022. Two other planned tax changes are also being delayed until April 2021:
  - the elimination of the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners; and
  - the addition of new PST registration and collection requirements for e-commerce businesses located outside B.C.

To further support businesses, the employer health tax (EHT) 2020 quarterly instalment dates are being extended as follows:

- Dec. 31, 2020 (original instalment date was June 15, 2020);
- Jan. 31, 2021 (original instalment date was Sept. 15, 2020); and
- Feb. 28, 2021 (original instalment date was Dec. 15, 2020).

The 2020 EHT filing and balance due date will remain until March 31, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Reduction of School Taxes:** School taxes to be reduced by 50% for commercial properties (classes 4, 5, 6) for the 2020 tax year.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Establishing a COVID-19 Business Support Service:** this resource will be operated by Small Business BC (SBBC), a non-profit organization, and will provide information about supports available to businesses from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners.  
*Status: in effect. 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. Support is available in multiple languages and a call-back feature will be in place to help manage high call volumes.*  
[Information](#)
- **Dormant Well Clean-Up Program:** The program to restore dormant and inactive wells, and bring support to B.C. workers in oil and gas service companies has seen significant interest from applicants. The Province has received over 1,100 applications from more than 80 service companies and contractors. It is estimated that the program could support up to 1,200 jobs for British Columbians, many of them within the northeast region of the province. The \$100 million in funding allocated to the Dormant Sites Reclamation program will provide successful applicants with up to \$100,000, or 50% of total costs, whichever is less, for dormant site clean up projects. The program is split into two phases of \$50 million each. These programs are open to oil and gas field service companies and contractors based in B.C., with registration, office and operations in B.C.  
*Status: in effect. Applications for Increment 1 and Increment 2 are now closed.*  
[Information](#)

- Additional support for the forest sector:** Changes to the Coast-wide implementation of the variable fee-in-lieu of manufacture on log exports that was scheduled to come into force on July 1, 2020, is postponed until December 2020 respectively. Delaying the fee-in-lieu provides B.C. forest companies with more time to prepare for and adjust their business models to the upcoming regulatory changes.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)
- Expanding support to restaurant and tourism industry:** The Province has approved a temporary wholesale pricing model that will allow liquor licensees to purchase beer, wine and spirits at reduced cost. It will be in place from the end of July 2020 until March 31, 2021, when the program will be reviewed. The new model will have licensees pay only wholesale price of the products they order rather than whole sale price plus a retail mark up set by the Liquor Distribution Branch.

*Status: in effect.*

**UPDATE:** On February 23, 2021, the government announced that this pricing model will remain in place permanently.

[Information](#)
- Reduction of annual licence fee for taxi industry:** In order to help mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on the taxi industry, the province has lowered the annual fee which taxi and limousine operators must pay. The fee to licensees has been halved, from \$100 per vehicle with no overall fee cap, to \$50 per vehicle with a total cap of \$5,000. Additional measures which have been introduced include: waiving plate fees for all operators during COVID-19; allowing eligible licensees to defer their passenger transportation renewal fee for up to six months; and allowing insurance payments to be temporarily suspended for fleet and non-fleet customers.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)
- Investments in long-term care and senior facilities:** The Province is investing \$160 million to help facilities hire up to three full-time staff in all 680 of BC's long-term care homes and seniors' assisted living residences. They will be dedicated to ensuring infection prevention and COVID-19 control measures. They will also schedule visits and make sure visitors follow safety rules, including frequent hand washing, not visiting if they are sick, cough etiquette, and maintaining at least two metres of physical distance from patients and staff. The Province will also be providing an additional \$26.5 million dollars to help facilities recoup costs they incurred between March 1 and June 30th for additional screening, sick-time, changes to services, and infection prevention and control. These initiatives will help facilities begin to allow visitors. Once a facility has developed a written visitation plan, in line with provincial requirements, residents will be able to have a single designated visitor in a specified visiting area. These designated spaces will include outdoor and indoor locations and all visitors must wear masks. This approach will be monitored through July, with the goal of expanding it in August. In addition, personal service providers, including hairdressers, will be able to come into long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities if they have completed a WorkSafeBC safety plan.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)
- Online Tool for Temporary Lay-Off Application Process:** In June, the B.C. Government extended the time period for temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 to a maximum of 24 weeks, expiring on August 30, 2020. A new online application makes it easier for employers and workers to jointly apply for an extension beyond August 30 by eliminating the need for hardcopy documents and signatures. Applications involve two steps:

  - Employers must survey the workforce to obtain more than 50% support from workers before applying; and
  - Once worker support is documented, employers must complete the online form and submit the document in the new portal.


*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Local Governments and Transit.** There will be up to a \$1 billion dollar investment in local governments and public transport services aimed at targeting the impacts of COVID-19. The funds are contingent on matching federal contributions under a 50/50 cost-sharing basis. The funding is meant to address some of the COVID-19 related revenue shortfalls in transit services and to ensure local government and transit services remain available.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the Technology Sector;** As part of the previously announced \$304 million Regional Relief and Recovery Fund for Western Businesses, the Federal Government will provide \$2.95 million in funding to help businesses in B.C.'s technology sector cope with the impact of COVID-19. The funding will create up to 1,000 jobs and support up to 2,500 companies. The funding will be delivered through the BC Technology Sector Resiliency Program, a program developed by Innovate BC in partnership with the BC Acceleration Network (a provincial network of business accelerators and incubators). The program will expand existing advisory services and resources to support tech entrepreneurs starting and scaling up their businesses, with a focus on training, advice and resources dedicated to helping them recover from the impact of COVID-19. The "Digital Economic Response" program will also be expanded. This program provides one-to-one business and technical expertise to help companies improve their digital capacity by transitioning them into the digital economy or expanding their digital footprint.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Helping Farmers Maintain Farm Status;** To help support farmers cope with the financial impact of COVID-19, the Government of British Columbia is waiving minimum income requirements for existing B.C. farm operations, allowing them to maintain their current property tax farm status for 2021. Losing farm status would significantly increase the property tax burden on farmers.  
*Status: announced*  
[Information](#)
- **Online Cannabis Sales for Pickup in Store;** In order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and limit customer times inside stores, the province has amended cannabis regulations to allow customers to pay online or by telephone, and then pick up in stores. The new changes are meant to help improve the competitiveness of legal operators.  
*Status: in effect*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for Employers;** The Surrey Board of Trade has received \$402,105 in funding for a community and employer partnership project, the COVID-19 Workforce Support Project. This project will develop a back-to-work strategies playbook to help employers prepare for workforce-related impacts and opportunities resulting from the pandemic. It will also help people who have lost their job to find re-employment, redeployment, retraining and sustainable employment opportunities. The playbook can be adapted and used by other communities and tailored to specific industry sectors.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)

## Support for Workers

- **Support for temporary agricultural, food and seafood workers to quarantine** upon arriving in BC; on March 11, the province announced that this program would be extended.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for artists;** professional artists and others who work in the arts can get more support to help with challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic through a new grant program. Through the BC Arts Council's new program, people can apply for up to \$12,000 to learn new skills or adapt their practices. Artists can apply for a grant for things such as modifying a dance piece for a smaller audience or learning new skills, such as video



editing. Artists are also able to apply for support for professional development, like mentorship or training.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **BC Recovery Response Benefit**, a tax-free benefit provided to approximately 3.7 million British Columbians. Applications for this benefit will open on December 18, 2020. The benefit will provide:
  - \$1,000 for families with incomes under \$125,000. Families earning up to \$175,000 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount. Single-parent families also qualify for these benefit amounts.
  - \$500 for single people earning less than \$62,500. Single people earning up to \$87,500 will qualify for a reduced benefit amount

*Status: expired. Application are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Implementation of the BC Economic Recovery Plan**, including the creation of a variety of jobs, additional investments in childcare, and investing in short-term training in the skills people need to get work in high-demand fields.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Minimum wage increase takes effect.** Effective, June 1, 2020, the following wage increases have been made: general minimum wage increases 5.4% to \$14.60 per hour; liquor server minimum wage increases 9.8% to \$13.95 per hour; resident caretaker minimum wage, per month, increases 5.4% to \$876.35 for those who manage 9 to 60 units; and live-in camp leader minimum wage, per day, increases 5.4% to \$116.86.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **New supports for post-secondary students.** Applications for StudentAid BC, along with the new non-repayable B.C. Access Grant, are now open. Students who apply for StudentAid BC will be automatically assessed for the new B.C. Access Grant, which will provide students up to \$4,000 a year to help with the up-front cost of programs leading to a certificate, diploma or degree. Supports for students include: \$1.5 million to be shared by 20 public post-secondary institutions throughout B.C. to develop or build upon supports for students with cognitive, mental health or physical disabilities; \$275,000 to BCcampus to develop online resources and tools on well-being for students, staff and faculty; \$3 million to be invested in new open educational resources (OER) to allow for free access to textbooks and other materials; and \$400,000 to allow BCcampus to create fully developed OER courses and support services for a broad range of the most popular courses.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- Launching **the Health Career Access Program** to provide a path for applicants with no health care experience to get hired and receive on-the-job training.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*


[Information](#)

## Alberta

Last updated on October 12, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Supports for businesses implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program:** Alberta's government will soon offer a one-time payment of \$2,000 to Alberta small- and medium-sized businesses that are eligible for and choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program, requiring proof of vaccination, a negative test result or medical exemption. An additional \$1 million will also be available for training to support the safety of workers when implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Provincial support for the live events sector;** this funding allocates \$10 million to support non-profit organizations that are the primary organizers of a live experience event or that own and/or operate a live experience venue. Eligibility includes non-profits that organize arts, cultural, festival or sporting live experience events. Eligibility also includes non-profit owners and/or operators of community halls, cultural centres and museums, along with sport, arts, cultural and agricultural society venues. Qualifying organizations will be eligible for a grant of up to \$75,000. Priority will go to smaller organizations and to organizations whose events are produced in Alberta.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Alberta Jobs Now program;** Employers will be able to apply for a grant that covers 25 per cent of an employee's salary for a 52-week period up to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee. The grant can be used to cover salary or training costs. Employers who hire persons with disabilities will receive a grant 1.5 times higher than the amount they receive for other new employees.  
*Status: applications open. Employers can apply at [alberta.ca/jobsnow](http://alberta.ca/jobsnow). They can apply for funding for up to 20 new employees. A second intake will open on Sept. 15 and close on Dec. 31, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing the Enhanced COVID-19 Business Benefit** to provide up to \$30,000 for small and medium-sized businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations with fewer than 500 employees that have been most affected by the pandemic and ongoing health restrictions.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Supports for Alberta's performing arts, sports, rodeo sectors;** non-profits that host rodeos, professional and elite amateur sports organizations, and non-profits that own and/or operate dedicated presenting and performing arts venues can apply for operational funding through the Stabilize Program to offset financial losses. Qualifying organizations will be eligible for a one-time grant of up to 25 per cent of eligible expenses based on 2018 and 2019 financials. Organizations may use funds for ongoing operational costs, such as utilities, rent, insurance and programming, to support their reopening. The Stabilize Program allocates \$12 million, and applications will be accepted until midnight Feb.18. The Stabilize Donation Matching stream will allocate \$5 million to match private donations (from a minimum \$250,000 to a maximum \$1 million) dollar-for-dollar to eligible non-profit organizations that host rodeos and professional and elite amateur sports. Non-profit organizations that own and/or operate dedicated presenting and performing arts venues or live experience venues are also eligible.  
*Status: in effect. Donation matching is open until November 5, 2021; applications for the adapt and innovation stream are now closed; applications for the Stabilize Live Music Grant are open.*  
[Information](#)
- **Expanding and increasing the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant,** which offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines include information on funding, eligibility criteria and how to apply.  
**UPDATE:** The government has expanded the grant; businesses that started operating between March 1 and



October 31, 2020 are now eligible for funding.

**UPDATE:** As of February 4, 2021, businesses covered under the previously-announced expansion can now apply for funding.

**UPDATE:** On April 13, 2021, the government announced another payment of up to \$10,000 for Alberta businesses affected by the latest public health orders. Businesses will be eligible to apply for another payment in the second half of April. This additional payment will also be available to new businesses that began operating between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, as well as hotels, taxis and ride-sharing services.


**UPDATE:** On April 23, 2021, the government announced that the Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant program has been reopened for a new payment to businesses affected by the April 2021 public health orders. Eligible organizations can now apply for this additional COVID relief funding.

**UPDATE:** On May 26, 2021, the government extended the application period to June 30.

Status: in effect. *Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#), [update](#), [update](#), [update](#)

- **Additional support for the tourism sector;** hotels and other lodging providers will be able to keep the tourism levy amounts collected between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.  
**UPDATE:** On May 26, 2021, the government announced a 3-month extension of the abatement period, until June 30.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#), [update](#)
- **Support for Alberta's energy industry** by funding the Alberta Energy Regulator industry levy for six months, and extending the term of mineral agreements expiring in 2020 by 1 year to provide increased certainty for the industry.  
*Status: expired*
- **Workers' Compensation Board premium relief,** deferring 2020 premiums for all private-sector employers to 2021. When invoicing resumes, small and medium-sized employers will have 50% of their 2020 premiums waived.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Deferral of timber dues for up to 6 months** for impacted operators. Businesses that are unable to file their production or submit timber dues payments by the applicable due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges for a period of no longer than six months.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing small business supports** such as advice, coaching and information on COVID-19 resources and supports from Business Link, a non-profit organization funded jointly by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.  
*Status: in effect. To access Business Link services, contact 1-800-272-9675 or visit businesslink.ca.*  
[Information](#)
- **Funding for continuing care facilities;** new funding amounting to \$7.3 million per month has been announced to help alleviate pressures in contracted continuing care facilities during the pandemic. This additional funding will provide for:
  - Increased health-care aide staffing levels – funding will help facilities hire approximately 1,000 additional full-time staff;
  - A wage top-up of an additional \$2 per hour for health-care aides; and
  - Up to 1,000 paid student practicum positions to fast-track certification and get more staff into continuing **care facilities.**



In addition, \$24.5 million is being advanced to operators to help address immediate cost pressures due to COVID-19.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Supports for the agriculture industry**, including the following measures:
  - Immediately increasing the interim payment under AgriStability from 50% to 75% for the hog sector, which will result in the equivalent of \$20 per head for pork producers enrolled in AgriStability;
  - Immediately increasing the advance payment under AgriStability from 50% to 75% for the potato industry, to get cash quickly into the hands of potato producers; and
  - Creating a new fed cattle set-aside program, which will allow beef producers to hold on to slaughter-ready cattle on maintenance feed ration for several weeks, allowing the supply of animals to more evenly match demand and reduced processing capacity. Cattle producers will be compensated for the extraordinary costs until the backed-up inventory is cleared.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of an Agriculture Training Support Program** to help employers in the food supply chain provide necessary training to new employees. Up to \$5 million will be provided to farmers, agri-businesses and food processors, to help offset the cost of training new employees safely in new agri-food roles. In addition, about \$1 million in funding will be targeted for meat processors to provide support for new hires to undertake meat-cutting training. The program is targeted to agricultural, meat processing and horticultural businesses and services on the Government of Alberta's essential service list (with the exception of aquaculture). The program will support training for as many as 2,500 new jobs in Alberta. The maximum government contribution under the program is \$2,000 per new employee, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per employer. Grants will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis until available program funding is fully allocated.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Relief for the tourism industry;** hotels and other lodging providers will be allowed to keep tourism levy amounts collected between March 1 and December 31, 2020.

**UPDATE:** As of December 4, 2020, the abatement period has been extended to March 31, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#), [Update](#)

- **Enhanced online tools for farmers;** Agriculture and Forestry provided \$81,000 to the Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to enhance its online producer directory. This will allow farmers to connect directly with food and service retail operations. The site will now give retailers, wholesalers, restaurants and the food service industry more opportunities to connect with farms. The AFFPA will also be offering complimentary memberships for farmers and ranchers for 2020 and 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)


- **Supporting Alberta's beekeepers during COVID-19;** In response to recent challenges faced by Alberta's beekeepers, Agriculture and Forestry is introducing a Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. This program will provide up to \$1 million to assist beekeepers with the costs of increased colony replacements due to COVID-19. The program will be retroactive and will cover issues commencing in spring 2020.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- **Reduced corporate tax rates;** The province of Alberta has fully implemented the Job Creation Tax Cut a year and a half ahead of schedule, making Alberta's general corporate income tax rate now at least 30 per cent lower than any other provincial rate. In addition, the Innovation Employment Grant, recently announced as part of





Alberta's Recovery Plan, will complement the Job Creation Tax Cut by targeting small and medium-sized companies in the early stages of operation. Both measures support the development of new products and ideas, but a low general corporate tax rate also provides a strong incentive to commercialize products in Alberta as well as encourages diversification as it provides more benefit to companies outside the resource sector and adds extra incentive to invest and grow in Alberta.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Protection for Commercial Tenants;** Bill 23, Commercial Tenancies Protection Act received Royal Assent on July 23, 2020. This Act provides the following protections to commercial tenants beginning on March 17, 2020 and ending on the emergency end date:
  - landlords shall not give a notice of default, distraint for rent, evict a tenant or otherwise exercise remedies under or terminate a tenancy agreement in relation to:
  - non-payment of any rent, rent arrears or both by a tenant due to circumstances beyond the tenant's control caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - the applicability of an act of God or force majeure provision of a tenancy agreement or frustration of contract caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; or
  - the breach of any continuous occupancy clause of a tenancy agreement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - landlords shall not charge a fee or penalty for late payment of rent or non-payment of rent by a tenant; and
  - landlords shall not increase the rent payable under an existing tenancy agreement.

Additionally, if a tenant is unable to meet their rent obligations because of COVID-19, then the landlord and tenant must enter into a payment plan for the payment of rent. The payment plan may extend beyond the emergency end date and it amends the tenancy agreement to the extent necessary to give effect to the plan. If the tenant fails to adhere to the payment plan after the emergency end date, then the landlord shall have all remedies available under the tenancy agreement, as modified by the payment plan.

*Status: The act's protections applied from March 17, 2020 to August 31, 2020. No regulation has been promulgated to extend these dates.*

[Information](#)


## Support for Workers

- **Creation of the Working Parents Benefit,** which will see \$108 million go to families that used child care – including licensed or unlicensed daycare, day homes, out-of-school care, or preschool – from April to December of 2020. The Working Parents Benefit adds to the recently announced Critical Worker Benefit, a \$1,200 payment to 330,000 front-line and essential workers, and the Enhanced COVID Business Benefit, a \$10,000 support for businesses hit hardest by the pandemic. Families will be eligible to apply for the Working Parents Benefit if they have:
  - Children in any form of child care, including licensed or unlicensed child care.
  - A household annual income of \$100,000 or less.
  - Paid for three months of child care between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020 (must provide receipts).

*Status: in-effect. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of the Critical Worker Benefit,** which will see \$465 million go to approximately 380,000 Alberta public and private sector workers as \$1,200 cash payments. The Critical Worker Benefit will be available to workers in



the health-care, social services, education and private sectors who deliver critical services to Albertans or support food and medical supply chains. To be eligible for the benefit, employees must have worked a minimum of 300 hours during the period of Oct. 12, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021. Eligible public sector employees do not need to apply to receive the benefit. Employers will automatically receive the payment through the Government of Alberta to distribute to their eligible employees. Private sector employers can apply on behalf of eligible employees at [alberta.ca/criticalworkerbenefit](https://alberta.ca/criticalworkerbenefit) as of Feb. 17. Employers have until March 19 to apply.

**UPDATE:** On June 22, the government announced that workers in new job categories will be eligible for the \$1,200 payment. This includes workers in social services and the private sector who provided critical services to Albertans, were essential to the supply and movement of goods, and faced greater potential risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their work environments. Eligible private sector workers making \$25 per hour or less will also qualify for the benefit. These workers include: truck drivers, farmworkers, security guards, cleaners, funeral workers, employees at quick service and dine in restaurants and taxi drivers who can demonstrate they worked at least 300 hours during the eligibility period.

**UPDATE:** On July 23, the government extended the application deadline to August 31.

*Status: in effect. Applications are open for phase 2.*

[Information](#), [update](#)

- **Child Care Supports;** The Alberta Government will receive \$45 million to assist in the delivery of affordable and accessible child care, under a renegotiated bilateral agreement with the Federal Government. The funding will be used on three key priorities:
  - \$29 million for affordability – Supporting low-to-middle-income families through higher child care subsidies;
  - \$4.7 million for quality – Supporting childhood learning and development with high-quality programming and training; and
  - \$9.7 million for accessibility – Meeting the diverse needs of parents and children across the province, including children with complex needs and parents who work outside typical business hours. This funding will also be used to provide programming that addresses cultural and linguistic needs, such as Indigenous and Francophone programs.

The renewed bilateral agreement also includes \$10 million carried over from the previous agreement to be rolled into Phase 3 of Alberta's child care relief funding. This will support child care, out-of-school care and preschools.

*Status: in effect. Applications remain open.*

[Information](#)



## Saskatchewan

Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Support for the Outfitting and Ecotourism Industry;** The Ministry of Environment will be assisting commercial outfitting operations facing financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the coming year. In addition, the ministry will be extending the same measures to Saskatchewan's ecotourism industry for 2021-22.  
**Provincial assistance includes:**

- Forsaking outfitting licence fees for those who do not operate in 2021;
- Allowing outfitters to retain the right to a licence in 2022, as well as maintaining the ability to advertise for the 2022 season;
- Reducing fees for those who do decide to operate this year to \$20 for each licence, endorsement, day-use lake fee and outcamp fee; and
- Setting 2021-22 disposition rates to \$0 for outfitters and ecotourism operators with Crown resource land leases or permits.

*Status: In effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Renewing the Saskatchewan Tourism Sector Support Program;** this program provides financial assistance to eligible tourism businesses in the accommodations, attraction and tours, events, and major event facility sectors. The STSSP is targeted to businesses who have experienced a loss of sales revenue of at least 30 per cent in 2020 when compared to 2019.

*Status: in-effect. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Reduced Taxes for Small Businesses;** the government has introduced legislation to reduce the corporate income tax rate for Saskatchewan small businesses. Under this initiative, Saskatchewan's small business corporate income tax rate drops from two per cent to zero effective October 1, 2020. Beginning July 1, 2022, the small business tax rate will move to one per cent. And on July 1, 2023, the small business tax rate will return to two per cent.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)


- **Introduction of the Strong Recovery Adaptation Rebate,** a program to assist businesses as they adapt their business models due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rebate will assist businesses who have adapted to different business models, such as changing the use of square footage, installing physical infrastructure to comply with COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, and upgrading technology, such as websites, to enhance their business. The program is for Saskatchewan businesses that employ less than 100 people, have or will incur expenses to adapt their business model between April 1, 2020, and February 28, 2021, plan to continue operating, and have experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue decline compared to 2019. Eligible applicants will receive a rebate of 50 per cent up to a maximum of \$5,000 for a \$10,000 expenditure, with amounts being determined based on business expenditures for changing business models to adapt to the current environment brought about due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#), [Update](#)

- **Renewal of the Small Business Emergency Payment Program** for the period of December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Through this program, small businesses closed or significantly curtailed due to a public health order will be eligible for provincial support.

**UPDATE:** the program has been extended to provide an additional payment in January 2021.



**UPDATE:** On February 25, the government announced a further extension, including a payment for both February and March 2021.

**UPDATE:** On April 30, 2021, the government announced a further extension. The eligibility period is April 1 to 30, 2021, and applications will be accepted until May 31, 2021.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#), [January 2021 extension](#), [April 2021 extension](#)

- **Bill deferral programs** for all Crown utilities, 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.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Increasing the AgriStability interim benefit payment from 50% to 75% for Saskatchewan producers.** Interim benefits can provide producers with a portion of their final AgriStability benefit early, to help support losses and cover costs. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is also waiving the six-months farming and one production cycle criteria for participants applying for 2020 interim benefits.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Saskatchen government to provide relief measures for mining industry.** The Government of Saskatchewan has announced amendments to The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations that grant relief to the mining sector in response to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The following amendments have been implemented: waiving expenditure requirements for the current term and subsequent 12 months for mineral claims and leases that were active on the March 18, 2020, State of Emergency declaration date; allowing expenditures incurred during the period for which relief is granted to be applied toward expenditure requirements of The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations; and allowing the holder to meet requirements for refund of deficiency deposits after the relief period has ended. These amendments apply to northern exploration programs for all Crown minerals including uranium, diamonds, gold, copper, zinc, cobalt and rare earth elements. The relief measures come at no cost to the government, but allow companies to hold on to dispositions previously obtained.  
*Status: in effect..*  
[Information](#)
- **Temporary training program announced to support Saskatchewan employers.** On June 18, 2020, the Saskatchewan government announced the Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) program to assist businesses in training employees to comply with enhanced safety protocols and adapted business models as the province's economy reopens. RSTS will reimburse eligible private-sector employers 100% cent of employee training costs to a maximum of \$10,000 per business. The program will focus on supporting the short-term training of employees in areas such as health and safety requirements and the implementation of innovative practices to help businesses adapt to appropriate physical distancing.  
**UPDATE:** The application deadline has been extended to March 31, 2021.  
**UPDATE:** On April 9, 2021, the government announced an extension of the subsidy to June 30, 2021.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed*  
[Information](#), [update](#)
- **Saskatchewan Invests \$15 Million in Agtech;** The Government of Saskatchewan has announced that it will provide \$15 million to develop new technologies in agriculture in hopes that the investment will help accelerate the province's economic recovery from COVID-19. The funds will be invested through Innovation Saskatchewan for agtech companies requiring venture capital to develop past the start-up phase and scale up their business operations and manufacturing. Innovation Saskatchewan will issue a Request for Proposal in the coming weeks to begin exploring fund options with the private sector.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)



## Support for Workers

- **Temporary Wage Supplement Program** for workers in long-term care facilities, personal care homes, integrated healthcare facilities and home care workers providing care to seniors in their own homes. This will provide \$400 per month for two months effective November 19, 2020 for eligible workers regardless of income level.

*Status: expired.*

[Information and Application](#)

## Manitoba

Last updated on October 12, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Creating the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program:** a wage subsidy designed to help private-sector employers reopen and encourage employees to get vaccinated and return to work. Under the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program, local employers can apply for up to \$50,000 in provincial subsidies to help cover the wages of new employees who can attest they have been vaccinated or will be vaccinated. Eligible employers must be an active and permanent Manitoba-based business, not-for-profit or registered charity physically operating in the province. Those employers can receive a 50 per cent wage subsidy for maximum of 10 employees, with a maximum of \$5,000 per employee. The wage subsidy covers full pay periods for employees hired on or after June 10, 2021 with the last pay period ending Oct. 15.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are now open and set to close on September 30, 2021.*  
**UPDATE:** On October 6, 2021, the government announced that it would extend the program to November 15, 2021, and the application deadline to October 30, 2021.  
[Information](#), [update](#), [Healthy Hire Program page](#), [further update](#)
- **Supports to offset child-care sector's losses:** as a result of the move to remote learning in various parts of the province, the government has announced that licensed centres and child-care homes will be able to apply for additional funding support to offset their losses of parent fees for kindergarten and school-aged children.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Funding for the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant:** eligible employers may apply for up to \$10,000 per employee to assist with training costs delivered by a third party. Employers with 100 or fewer employees must contribute a minimum of 25 per cent of training costs, and employers with over 100 employees must contribute a minimum of 50 per cent of training costs. Employers can apply for up to a maximum of \$100,000 in funding.  
*Status: in effect. A second intake will open on August 30, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **Dine-in Restaurant Relief Program;** The Manitoba government has announced an additional \$2 million to expand the Dine-in Restaurant Relief Program, administered by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in partnership with the Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association, Economic Development and Jobs Minister Ralph Eichler announced today. Under this expanded program, restaurants in rural Manitoba and catering businesses that did not have established delivery models or that experienced significant revenue declines will be able to apply for a financial rebate based on their decline in revenue compared to pre-pandemic sales.  
*Status: in effect. Applications for the phase 3 intake are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support program for the hospitality industry;** the Hospitality Relief Sector Program will provide funding to hotels and full-time licenced resource tourism operators for fixed costs that have not been covered by other relief programs such as:
  - property insurance,
  - mortgage interest,
  - property taxes,
  - land leases,
  - service fees,
  - maintenance of camps, and


- resource retention costs.

Grants will be provided as a reimbursement for a percentage of eligible expenses incurred.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- **Waiver of 2021 annual permit and licence renewal fees for resource tourism operators;** permits which would normally be valid until March 31, 2021 will be extended for one year.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for employers with defined-benefit pension plans;** the Manitoba government will temporarily waive certain payments businesses and charities are required to put into pension plans, freeing up funds to help protect employees and prevent layoffs or shutdown. Under the protection of the moratorium, businesses will be exempt from making unfunded liability and solvency deficiency payments until the end of 2021.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for restaurants impacted by COVID-19 restrictions;** the \$5-million Dine-in Restaurant Relief Program will be delivered by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in partnership with the Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association. The program will be designed to provide a rebate to dine-in restaurants across Manitoba that have shifted to a delivery model as a result of moving to Critical (red) and subsequent public health orders. The rebate will help offset additional costs related to food delivery services, whether a restaurant provides its own delivery service or uses a third-party delivery company.  
*Status: in effect. Applications for Phase 3 are now closed. .*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating a \$10 million Pandemic Staffing Support Benefit** to help address urgent staffing needs in the disability services, child-care and child welfare sectors. The benefit will be available to help address staffing challenges related to the pandemic including overtime costs, replacement staff, or paying for sick time. Funds could also support ongoing staffing costs if public health directs an early learning and child-care facility or a specific cohort to close for a short-term isolation period in response to a case of COVID-19.  
*Status: in effect. Applications will be accepted until September 2021..*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Manitoba Bridge Grant for businesses and organizations impacted by COVID-19 restrictions;** this grant will provide \$5,000 upfront to small and medium-sized businesses, not for profits and charities impacted by the province's COVID-19 restrictions. The Manitoba Bridge Grant has the capacity to be extended automatically Jan. 1, 2021, to provide an additional \$5,000 to each organization should these public health orders remain in place. If required, the province would automatically process the second payment at that time with no further actions required from applicants. A January payment would increase the program total up to \$200 million for impacted businesses.  
**UPDATE:** As not all businesses operate a storefront, the second stream of the Manitoba Bridge Grant program, which opened on December 9, will provide up to \$5,000 in support to home-based businesses ineligible for the first round. This may include, but not be limited to, event planners, photographers, artists and tradespeople who do not operate a retail location.  
**UPDATE:** As of January 12, 2021, the deadline to apply for the Bridge Grant has been extended to January 31.  
**UPDATE:** On March 2, 2021, the government announced a third round of payments under this program and extended the application deadline until March 31, 2021.  
**UPDATE:** On May 10, 2021, the government announced that it would make a fourth round of payment for eligible businesses and organizations to help protect them through the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
**UPDATE:** On June 22, 2021, the government opened the bridge grant intake to businesses that did not previously apply, such as new and seasonal businesses that were not operating as of the original Nov. 10 program deadline. Eligible storefront businesses will receive \$5,000 and home-based businesses will receive up to \$5,000 based on 10 per cent of their most recent calendar year revenues. The province is also extending the \$2,000 food waste top-up to new applicants, as well as previous bridge grant recipients that offer prepared food services but did not receive the May 15 deposit as it was only provided to restaurants. Approximately 600



businesses that offer prepared food services, such as hotels, lodges, outfitters, bars and lounges, will automatically receive the \$2,000 top-up June 25.

*Status: expired. The application period is now closed.*

[Information](#), [Application](#), [May 2021 update](#), June

- **Launching the 2020 Canada-Manitoba Finished Cattle Feed Assistance Program**, which will provide up to \$2.5 million in direct support to Manitoba cattle producers impacted by the pandemic. The 2020 Canada-Manitoba Finished Cattle Feed Assistance Program will provide owners of finished cattle \$1.20 per day per animal to help offset costs to feed animals beyond their expected marketing dates, due to slaughter plant closures and operational reductions resulting from COVID-19 outbreaks, or disease control measures. Cattle producers can now apply for support, the deadline for application is December 1, 2020. The program will cover eligible extraordinary costs incurred between April 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for small and medium-sized business**; the government will provide up to \$120 million to support small and medium-sized businesses that are facing significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. If one in six businesses have fallen into that gap that would mean approximately 20,000 Manitoba businesses would be entitled to this support, the premier noted. The province will advance each eligible business the non-interest bearing forgivable MGPP loan of \$6,000, for a total of up to \$120 million. 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.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Repayment plans for tax deferrals**; while the deferred RST remittance deadlines have now passed, the government has indicated that qualifying businesses may be eligible for an interest and penalty free repayment plan on tax deferrals until March 31, 2021 provided subsequent returns and payment requirements are in good standing.  
**UPDATE:** On March 5, 2021, the government extended the interest and penalty-free payment deferral to June 30, 2021. As well, the Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy returns for small and medium-sized businesses with remittances of no more than \$10,000 per month are eligible for an interest and penalty free payment deferral to June 30, 2021. The deferral is for the January, February, March, April and May 2021 return periods. The RST and tax levy deferrals are optional and for tax payments only. Businesses must continue to file returns by the required due dates.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#), [update](#)



- 
- **Returning a \$37 million Workers' Compensation Board surplus to employers** to provide financial relief to eligible employers. 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.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Creating a call center to connect employers with support programs;** Manitoba has announced a new service, as part of the Manitoban Protection Plan, to help businesses, not-for-profits and charities facing economic challenges due to COVID-19 to connect with support programs. In the coming days, Manitoba-based business 24-7 Intouch will launch a secure call centre to help inform and guide stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of the Manitoba Works Capital Incentive,** a new approach to tax increment financing (TIF) that leverages incremental education property tax rebates to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

- The Incentive also encourages business development during the economic recovery from the pandemic. A new or existing business interested in getting established or expanding in Manitoba may apply to the program if:
  - the business is prepared to make a minimum capital investment of \$10 million to a specific property, which will be designated for tax increment financing benefits;
  - a minimum of 65% of total project costs are from private sources; and
  - there is demonstrable potential to create and/or maintain jobs in Manitoba, or the new business activity will have a substantial and measurable net economic benefit to the province.

The Incentive carries no risk in that it provides no up-front money to the developer, and the province pays only what is collected in incremental education property tax as a result of the development.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Waiving big-game utilization requirements for 2020,** to support the lodge and outfitter sector. This will ensure that future allocations will not be affected by the loss of spring season due to the pandemic, and provide additional black bear hunting opportunities to outfitters in areas with chronic black bear-related agricultural damage. Moreover, the Guide License Program is being transferred to the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association ("Association"). This will expedite licence issuance to hunting guides while reducing government red tape. Once transitioned, the Association will review and assess licence applications, administer examinations for guides and issue hunting guide licences on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development. Further information on the transfer will be available at a later date, and hunting guides should continue to apply for renewed and new licences through the existing process.

*Status: expired.*


[Information](#)

- **Support for the cannabis industry;** Manitoba has announced that the province is allowing more retailers to apply for cannabis retail licences. Beginning June 1, the province is opening the cannabis retail application process to all prospective retailers. This includes the introduction of a new controlled-access licence for retailers. Manitoba will also continue to offer age-restricted licences for retailers wishing to open stand-alone stores.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Measures to make life more affordable.** Effective July 1, \$75 million of annual provincial sales tax from residential and business properties was removed. Starting July 1, the province reduced vehicle registration fees



by 10%, which is expected to save drivers \$11 million.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Ban on commercial evictions.** The Manitoba Government will be introducing a temporary ban on commercial evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic if the landlords and tenants are eligible for the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program (CECRA) but have not applied. This ban is meant to encourage participation in CECRA, as not all eligible landlords have applied for funding, leaving tenants without an option to stay in their current leased commercial space. So far, Manitoba has only paid out \$1.5 million of the \$64 million available.

*Status: expired/*

[Information](#)

- **New Program to Help Agri-Processors.** A new \$3-million Canadian Agricultural Partnership program will be implemented to support projects that will help agricultural processors mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The program will be cost-shared between the Federal and Manitoba Governments and will provide financial assistance to agri-food and agri-product processors, food distributors and agri-food industry organizations for the following:

- personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies;
- business continuity practices, training and resources to support COVID-19 mitigation; and
- starting in September, financial assistance will also be available for materials, supplies and equipment rentals needed to adapt production processes to meet social distancing and other precautions related to COVID-19.
- have fewer than 500 employees; and

Further details of the program include the following:

- to be eligible, costs must be directly related to the execution of a project and must be incurred between March 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021;
- projects must be completed on or before January 31, 2021; and
- a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs, up to \$25,000 per applicant, will be contributed.

Funding applications can be made on the Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development website.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Enhancements Made to PPE Application;** The B2B Manitoba App was launched in May to help connect Manitoba businesses with non-medical grade personal protective equipment and other supplies needed to operate safely. Recent enhancements have been made to the App to allow businesses to contract health and safety services, such as product installation, laundry, cleaning and disinfection. In addition, the enhanced tool now includes:

- a helpful home page explanation video;
- the ability to save search queries, page places and filters for an improved user experience;
- manufacturing location, shipping time and ships-from data; and
- encouragement for vendors to list smaller lot sizes, which will help small businesses operate on a just-in-time basis and manage inventory.

The tool is available for all businesses, including not for profits, schools and daycares.

*Status: in effect.*



## [Information](#)

- **Extensions to the Back to Work Wage Subsidy Program.** The expanded program provides for the reimbursement to employers of 50% of wage costs between July 16 and December 31, to a maximum of \$5,000 per employee and a maximum of 20 employees. Applications for the wage subsidy can be made starting on July 16 at noon and ending on December 1, 2020. Employers are eligible to receive reimbursement only for wages paid and employees hired on or after July 16, 2020.  
*Status: expired. Applications for the program are now closed.*  
[Information](#), [update](#).

## **Support for Workers**


- **Youth employment programs;** the Manitoba government will provide more than \$25 million that will support more than 8,000 youth employment opportunities this summer through the new Manitoba Youth Jobs Program and existing Green Team grants. The new \$15-million Manitoba Youth Jobs Program will provide employers a 50 per cent subsidy on wages paid to eligible employees during the program period of May to September 2021, with a maximum of up to \$25,000 per employer. The premier said he anticipates the program will support more than 2,000 Manitoba employers recover from the pandemic and create sustainable long-term, seasonal and short-term employment opportunities for more than 6,000 Manitoba youth.  
*Status: in effect. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **COVID-19 Isolation Support for Physicians;** Manitoba physicians who test positive for COVID-19, develop symptoms, are exposed to a confirmed case or are required to isolate will be compensated for their sick time away from work.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing grants to help Early Childhood Educators or Child Care Assistants independently offer home-based child-care services.** A \$3000 grant will be available to approved applicants, and the program will prioritize the provision of child care services to health care workers who are unable to make alternate child care arrangements.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Childcare access for workers;** All Manitobans returning to work are now eligible to access the temporary child care system to find a location that meets their needs. Families can use the online tool at [eswchildcare.ca](http://eswchildcare.ca) to view available spaces and then contact centres directly to finalize arrangements.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for choice in child care facilities;** The provincial Government is investing \$22 million into improving sustainability and creating child care spaces for more than 1,400 children. This amount included up to \$2 million for licensed child care providers to establish satellite locations, \$4 million for workplaces to offer on-site child care services for their employees, \$1.5 million in grants to home-based child care providers, and up to \$750,000 for community organizations to develop more diverse child care options.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)

## Ontario

Last updated on September 28, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Creating the Tourism Recovery Program;** the program will support tourism businesses that have experienced a loss of at least 50 per cent of eligible revenue in 2020-21 compared to 2019.  
*Status: Applications for this program will open on October 13, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for food and beverage processors;** as of August 5, 2021, applications for the first phase of a new intake under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support projects that will enhance economic development and food safety in the sector will be accepted. The second phase of the intake will open in September 2021 for targeted projects to improve labour productivity, efficiency and reduce waste.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Relief initiatives for wineries, cideries and agri-tourism industry;** the Winery Agri-Tourism COVID-19 Relief Initiative will provide one-time grants to eligible wineries and cideries with on-site retail stores in September 2021. Eligible businesses that receive an application from Agricornp are encouraged to apply.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed. .*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant;** the government is providing one-time payments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to support eligible small tourism and travel businesses struggling to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant will support eligible small tourism and travel businesses that did not receive the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG), such as travel agents, hotels, motels, resorts, and bed and breakfasts. To qualify, businesses must have fewer than 100 employees and demonstrate they have experienced a minimum 20 per cent revenue decline between 2019 and 2020.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the Non-Profit Sector during COVID-19;** the Resilient Communities Fund provides grants of up to \$150,000 to eligible non-profit organizations to cover a broad and flexible range of needs, such as:
  - Mental and physical health and wellbeing supports for staff or volunteers
  - Support to adapt or reimagine program delivery and services to meet the needs of communities, employees and volunteers, incorporate new health and safety processes, or purchase new technology and personal protective equipment
  - Renovations and facility updates to meet the changing needs of the communities they serve.*Status: in effect. Applications are being accepted until December 8, 2021.*  
[Information](#); [Update](#)
- **Support for resource-based tourism jobs** by waiving certain licences and crown land use fees. Licensing fees have been waived for bear hunting and baitfish harvesters and dealers. Additionally, Land Use Fees for Commercial Outpost Camps, Bear Management Area fees and Baitfish Harvest Area fees have been waived.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant,** which will provide an estimated \$100 million in one-time payments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to eligible small businesses including hotels,



motels, travel agencies, amusement and water parks, hunting and fishing camps, and recreational and vacation camps including children's overnight summer camps. Businesses must demonstrate they have experienced a minimum 20 per cent revenue decline and have less than 100 employees to qualify. Any small businesses that received the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will not be eligible for this new grant.

*Status: in effect. Applications are now open.*

[Information](#)

- **Creating the Ontario Tourism Recovery Program**, which will protect critical jobs in communities across the province and sustain for-profit tourism businesses, which have had to fully or partially shut down during the pandemic. The program will launch later this year and support tourism businesses across the province as they adjust operations to reopen safely and focus on the domestic market during the ongoing crisis. The program will support businesses as they innovate, adapt and create new tourism offerings and experiences to attract visitors from around the world when it is safe to do so.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for tourism, culture, sport, and recreation organizations**, including a \$55 million funding stream to provide community non-profits with the support they need to sustain their operations.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Property and energy cost rebates**; Businesses that are, or were, required to shut down or significantly restrict services due to provincial public health measures can apply for rebates, provided in the form of grants, to help with their fixed costs. Businesses struggling to pay their energy bills as a result of COVID-19 may also be eligible for the [COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business \(CEAP-SB\)](#), which you can apply to through your utility provider.  
*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for horse businesses impacted by COVID-19**; The Government of Ontario is investing up to \$3 million through the Equine Hardship Program to help horse experience businesses cover animal maintenance costs incurred from COVID-19 disruptions. During the pandemic many horse experience activities, such as riding schools, trail ride operations, and horse camps have been unable to operate, which has put these businesses and their horses in jeopardy. The Equine Hardship Program, launching on January 18, 2021, will provide individual businesses offering horse related experiences up to \$2,500 per horse up to a maximum of \$20,000 in financial support to help cover direct costs for feed, water, veterinary care and farrier services needed to maintain horses.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the forestry sector**; The Ontario government is investing \$5.3 million, provided through the federal [Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund](#), to help small and medium sized forest sector businesses offset the cost of COVID-19 safety measures. The funding will be used for initiatives such as setting up sanitizing stations, providing enhanced cleaning, additional worker training, measures to increase physical distancing, and to purchase personal protective equipment.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Small Business Support Grant**, which will provide between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to help small business owners during the province-wide shutdown. Small businesses required to close or restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown will be able to apply for this one-time grant. Each small business will be able to use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business. For example, some businesses will need support paying employee wages or rent, while others will need support maintaining their inventory. Eligible small businesses include those that:
  - Are required to close or significantly restrict services due to the Provincewide Shutdown being imposed across the province effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26

- Have fewer than 100 employees at the enterprise level
- Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant will provide businesses with dollar for dollar funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. The business must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2019 and April 2020. This time period was selected because it reflects the impact of the public health measures in spring 2020, and as such provides a representation of the possible impact of these latest measures on small businesses. For small businesses not in operation in April 2019 or April 2020, eligibility criteria will be announced in January 2021. Businesses that are not eligible include those that were already required to close prior to the introduction of modified Stage 2 measures, and essential businesses permitted to operate with capacity restrictions (e.g., discount and big box stores selling groceries, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, and beer, wine and liquor stores).

**UPDATE:** On March 25, 2021, the government announced that confirmed eligible recipients of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will automatically receive a second payment equal to the amount of their first payment, for minimum total support of \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$40,000.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Off-peak electricity prices for small business, farm, and residential customers;** in order to assist with the province-wide lockdown, as of January 1, 2021 and for a 28-day period, the government will hold electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 8.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all time-of-use and tiered customers on a temporary basis.

**UPDATE:** On February 10, 2021, the government announced that these rates would be continued until February 22, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for beef farmers;** the federal and provincial governments are investing \$5 million in emergency assistance to help the province's beef farmers. Starting December 21, 2020, Ontario beef farmers can apply for funding to help cover increased costs of feeding and setting aside market-ready cattle due to COVID-19 related processing delays.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Helping Agri-Food Businesses Increase Online Sales;** The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing over \$3.5 million to help more than 700 businesses in the Ontario agri-food sector establish or expand their online presence. This initiative will provide consumers with more local food choices when shopping from home during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Agri-Food Open for E-Business initiative featured two streams of funding. One provided grants of up to \$5,000 for eligible applicants to establish an online and marketing presence. The second stream allows eligible organizations, businesses and collaborations to apply for cost-share funding to implement high-impact e-business projects.

*Status: in effect*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Ontario's tourism industry;** the government has announced \$4.4 million of funding to deliver innovative, safe experiences, like virtual festivals and events, and support tourism operators as they deal with the impacts of COVID-19.


*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Providing small businesses with financial advice and training;** The Ontario government is investing over \$2.2 million through the Ontario Together Fund to provide small businesses with free, tailored financial advice and online training to help them make informed financial decisions.

*Status: in effect. Applications are being accepted until the program ends on March 31, 2022.*

[Information](#)

- 
- **Creating a Main Street Relief Grant** to help small businesses with the cost of PPE. Eligible employers must have two to nine employees and be in one of the following sectors: retail, accommodation and food services, repair and maintenance, or personal and laundry services. Eligible small businesses will get a one-time grant of up to \$1,000.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed. .*

[Information](#)

- **Various measures as part of the province's economic recovery plan, including:**
  - Reducing electricity prices;
  - Reducing provincial business property tax rates for 94% of business properties in the province;
  - Allowing municipalities to cut property tax for small businesses; and
  - Making permanent the Employer Health Tax exemption increase to \$1 million.

**UPDATE:** On February 16, 2021, the government expanded the number of small business that can apply for the Grant. Small businesses with 2 to 19 employees in all eligible sectors - expanded from 2-9 employees - including those in the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, can now apply for up to \$1,000 in financial support.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#), [Additonal details](#)

- **Investments for business innovation in the Sault and Algoma regions;** the Government of Canada announced investments of more than \$2.6 million to help small and medium-sized businesses in the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma region to modernize, adopt new technologies, increase their competitiveness and create jobs. The funding will support five strategic initiatives that will help businesses innovate, commercialize new products and expand their operations. They will also provide emergency COVID-19 response funding to help businesses to survive and maintain jobs.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for the food services industry;** to provide relief for local restaurants and other businesses impacted by new public health measures in Toronto, Ottawa, and Peel Region, Ontario announced \$300 million to help offset fixed costs, including property taxes, hydro and natural gas bills.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Investments to support Francophone Businesses and Recovery;** \$250,000 will support the creation of a new online platform — the Francophone Business Network — that will help businesses share their expertise and best practices and form new strategic partnerships. The remaining \$250,000 will fund a campaign focused on promoting Franco-Ontarians products and services.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Non-Profit Projects in Rural Communities;** The Ontario Government is committing nearly \$1 million in cost-share funding for not-for-profit organizations with a mandate towards regional economic development. Eligible projects are eligible for up to 70% of total costs to a maximum of \$75,000. The funding will support economic development efforts such as:

- Capital improvements to enhance an uptown arts and cultural hub to increase tourism;
- Implementing new and accessible streetscaping to develop a more inviting downtown; and
- Waterfront development to expand and revitalize local trails.

The funding will be provided through a new targeted intake of the Rural Economic Development Program. All costs must be incurred on or before March 31, 20201. Projects must benefit rural Ontario, have tangible




outcomes and reach beyond one county, region, or district.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Increasing the Employer Health Tax exemption to \$1 million** from the previous \$490,000, retroactive to January 1, 2020. Only the exemption amount is changing; eligibility for the tax exemption, tax rates and everything else remains the same.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Introduction of a 10% refundable corporate income tax credit** called the “Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit”. Canadian-controlled private corporations that make qualifying investments that become available for use on or after March 25, 2020, in specified regions of Ontario, would be eligible for the tax credit.  
*Status: in effect*  
[Information](#)
- **Financial relief for employers covered by the WSIB’s workplace insurance**, which allowed businesses to defer premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. This premium deferral impacts businesses who report and pay monthly, quarterly or annually based on their insurable earnings. Additionally, no interest will accrue on outstanding premium payments and no penalties will be charged during this six-month deferral period. Repayment of any deferred WSIB premiums will not begin before January 2021.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **\$50 million to help companies retool to support the government’s response to COVID-19 via the Ontario Together Fund**; businesses are encouraged to offer solutions, products, or services that could help Ontarians. The government has allocated \$50 million to support submissions that can be actioned quickly, to assist with retooling, building capacity or adopting technological changes required to produce supplies for critical public services.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Deferral of \$15 million in property taxes for people and businesses in Northern Ontario** who are located outside of municipal boundaries. Taxpayers in unincorporated areas in Ontario will have 90 extra days to pay each of the four 2020 Provincial Land Tax installments without incurring interest or penalties.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the agri-food sector**; The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1 million in new funding to connect workers with in-demand jobs in the agri-food sector to keep the nation’s supply chains strong and store shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Partnership’s Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs will immediately accept applications and will expedite the approval process to help address sector labour concerns quickly.  
**UPDATE:** On October 13, 2020, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced an additional \$11.6 million to support efforts by Ontario producers to stop the spread of COVID-19 on their farms.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information, update](#)
- **Support for residential service providers** through allocating \$40 million through the COVID-19 Residential Relief Fund. The CRRF will help to address financial and service delivery pressures that agencies are feeling during this time. These funds will help to manage the health and safety of children, youth and adults supported in residential settings, as well as the staff who support them. Agencies also will have the financial flexibility agencies to shift funding within their organization and across program areas to focus on critical services and needs in relation to COVID-19. Funding will be provided upon request to agencies with residential service programs.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)



- 
- **Investments to protect agri-food workers;** The Governments of Canada and Ontario are investing \$2.25 million in provincially licensed meat processing plants to better protect employees and ensure the continued supply of healthy products for consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the first stream of the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program will provide funding to implement COVID-19 health and safety measures in provincially licensed meat plants, including purchasing additional personal protective equipment, redesigning workstations, supporting employees who require mandatory isolation, and work-site mobility and transportation.

*Status: Applications are now open. Eligible applications will be received and assessed on a continuous basis, while funding is available.*

**UPDATE:** On April 8, 2021, the government announced additional funding for this program.

[Information](#), [update](#)

- **Assistance for child care centres;** including the following measures:
  - support for fixed operating costs for eligible child care and EarlyON Centres, while providers are prohibited from charging parent fees while the Emergency Order is in effect;
  - direct and rapid funding delivery through municipal service managers for centres that currently receive funding;
  - a straightforward application process for child care centres that do not currently receive provincial funding by allowing them to apply directly to the Ministry of Education;
  - direction that all child care centres will be required to maximize all available support under Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, including staffing costs retroactively to March 15, 2020, in addition to federal-provincial rental subsidy supports;
  - red tape reduction and cost savings by waiving all child care licensing applications, renewals and revision fees;
  - automatic extension of child care licenses set to expire during the emergency period; and
  - protecting existing base funding for licensed home child care agencies, and regular funding and wage enhancement grant funding for licensed home child care providers who have remained active during the emergency closure.

*Status: in effect:*

[Information](#)

- **Support for hospitality workers and apprentices.** The government is providing an Ontario Tools Grant of \$2.5 million in 2020-21 and \$7.5 million in 2021-22 to help eligible apprentices purchase tools, protective equipment and clothing for their trade. The government is also forgiving more than \$10 million in outstanding loans owed by apprentices for tool purchases made at the beginning of their careers. The Loans for Tools Program allowed thousands of new apprentices to buy tools, equipment, clothing, manuals and code books required for their trade.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Ontario and Canada helping small businesses go digital.** The Ontario Government, in partnership with the Federal Government, is helping small businesses reach more customers through the Digital Main Street platform. Digital Main Street is a \$57 million program which will help up to 22,900 Ontario businesses create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than 1,400 students. Through the Digital Main Street platform, businesses will be able to take advantage of three new programs to support their digital transformation: shopHERE powered by Google will leverage Ontario's strengths by hiring highly skilled and trained students to build and support the launch of online stores for businesses that previously did not have the capacity to do so themselves. The core goal will be to help small businesses compete and grow, in a world that is increasingly online, and help them recover as quickly as possible following COVID-19; Digital Main Street Grant will help main street small businesses be digitally more effective. Through a \$2,500 grant administered by the Ontario BIA




Association, small businesses will be able to adopt new technologies and embrace digital marketing. Municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, and Business Improvement Areas can apply for a Digital Service Squad grant, which will allow them to establish teams to provide personalized, one-on-one support; and Future-Proofing Main Street will provide specialized and in-depth digital transformation services and support that helps existing main-street firms adapt to changes in their sector and thrive in the new economy. By leveraging teams of digital marketing professionals and talented students, these firms will be able to create new online business models, develop and implement digital and e-commerce marketing strategies, and maximize digital tools, platforms and content. In addition, the Recovery Activation Program, operated through the Toronto Region Board of Trade, will help businesses grow and digitize their operations with custom consulting sessions, online resource sharing, learning webcasts and business planning. As a result of the investment announced today, the program will be offered province-wide and at no cost to businesses.

**UPDATE:** On July 19, 2021, the government announced a \$10 million investment to the program for 2021-2022. Small businesses across Ontario with a brick-and-mortar location and one to 50 employees can apply for \$2,500 Digital Transformation Grants, which they can use to purchase new technology and digital services.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#), [update](#)

- **Supports for beef and hog farmers.** The governments of Canada and Ontario are partnering to provide up to \$10 million of emergency assistance for beef and hog farms. The funding will help cover the increased costs of feeding market ready cattle and hogs due to COVID-19 related processing delays, while redirecting surplus pork products to help those in need. Both the beef cattle set-aside and hog sector support programs are being offered through AgriRecovery initiatives, under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Ontario is also providing up to \$1.5 million to process and package surplus pork for food banks in order to provide those in need with fresh, locally produced pork products.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for Indigenous-owned businesses.** Up to \$10 million will be provided to Indigenous-owned small and medium sized businesses to help support them as the province begins to reopen. This initiative will provide loans of up to \$50,000 to businesses that do not have access to existing federal and provincial COVID-19 funding for small businesses. The loans will be available through Aboriginal Financial Institutions and may be used to cover general expenses, such as payroll, rent, utilities and taxes. They may also be used to increase production capacity, develop new products, move to online marketing and to make improvements to accommodate social distancing requirements, such as installing plexiglass barriers. Up to 50% of each loan will consist of a non-repayable grant, with no interest due on the loan portion until December 31, 2022.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Stable electricity pricing for industrial and commercial companies.** The Ontario Government will be providing stable electricity pricing for two years, allowing large industrial and commercial companies to return to full levels of operation without worrying about a spike in electricity costs. Specifically, effective immediately, companies participating in the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) are not required to reduce their electricity usage during peak hours, as their proportion of Global Adjustment charges will be frozen.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for local small businesses.** The Ontario Government is celebrating International Small Business Week with the launch of the “Shop Local! Shop Safe! Shop with Confidence!” campaign. The campaign calls on mayors, local leaders and groups to support small businesses in the province by committing on social media to “Shop Local, Shop Safe, Shop with Confidence,” while highlighting the best practices put in place by businesses to help keep shoppers safe while ensuring that the reopening of Ontario continues to be a success.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for Ontario Place.** Ontario Place will be provided with \$2 million to support on-site activities, including several innovative festivals and events that give people the opportunity to safely reengage in arts and culture



experiences. This support is designed to help with the economic recovery of the arts, entertainment and hospitality sectors in Ontario.

*Status: announced*

[Information](#)

- **Online tools and resources for Indigenous businesses;** The Ontario Government is providing the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) with \$110,000 to deliver online tools and resources that will support Indigenous businesses during COVID-19. The funding provided through the Ontario Together Fund will help the CCAB:
  - produce a data-driven report to assess the effects of COVID-19 within the Indigenous business community;
  - assist Indigenous businesses navigate various COVID-19 programs, services and procurement opportunities available through webinars and web-based assistance; and
  - enhance CCAB's online resource platform, Tools and Financing for Aboriginal Businesses, which provides practical guides, training, networks, and a forum to connect and share best practices.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Investment in the Tourism Industry;** To assist with the province's tourism industry following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario Government will be investing \$1.5 million through the Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund to support projects that develop innovative tourism products and experiences, drive private sector tourism investments, workforce development, and support tourism operators to learn more through tourism industry associations. To apply, visit the [Ontario Government's website](#). Additionally, this summer, frontline workers are being offered special rates or discounts at a number of attractions including the Art Gallery of Ontario, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Niagara Parks Commission, Royal Ontario Museum, Royal Botanical Gardens, Huronia Historical Parks, Fort William Historical Park and the David Thompson Astronomical Observatory. For details of the discounts, see the [Ontario Government's news release](#).

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)


- **Support for Non-Profits;** The Ontario Government will be investing \$83 million through the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to provide grants to help non-profit organizations recover from COVID-19. These organizations will include food banks, child and youth programs and Royal Canadian Legion branches. The OTF's Resilient Communities Fund will provide grants of up to \$150,000 to help eligible non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Ontario Extends Temporary Layoff Provisions;** the Ontario Government announced further amendments to extend the maximum periods of temporary layoffs to January 2, 2021, before they could be deemed to be terminations under the Employment Standards Act, 2000. The goal is to preserve jobs longer, and avoid costly termination and severance costs which, for some businesses, may be the difference between survival and closure. Under the normal rules, a temporary layoff will be deemed a termination after:
  - 13 weeks, if no payments or benefits are continued;
  - 35 weeks, if certain payments or benefits are continued; or
  - for such longer period that an employee retains recall rights under any applicable collective agreement.

Due to COVID-19, the Ontario Government previously suspended the effect of this provision until September 4, 2020, so that employers could extend temporary layoffs beyond the regular limits. This latest announcement means more flexibility for employers in Ontario. The Ontario Government has also announced the extension of



the job protected Infectious Disease Emergency Leave to parents who feel it is unsafe to return their children to school.

UPDATE: The Infectious Disease Emergency Leave has been further extended to September 25, 2021.

*Status: in effect*

[Information](#)

- **Pension contribution deferral and catch-up contribution extension;** Employers that sponsor certain defined benefit pension plans can defer pension contributions due between October 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. You must file an election and pay deferred contributions, with interest and in accordance with a schedule, by March 31, 2022. Pension plan sponsors have 120 days, instead of 60 days, to pay any catch-up contribution owed to a plan after a valuation report is filed on or before April 1, 2020. No election is needed to have the extra time.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

## Support for Workers

- **Providing training for tourism jobs;** The Ontario government is investing \$1.25 million through Destination Northern Ontario to provide 300 people with free training to work in Northern Ontario's tourism industry. At least 150 employers, mostly rural tourism operators, will be involved in hiring new workers to meet the expected demand. Employers will be reimbursed 30 per cent of wages up to \$3,000 per worker hired. People interested in participating in this Destination Northern Ontario program or employers interested hiring participants can find out more and apply at their local Employment Ontario office, or directly by contacting Destination Northern Ontario at (705) 523-2228.

*Status: available.*

[Information](#)

- **COVID-19 Child Benefit;** The Ontario government is providing parents with \$980 million in direct support as part of the Ontario COVID-19 Child Benefit. Under this new round of funding, payments will be doubled to \$400 per child and \$500 for a child with special needs to help offset additional learning costs. The government is automatically providing this round of payments to parents who received Support for Learners payments, and they can expect money to begin flowing on April 26, 2021. Parents who did not apply for or receive the Support for Learners program can apply for the new funding starting May 3 with a deadline of May 17.

*Status: expired. Applications are now closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Investing \$115 million to accelerate training for up to 8,200 new personal support workers;** the Accelerated PSW Training Program is a tuition-free opportunity for 6,000 new students and is expected to take only six months to complete, rather than the typical eight months. After three months of coursework, and experiential learning in a clinical setting, students will complete the final three months in paid onsite training in a long-term care home or in a home and community care environment. Registration for the program will be available through the [Ontario College Application Service](#) and is expected to open in early March. The province is also offering tuition assistance to students who are close to finishing an existing PSW program at one of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges. Nearly 2,200 students will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 tuition grant to help them complete their studies, as well as a stipend to complete the clinical placement part of their training.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- **Support with tuition, training materials and living expenses** to help laid-off workers find jobs in their local communities.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Providing \$100 million in funding for skills training programs** through Employment Ontario for workers affected by the pandemic.



*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of the Health Workforce Matching Portal**, intended to help match skilled frontline healthcare providers with hospitals, clinics and assessment centres. Those healthcare providers include retired or non-active health care professionals, internationally educated health care professionals, students, and volunteers with health care experience. Interested healthcare professionals and employers can create a profile on the portal, indicating their availability and support needs, respectively. Registrants will receive an email notification if matched.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Reopening of Childcare**; Child care centres across Ontario will open at full capacity beginning September 1, 2020. Further, EarlyON Child and Family Centres, as well as before-and after-school programs for school aged children, will be permitted to operate with standard ratios and maximum group size requirements.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Child Care and Early Years Programs**; As part of the Safe Restart Agreement, the Ontario Government, in partnership with the Federal Government, is providing \$234.6 million in funding to support Ontario's plan to safely reopen child care and early years programs. This funding will help child care operators, EarlyON Child and Family Centres, and First Nations Child and Family Programs increase cleaning and infection control, ensure staff have access to personal protective equipment, promote physical distancing, purchase additional cleaning supplies, and support staffing needs.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Providing \$461 Million to Temporarily Enhance Wages for Personal Support Workers**; The province is providing a temporary wage increase effective October 1, 2020 to over 147,000 workers who deliver publicly funded personal support services:

- \$3 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers in home and community care;
- \$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers in long-term care;
- \$2 per hour for approximately 12,300 eligible workers in public hospitals; and
- \$3 per hour for approximately 47,000 eligible workers in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services for the activities of daily living.

The temporary wage enhancement will be reviewed on a regular basis and could extend through March 31, 2021, in connection with regulations made under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

**UPDATE:** On March 18, 2021 the government announced that it was extending the temporary wage enhancements until June 30, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On June 11, 2021, the government announced that it was extending the temporary wage enhancements until August 23, 2021.

**UPDATE:** This program has been extended until October 31, 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)



## Québec

Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Tourism industry supports; the government announced an investment of \$105 million to bolster the Quebec tourism industry.** In addition to having to meet eligibility criteria, organizations must submit projects that must include eligible costs of at least \$ 500,000. Financial assistance will correspond to a maximum of 50% of the eligible costs of a project and may be increased up to a rate of 60% depending on whether or not eco-responsibility criteria are met. The maximum amount that can be granted will be \$ 5 million, including the bonus for the eco-responsibility component. For a construction project for a new accommodation establishment, this maximum amount of financial assistance will be \$2 million. Eligible projects that may be carried out in connection with a tourist attraction or equipment are those related to:
  - construction;
  - reconstruction, including the demolition of an existing obsolete infrastructure;
  - expansion;
  - interior or exterior fittings;
  - adaptation or retraining;
  - the acquisition or replacement of equipment; and
  - the deployment of a new tourist experience.

*Status: announced.*

[Information](#)

- **Extension of employer contributions to the Health Services Fund;** on May 28, 2021, the government announced a new 12-week extension of the employer contribution credit to the Health Services Fund for employees on paid leave. This additional assistance will therefore be in effect for three additional eligibility periods, the first starting on June 6, 2021 and the last ending on August 28, 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)
- **Support for the taxi industry;** on May 28, 2021, the government announced the postponement of the date of entry into force of the provisions obliging the operators of a taxi business to have a sales registration system. The entry into force of these provisions, initially scheduled for 1 st June 2021, was postponed to 1 st November 2021. The government announced that the operators of a taxi business will have five more months to take advantage of the subsidy program which covers up to 100% of the costs related to the implementation of mandatory billing. The eligibility deadline for this program is extended from May 31 to October 31, 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)
- **Details on the assistance to businesses in regions on maximum alert;** As of May 15, 2021, companies that submit an application under the AERAM may be eligible for loan forgiveness to cover the fixed costs disbursed during the three months preceding the month in which the application is submitted, during the month of filing of the request as well as during the following months. For these requests, the amount of the loan granted will be calculated so as to cover the working capital needs not exceeding June 30, 2021. Depending on the evolution of health measures, this period could be extended.

**UPDATE:** On July 13, 2021, the government extended the moratorium for the repayment of capital and interest related to financial aid granted under the AERAM component of PAUPME until November 30, 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)


- **Financial support for farmers affected by COVID-19;** in light of a slowdown in the rate of slaughter of farm animals due to the pandemic, the aid aims to offset part of the costs assumed by breeders to keep animals awaiting slaughter on farms until normalcy is restored.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Additional aid for businesses;** on April 9, 2021, the government announced the following measures for businesses subject to a closure order:
  - extension of the moratorium until 1 st September 2021 for repayment of principal and interest related to the financial assistance granted;
  - maximum additional amount of \$ 10,000 to compensate for the cost of closing a restaurant or a gym. This additional support applies to companies qualifying for AERAM and aims to support establishments that had recently resumed their activities, but which had to cease them following a re-closure order in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - additional support corresponding to a non-refundable contribution equivalent to a maximum amount of \$ 45,000 for establishments that were closed for more than 180 days, i.e. \$ 15,000 per month, for fixed costs disbursed the three months following the last month of eligibility under closure. This additional contribution is in addition to the non-repayable contributions of previous months, up to a maximum of 100% of the funding granted for companies that have demonstrated liquidity needs;
  - adding companies offering catering service in the category of restaurants, with a possible feedback until 1st January 2021.

*Status: in effect*  
[Information](#)

- **Further supports for businesses;** In order to facilitate a return to normalcy, businesses eligible for the Assistance to businesses in regions on maximum alert (AERAM) component under the Temporary Concerted Action Program for Enterprises (PACTE) or the Emergency Assistance program small and medium-sized enterprises (PAUPME) will be able to obtain the following additional support:
  - For businesses closed for 90 days or less, the maximum additional amount that may be received is \$ 15,000 per establishment. This additional support must be claimed for fixed costs disbursed the month following the reopening of the targeted business.
  - For businesses closed for a period of more than 90 days, the maximum additional amount that may be received corresponds to \$ 30,000 per establishment, or \$ 15,000 per month. This additional support must be claimed for fixed costs disbursed two months following the reopening of the targeted business.

*Status: requests for financial assistance under AERAM – expired; moratorium on repayment of capital and interest linked to financial aid granted under AERAM – in effect.*  
[Information](#)

- **Support for regional air services;** the government has extended assistance for the maintenance of essential regional air services until March 31, 2021.  
*Status: expired..*  
[Information](#)
- **Additional supports for businesses;** businesses subject to new closure restrictions will be eligible, for the month of January, for the Assistance to businesses in regions on maximum alert component (AERAM), which allows them to obtain a loan forgiveness of up to \$ 15,000 per month (maximum of 80% of the amount of funding granted) to pay certain eligible fixed costs. Due to the significant increase in requests, the delays in obtaining AERAM may vary depending on the regional county municipalities (MRC). The government is also extending emergency aid to many businesses, such as restaurants and bars, which are experiencing difficulties in the



orange and yellow zones.

*Status: requests for financial assistance under AERAM – expired; moratorium on repayment of capital and interest linked to financial aid granted under AERAM – in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for SMEs in all regions;** On December 10, 2020, the government of Quebec announced a series of significant adjustments to assistance measures:
  - An additional envelope of \$ 50 million has been earmarked for the Emergency Assistance to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (PAUPME) program. This additional capitalization brings the total amount of financial assistance allocated to PAUPME to \$ 300 million and will make it possible to meet the most urgent needs.
  - From now on, travel agencies will be able to benefit from the Tourism component of the PACTE, which will support more than 600 of them.
  - SMEs that already benefit from PAUPME and that take advantage of the Assistance to Businesses in Regions on Maximum Alert (AERAM) component will be able to obtain additional financial assistance of up to \$ 50,000.
  - The PAUPME and the PACTE, with their AERAM component, are extended to allow the payment of aid to companies in the red zone.
  - A moratorium of up to four months may be added to the three-month moratorium already provided for the repayment of loans (principal and interest) under the AERAM component of PAUPME.
  - SMEs in activity for at least six months will now be able to benefit from the PAUPME and its AERAM component. Previously, only companies that had been active for at least one year could claim it. This adjustment makes it possible to include businesses that were in business just before COVID-19.
  - Sports and recreation businesses, including physical training rooms, in the MRCs of Joliette and D'Autray as well as in the health region of Mauricie and Center-du-Québec, in the red zone, will be able to benefit, in the under the AERAM component, a loan forgiveness for the month of October, despite the 9-day closure rather than the 10-day prescribed.

*Status: requests for financial assistance under AERAM – expired; repayment of capital and interest linked to financial aid granted under AERAM – in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creation of an assistance plan for recreation and sport organizers;** the government announced a \$70 million assistance plan for sports and leisure organizations.


*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)
- **Creation of an economic recovery plan for the cultural sector;** on October 13, the Government of Quebec announced a regional emergency fund of \$3 million intended for cultural organizations affected by COVID-19. The fund is intended exclusively for non-profit organizations who are experiencing a precarious financial situation due to the health crisis. Organizations whose survival is threatened in the short term could thus receive a maximum amount of \$ 50,000 which will allow them to maintain their activities. To be eligible for the program, organizations must be active in one of a specific set of sectors, in particular museology, heritage, cultural leisure, community media and art training schools. Applications for financial assistance can be sent to the Department until January 29, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)
- **Creation of the Concerted Temporary Action Program** for businesses (PACTE) whose liquidity is affected by the repercussions of COVID-19, providing a financial support of at least \$50,000 in the form of a loan and loan guarantee to make up for cash flow shortages. 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. A loan guarantee is the preferred form of financing. Financing can also take the form of a loan from Investissement Québec. Investissement Québec aims to work in close cooperation with financial institutions and federal authorities in order to share risk. This measure is designed to shore up the business's working capital.

**UPDATE:** On November 10, the government announced major changes to PACTE's tourism component. The program's eligibility criteria have been relaxed to include a wide variety of businesses, some of which are tourism services. Previously, only hotels and tourist attractions were eligible for the PACTE - Tourism component. With the changes, approximately 500 additional companies in the industry will be able to obtain repayable aid, with the possibility of pardon. the forgivable portion of the loan will go from 25% to 40% of the amount granted (up to a maximum of \$ 100,000). The initial repayment period, which was 5 years following a 2-year moratorium on principal and interest, is extended by three years to 8 years. It should be noted that these changes can be applied to loans granted under the PACTE - Tourism component since their implementation in summer 2020. Hoteliers carrying out catering activities in their establishment can now submit a request to the PACTE - Tourism component concerning their hotel costs as well as to the Assistance to businesses in regions with maximum alert component (AERAM) concerning those related to the restaurant and in the reception rooms.

*Status: new applications under AERAM– expired; applications for increased financial support under AERAM– in effect; applications under the Tourism component of PACTE – in effect.*

[Information](#), [update](#)

- **Creation of the Emergency Assistance Program for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, (PAUPME)** which will provide support to eligible businesses who are experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and who need cash under \$50,000. To be eligible, the business, cooperative or non-profit must have been in business for at least one year; be temporarily closed or likely to close, be in the state of maintaining, consolidating or reviving its activities, and have demonstrated a cause and effect relationship between their financial or operational problems and the COVID-19 pandemic. The financing is intended to address liquidity needs and assistance will take the form of a loan or loan guarantee of up to \$50,000.  
*Status: applications for financial assistance under PAUPME – expired; moratorium for repayment of capital and interest under AERAM component of PAUPME – in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Enhancement of the PACTE and PAUPME programs for businesses in regions on high alert;** the Aid for Businesses in Regions on Maximum Alert will allow businesses targeted by closure orders that suffer loss of income to obtain non-refundable aid to pay their fixed costs.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **A variety of tax payment deadline extensions** are in place.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **CNESST flexibility measures;** employers who are experiencing financial difficulties related to COVID-19 and who are unable to pay the amount due for occupational health and safety in a single payment by September 20, 2020 are invited to communicate with the CNESST to reach a payment agreement. CNESST will assess the possibility of setting payment terms adapted to their situation.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Changes for the forestry sector** to assist companies affected by the pandemic. The Bureau de mise en marché des bois will assess the cost of setting up the necessary means to ensure the physical distance of forestry workers, both in public and private forests. This includes the costs related to workers' travel and accommodations. These additional costs will be added to the rate schedules for forestry work for the year 2020-2021. Moreover, to increase the cash flow of forestry companies, the government deferred the March 2020 and beyond billing for volumes harvested from public forests to September 2020. This represents approximately \$60 million. In September, the suspended billing will be spread over the rest of the year.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)

- **Credits on contributions to the Health Services Fund;** the government will give employers, who are eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and who have an establishment in Quebec, a credit on contributions to the Health Services Fund for employees on forced leave. This measure has been extended to November 21, 2020.

UPDATE: On June 9, 2021, credit on contributions extended until Aug 28, 2021.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information, update](#)

- **Assistance for the agriculture industry**, with an investment of \$45 million to finance four measures:
  - a bonus of \$100 for seasonal agricultural workers who offer a minimum of 25 hours per week;
  - the establishment of a program for the transportation of workers that respects the rule of social distancing;
  - the establishment of squads to help agricultural producers in the integration and training of new workers; and
  - financial support granted to the 12 agricultural employment centres, to meet the needs of agricultural businesses paired with the new workers.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Montréal – Small Businesses Assistance;** On June 8, 2020, the Québec government and the Mayor of Montréal announced an additional assistance of \$50 million to support Montréal businesses. The federal government plans to grant up to \$30 million through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF), an aid intended for Montréal businesses that are not eligible for the other federal measures related to COVID-19 already in place. The Québec government is contributing \$20 million more to the envelope for the City of Montréal under the Aide d'urgence aux petites et moyennes entreprises Program to come to the assistance of the metropolis SMEs facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The City of Montréal's business support network, PME MTL, will administer these funds.

*Status: Expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Assistance Programs for Music Industry;** On July 22, the Québec government announced \$33.5 million in assistance to the music industry, artists, musicians and broadcasters, as well as programs and measures specific to the industry. The various programs are available on the websites of the [Société de développement des entreprises culturelles \(SODEC\)](#), the [Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec \(CALQ\)](#) and the [ministère de la Culture et des Communications](#).

*Status: In effect - applications are now closed for Call 1; Call 2 open from Sept 20, 2021 to November 12, 2021.*

### **Support for Workers**

- **Emergency school daycare services** for workers of parents who are employed in jobs that entitle them to emergency daycare services and whose work leaves them no other choice.

*Status: Expired*

[Information](#)

- **CNESST flexibility measures**, including the absence of a penalty for workers who cannot attend their treatments (medical follow-up, physiotherapy, etc.). The CNESST takes into account the recommendations of professional orders and associations.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

## New Brunswick


Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Support for hunting and fishing outfitters;** participating outfitters will receive a 20% rebate on all hunting and fishing packages they sell to New Brunswick residents, allowing them to offset their prices.  
*Status: In effect; all experiences must take place before November 30th and include at least two nights of accommodations.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for small businesses via a non-repayable grant** of up to \$5,000; these grants will be available for small businesses that have been subject to Orange or Red alert level measures for at least one week between Oct. 10, 2020, and March 31, 2021.  
**UPDATE:** Applications for the Small Business Recovery Grant opened on February 2, 2021.  
**UPDATE:** On March 2, 2021, the government announced an expansion to eligibility for the grant program. Under the new expanded criteria, tourism operators are now eligible within all zones in the province. Non-essential retail businesses are eligible if they were in a zone that experienced a lockdown.  
**UPDATE:** On May 28, 2021, the government the second phase of the program. Businesses that accessed the grant under the first phase remain eligible to apply for the full amount available under Phase 2, which applies to losses incurred beginning April 1, 2021. Phase 2 of the program includes enhancements to improve accessibility. Applications will be accepted beginning June 1. Businesses within the defined eligible sectors that have been subject to elevated Public Health measures (i.e., Yellow, Orange, Red or Lockdown) and/or impacted by measures limiting unnecessary travel into New Brunswick, are able to apply for up to \$5,000 in non-repayable funding support, assuming they meet the other criteria. Eligible business types include restaurants (excluding businesses with drive-thru options), caterers, and drinking establishments, personal services (barbers, hair stylists and spas); gym and fitness facilities; amusement centres, bingo halls, arcades, cinemas, large live performance venues, eligible tourism operators, and non-essential retail businesses located in lockdown zones.  
*Status: applications now available. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, contact the Opportunities New Brunswick Business Navigators at [nav@navnb.ca](mailto:nav@navnb.ca) or 1-833-799-7966, or access the application form online.*  
[Information](#), [application form](#), [March update](#), [Phase 2 update](#)
- **Deferral of interest and principal payments on provincial loans** for up to six months. This assistance is available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing working capital support to small businesses** via loans of up to \$100,000.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing working capital to mid-to-large employers** via working capital in excess of \$100,000.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)

### Support for Workers

- **Launching a virtual job-matching platform** to connect New Brunswickers with positions.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **A monthly wage top-up** of approximately \$500 for 16 weeks for front-line workers. Those eligible for the funding include employees in:

- 
- early learning and child care facilities;
  - home support;
  - special care homes, community residences and group homes;
  - homeless shelters and food banks; and
  - domestic violence outreach and transition homes.

Workers must earn \$18 per hour or less to be eligible. The top-up will be paid by employers every four weeks. The exception will be child care facilities, which will split the first and last payments to align with existing payment schedules. Workers at early learning and child care facilities will receive their top-up retroactive to May 19 and it will continue for 16 weeks. This is in recognition of their return to work as the child care sector reopened. All other sectors will be paid retroactively from March 19 to July 9. Employers will be reimbursed by the departments of Education and Early Childhood Development or Social Development. On July 14, amendments were made to the essential worker wage top-up program to include:

- Enhanced support workers in early learning and childcare facilities, who will receive monthly payments of approximately \$500 over 16 weeks retroactive to May 19; and
- Private care home and family support workers providing direct personal care to social development clients living at home, who will receive monthly payments over 16 weeks between March 19 to July 9, 2020 up to \$500 for hours at or above 30 hours per week; \$250 for hours of at least 20 but less than 30 per week; and \$100 for hours of at least 10 but less than 20 per week.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)



## Nova Scotia

Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Emergency supports for non-profit recreation facilities;** Nova Scotia is investing \$1 million in COVID-19 related emergency support for non-profit owned and operated recreation facilities across Nova Scotia. This emergency investment is a one-time, application-based program based on proven need. It takes into consideration eligibility for other provincial and federal government programs.  
*Status: announced.*  
[Information](#)
- **Launching the Digital Assistance Program for Small Business,** which allows eligible businesses to connect with digital consultants for services such as website development, digital marketing strategies and e-commerce tools, up to a value of \$5,000.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#), [application](#)
- **Additional tourism supports;** On June 15, the government announced an \$18.2 million tourism restart package to help the tourism industry prepare to welcome tourists. The Tourism Accommodations Restart Customer Attraction Program will help registered tourism accommodations develop and implement tailored marketing activities to encourage overnight stays. Eligible operators will receive a grant. This emergency investment is a one-time, application-based program based on proven need. It takes into consideration eligibility for other provincial and federal government programs. Grant of \$1,000 per room for the first 10 rooms and \$500 per room for each additional room. The Small Tourism Operators Restart Program will offer a one-time grant payment of \$5,000 to help tourism businesses that were affected by COVID-19 restrictions but were not eligible for earlier provincial programs. The grant will help operators with advertising and other restart expenses such as purchasing personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Investments in workplace safety and training for staff in continuing care;** The Health Care Human Resource Sector Council will administer \$2 million for workplace safety training and educational opportunities. AWARE-NS will administer about \$1.5 million for the purchase of equipment that improves the safety of workers providing care.  
*Status:* Organizations in the continuing care sector can start applying online Wednesday, May 26, at: <https://hcsc.ca/training-fund-submission-form/> and <https://awarens.ca/safety-equipment-fund/>.  
[Information](#)
- **Additional supports for businesses:** the new Small Impact Business Grant Part 3 opens for applications this week to provide grants of up to \$5,000 for Nova Scotia businesses directly affected by the April 2021 restrictions. Eligible businesses will receive a one-time grant of 15 per cent of their sales revenue for the month of April 2021 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000.  
**UPDATE:** On May 21, 2021, the government announced additional investments in the program.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support programs for the tourism industry;** the following three programs are now open for applications:

- the [Digital Content Marketing Program](#) helps tourism businesses and organizations create online marketing campaigns and high-quality photos and video assets. The assets are used by both the partner and Tourism Nova Scotia, creating more promotional opportunities for the partner:
- the [RADIATE Tourism Program](#) provides package development and up to \$5,000 in digital marketing support to help tourism businesses and attractions increase appeal to local and Maritime travellers year-round:
- the [Tourism Digital Assistance Program](#) is offered in partnership with Digital Nova Scotia and offers eligible tourism businesses up to \$5,000 in services from digital consultants for things like website development, digital marketing strategy and e-commerce tools.

*Status: Applications are closed.*

[Information](#)

- **Property tax relief for the province's hotel, motel and inn operators;** the Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program Part 2 provides qualified operators a 50 per cent rebate on payment of the first six months of their 2021-22 commercial property tax.  
*Status: in effect, deadline to apply is [August 31, 2021](#).*  
[Information](#), [update](#)
- **Property tax relief for small businesses;** on March 2, 2021, the government announced a \$7 million rebate program to help the service sector weather the impact of COVID-19 shutdowns. The Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program provides qualified businesses a one-time rebate of a portion of their paid property taxes. Qualified businesses can choose a rebate of \$1,000 or 50 per cent of the commercial real property taxes paid for the final six months of the 2020-21 tax year.  
*Status: information and application details will be available in mid-March [here](#).*  
**UPDATE:** Applications will open the week of May 10.  
**UPDATE:** On May 14, the government announced that more types of businesses are eligible for the program. The program has expanded to include live performing arts organizations and independent retailers with a physical location, such as bookstores or clothing stores.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#), [update](#), [update](#)
- **Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund;** Nova Scotia's forestry sector operators can apply to recover extra costs for keeping their employees and communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. An agreement between the Government of Canada and Nova Scotia will make more than \$668,000 from the federal Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund available to small and medium-sized forestry businesses in Nova Scotia. Businesses can apply to recover costs for COVID-19 safety measures incurred between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020. Eligible costs include personal protective equipment, handwashing stations, extra vehicles and accommodations, sanitization and facilities for self-isolation.  
*Status: Expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the arts and culture sector;** The COVID-19 Emergency Support Program for Arts and Culture Organizations is a one-time, application-based program to help organizations who either receive Communities, Culture, and Heritage operating funding or who regularly receive project funding from the department. Criteria for funding will be based on need, and year-over-year financials and projections. Financial assistance will be considered for plans that keep operations going, adapt spaces, and/or generate activity under the current public health guidelines.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program,** administered through credit unions. Loans may be granted for a term of up to of 10 years. The maximum guarantee supplied by the Province of Nova Scotia will be 90 percent of the value of all term loans. The guarantee will remain at 75 percent on lines of credit but a 90 percent guarantee may be available to those that qualify under our special financing streams.



*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **The Government of Nova Scotia announced a support package to help farmers** manage risks that are currently threatening the viability of their farm operations and Canada's supply system. In partnership with the federal government, the assistance includes a new COVID-19 Response and Mitigation Program, funded under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, that helps mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will help food producers with the costs of meeting extra health requirements due to COVID-19, help producers get their crops to market, fund projects aimed at maintaining competitiveness, productivity, profitability, and support abattoir efficiency and development. Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada have agreed to increase the 2020 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50 to 75 per cent for producers. The program supports producers experiencing a large decline in farm income. They are also providing a 10 per cent discount on producers' share of AgriInsurance premiums, saving farmers from making these payments during difficult times. AgriInsurance is an insurance against natural hazards to reduce the financial impact of production losses.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Investments in new businesses and innovation.** The province is investing \$750,000 to help start-up businesses seize opportunities emerging from COVID-19. Business incubators Volta, Ignite and the Organization for Nova Scotia Innovation-Driven Enterprise (ONSIDE) will receive funding to help new businesses get off the ground. Funding through Innovacorp will support start-up activities in Cape Breton. Business incubators help start-up companies through a variety of support services, including physical space, access to technology, coaching, shared services and networking. Volta, Ignite and ONSIDE will also provide programs and supports focused on issues and challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding agreements are for one year, ending June 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

## **Support for Workers**

- **COVID-19 Response Grant for Students;** Approximately 13,000 post-secondary students in Nova Scotia will receive a one-time grant to help cover shortfalls in earnings and unexpected costs associated with their studies. The government is providing the one-time COVID-19 Response Grant of \$750 to all recipients of Nova Scotia Student Assistance in 2020-21. Students do not have to apply.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Creating the Essential Health Care Workers Program,** which will see health-care workers receive a bonus of up to \$2,000 **after** a four-month period, beginning March 13. It includes eligible employees at the Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK Health Centre and in long-term care, home care and in-home support and emergency health services. Employees who volunteered to be redeployed to work at a facility experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak will also receive this benefit. The program will apply to full-time, part-time and casual workers as well as cleaning staff. Eligible health-care employees who work during the pandemic can receive the benefit, and employees will need to work during all four months to receive the maximum \$2,000. Those who work during the four months but are placed on isolation, quarantine or COVID-19 sick leave are also eligible.

*Status: the four-month period of operation of this program has concluded.*

[Information](#)

## Newfoundland and Labrador

Last updated on September 28, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Creating a tourism and hospitality support program;** the program will provide financial relief to eligible tourism and hospitality operators facing substantial sales losses due to the pandemic.  
*Status: Applications open until September 30, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **Small Business Assistance Program, the Tourism and Hospitality Support Program and the Artist Support Program;** approved applicants to date have received funding to assist with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including revenue losses and increased costs associated with adapting businesses and enhancing health and safety protocols.  
*Status: Small Business Assistance Program – applications closed; Tourism and Hospitality Program and Artist Support Program - applications close on September 30, 2021 (UPDATE: The application deadlines for the Tourism and Hospitality Support Program and the Artist Support Program have been extended until October 14, 2021).*  
[Small Business Assistance Program](#); [Tourism and Hospitality Support Program](#); [Artist Support Program](#)
- **Changes to liquor laws;** the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation will waive liquor license fees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The province has made legislative changes to allow restaurants to temporarily sell alcohol with take out and delivery orders. Wineries, breweries and distilleries that serve takeout, curbside pickup and delivery are also included in the change  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Deferral of loan payments under the Innovation and Business Investment Corporation's Business Investment Fund;** the deferral period 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.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Assistance for commercial vegetable producers** by nearly doubling the volume of vegetable transplants available under the Vegetable Transplant program.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Financial measures for electricity customers;** 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. As well, for customers who require flexible bill payments, the 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.  
*Status: One-time customer bill credit – expired; Customer Interest Assistance Program – in effect, expires August 31, 2021.*  
[Information](#)
- **Waiver or deferral of a variety of business-related fees.**  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)



- New support program for tourism and hospitality industry.** Eligible tourism operators may apply for a one-time, non-repayable contribution of either \$5,000 or \$10,000, dependent on gross sales. In the event of applicants with less than \$10K in annual sales in 2019, the contribution rate will be calculated at 50% of total sales or 50% of expenditures for new start-ups.

*Status: applications opened June 8.*

**UPDATE:** The deadline to apply is January 29, 2021.

**UPDATE:** On February 25, 2021, the government announced that applications will remain open until March 11, 2021.

*Status: in effect, deadline [to apply](#) is September 30, 2021.*

[Information](#), [update](#)
- Mining, mineral, exploration, and quarry industries;** On June 8, 2020, the Minister of Natural Resources, announced measures to assist the mining, mineral exploration and quarry industries in Newfoundland and Labrador during the COVID-19 global pandemic, including deferring rental and fee payments and waiving mineral expenditure requirements for 2020. Effective immediately, the following measures are in place: Deferral of rental and fee payments associated with land tenure issued under the Mineral Act and Quarry Materials Act until December 31, 2020. The date range to be qualified for deferral is March 18, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Items being deferred include mining and surface lease rentals, mineral licence renewal fees, application and reapplication fees and rentals for quarry permits, quarry lease rental, and hectarage fees for quarry materials exploration licence applications; waiver of water use charge payments for 2019 related to mineral exploration; waiver of mineral assessment expenditure requirements for mineral licences for one year – from March 18, 2020 to March 17, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)
- Seafood Marketing and Innovation Fund;** The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a \$400,000 seafood marketing and innovation fund that will support the marketing of seafood products for retail and establish other markets for seafood sales in light of the impact of COVID-19 on restaurant sales. The funding will help create jobs in the province's fisheries and aquaculture sectors. It will also help processors and aquaculture operators expand their product lines and markets. This initiative is part of a plan to support renewable resource-based businesses and employment in rural communities during the COVID-19 global pandemic through investments in the forestry, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

### Support for Workers

- Essential Worker Support Program.** This program, which is cost-shared with the Federal Government, will provide a one-time payment to individuals who meet eligibility criteria and who work in professions included in the Government of Canada's "[Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" document. The Essential Worker Support Program provides a temporary wage top-up to essential workers employed during Alert Levels 4 and 5 of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is taxable income, as it will be included on an individual's earnings for 2021. The eligibility period for this program is from March 15, 2020 to July 4, 2020. The application deadline has been extended to February 26, 2021. Inquiries can be sent by e-mail to [EssentialWorkers@gov.nl.ca](mailto:EssentialWorkers@gov.nl.ca) or by calling toll-free 1-833-771-0696. On January 12, 2021, the government announced an increase to the maximum gross monthly income threshold from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for the program.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)
- Provincial government enhances student aid program.** The Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour announced enhancements to the Provincial Student Loans Program for the 2020-21 academic year. These provincial enhancements align with recent changes to the federal Canada Student Loans Program and help mitigate the impacts that the COVID-19 public health emergency is having on students.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#), [update](#)




## Prince Edward Island

Last updated on September 19, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Support for festivals and events;** A new funding program is available for festivals and events organizers to help offset costs associated with ensuring COVID-19 health and safety protocols are in place.  
*Status: in effect. Applications will be accepted until October 1, 2021 or while funds last.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for PEI tourism accommodation operators;** for each consecutive two-night stay, guests at a qualifying PEI accommodation will receive a \$100 Canada's Food Island gift card upon check in, to a maximum of five gift cards for a stay of 10 or more consecutive nights. The incentive will run from June 15 to July 31, or while gift card quantities last.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Tax relief measures;** effective January 2022, the small business tax rate will be reduced to 1 per cent.  
[Information](#)
- **Supports for the tourism industry;** the government has announced an action plan to help guide the tourism industry through the 2021 tourism season, and has also announced the following supports
  - \$3 million to create a Tourism Activation Grant Program to provide tourism operators with a non-repayable grant to assist with eligible costs associated with opening for the 2021 season. More details on this program will be available in April;
  - \$1 million to create an Air Access Recovery Program with YYG Charlottetown Airport to retain and restore air carriers to PEI;
  - Funding to Tourism Industry Association of PEI to hire a Tourism Operator Advisor to help the industry navigate available supports and programs.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Wage support under the Jobs for Youth program;** The [Jobs for Youth Program](#) supports non-profit organizations, municipalities, and public and private businesses with funding to create summer jobs for students aged 15-29 who plan to return to school in the following school year.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Free training programs and workshops for the tourism industry;** together, the Government of PEI and Government of Canada are working with the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island to provide free training programs and workshops to support Island tourism operators impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Status: available.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for Island community halls;** Through the division of Rural and Regional Development, the program will fund up to 80 percent of estimated operating expenses from December 2020 to March 2021, to a maximum of \$2,500. Funding will be available by application beginning January 4th, 2021. A community hall that meets the following criteria can apply:
  - owned or operated by a registered non-profit community group;
  - experienced a reduction in operating revenue as a result of COVID-19;

- 
- has operating expenses during some or all of the months from December 2020 to March 2021;
  - has not received significant funding from other government sources designed to help mitigate COVID-19 impacts (i.e. NGO COVID-19 Relief Fund, Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations, etc.).

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Funding for advertising to local holiday shoppers;** the COVID-19 Local Advertising Fund provides a maximum contribution of up to \$2,500 to PEI businesses to offset the cost of advertising their consumer goods or services to the local PEI market during the peak holiday shopping season. The fund will support costs incurred between November 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020 for 50% of advertising in traditional media outlets and 25% of online advertising directed at the PEI market.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Waiving fees for tourism operators;** The following fees for the 2021 season will be waived:
  - accommodation licensing fees for existing and new applicants;
  - highway signage fees for existing signage holders; and
  - Canada Select star rating program fees for the 2021 season.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for Island businesses;** Innovation PEI is temporarily increasing funding to eight programs to support PEI businesses impacted by COVID-19. The programs that are being adjusted focus on business investment in the areas of planning, capital investments, marketing and promotion activities, and include the following:
  - Capital Acquisition
  - Small Business Investment Grant
  - Information Technology Planning
  - Information Technology Implementation
  - Human Resources Planning
  - Human Resources Implementation
  - Marketing Assistance
  - Web Presence Assistance

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Free advertising for tourism operators;** all tourism operators on the Island are being offered a free basic web listing on Tourism PEI's website for the 2021 season. Tourism PEI's website is a primary tool to help visitors plan their vacations to Prince Edward Island. The free web listing, valued at \$85, includes the name of the business, photo, address, contact information and website. To sign up for your free basic web email [visitorsguide@gov.pe.ca](mailto:visitorsguide@gov.pe.ca) ([link sends e-mail](#)) or call 902-368-4730.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Providing emergency working capital financing** to small businesses. Eligible applicants can 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 and interest payments deferred for a minimum of 12 months.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Access to a Broadband Fund for Businesses** to assist with the installation of infrastructure for enhanced broadband services. The Prince Edward Island Broadband Fund (PEIBF) provides a contribution of up to 50% of the eligible costs for a project approved for funding. Applications must be submitted prior to the start of a project; any expenses incurred before the submission of an application are ineligible.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Tax deferral for property owners**, including: deferring provincial property tax and fee payments until December 31, 2020; extending property assessment appeal deadlines for assessment year 2020 to December 31, 2020; providing interest relief for tax year 2020, including all past due amounts; suspending tax sale processes for the remainder of 2020; and delaying mailing of provincial tax bills for 2020 until June.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for the tourism industry;** The Tourism Interest Relief Program announced by the Province of Prince Edward Island will provide assistance to Island tourism operators through a joint partnership of Finance PEI and Tourism PEI. Subject to the terms noted below, assistance provided will equal the amount of interest expense incurred or paid on term debt, for each month from April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 in which the tourism operator demonstrates either: a) a minimum 30% decrease in tourism related revenues from operations located in Prince Edward Island compared to the same month in the prior year; or b) that the operation had no tourism revenue. Once an application has received initial approval for relief under the program, claims will be submitted and processed monthly, as received. Subsequent monthly relief payments will require applicants to apply, using the separate link provided for subsequent relief. The program will not exceed eighteen months, and no claims will be processed for months subsequent to September 2021.  
**UPDATE:** On June 8, 2021, the government announced modifications to the program. The program will be expanded to include reimbursements on interest payable for property tax bills until December 31, 2021. In addition, the program will be extended from its initial end date of September 20, 2021 to September 30, 2022.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information, update](#)
- **Support for the agricultural industry** through the following measures:

  - In order to support the potato industry of Prince Edward Island, the Province of Prince Edward Island is working with producers and processors to provide \$4.7 million towards shipping and storage costs of potatoes for processing. This investment will help mitigate a potato surplus resulting from market conditions related to COVID-19.
  - Additionally, through the Department of Agriculture and Land's Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs, the province will help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farm operations. Minister of Agriculture and Land Bloyce Thompson announced up to \$8.8 million in support for farmers through the BRM programs for the next two years.
  - The government will pay the provincial portion of the costs to increase the coverage level for producers enrolled in the AgriStability program from 70 per cent to 85 per cent, and removing the reference margin limit, which will have a positive impact on the livestock industry. In addition, the province is offering interim payments of up to 75 per cent to get funding into producers' hands in a timely manner. When combined, this will provide an estimated \$5.6 million in support for farmers over two years.
  - The AgriInsurance Program will offer a 10 per cent discount on the producer's share of insurance premiums, saving farmers an estimated \$3.2 million over two years.



*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creating the Prince Edward Island Fish Emergency Loan Program**, a targeted loan portfolio offered by Finance PEI and the PEI Credit Unions, will provide loans up to \$25,000 to Islander harvesters at 4 per cent interest over a five-year term. The principal will be deferred for the first 18 months. In addition, the Department of Fisheries and Communities will pay interest on behalf of the borrower for the first 18 months.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Creating the Fisheries Interest Relief Program**; this program will support fish harvesters with up to 12 months of interest relief and service debt costs on a maximum of \$250 million at an average interest rate of 5 per cent. Fish harvesters that can demonstrate a 30 per cent or more decrease in fish-related revenues for the 2020 fishing season will be eligible.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

## **Support for Workers**

- **COVID-19 Special Leave Fund**; this program is available to provide temporary support for individuals who are not eligible for federal benefits. It provides up to three days of wage supports for workers and self-employed individuals who:
  - are unable to work due to illness, COVID-19 testing or are required to self-isolate;
  - have children under the age of 12 or family members in need of supervised care;
  - do not qualify for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit or the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit; and
  - do not have access to paid sick leave or the ability to work from home.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)

- **Tax relief measures**; effective January 2022, the basic personal income tax exemption will be increased to \$11,250, and the low-income reduction threshold will be increased to \$20,000.

[Information](#)

- **Supports for impacted workers and low-income Islanders**; The Prince Edward Island Emergency Payment for Workers is a \$500 payment is for workers and self-employed Islanders who have completely lost their income or had their hours reduced by at least 12 hours a week from December 7 to 21, 2020. The program will be open for applications by Thursday, December 10. Additionally, the province is relaunching the Employee Gift Card Program. These \$100 grocery gift cards are for workers who have been laid off between December 7 and 21, 2020. The application form for the program is to be completed by the employer, who will then distribute the cards to affected employees. The program will be open for applications by Thursday, December 10.

**UPDATE:** On March 1, 2021, the government announced a new round of support for workers who lost their income or will have their hours reduced by at least 12 hours a week from February 28 to March 14, 2021.

*Status: Expired.*

[Emergency Payment](#), [Gift Card Program](#), [Update](#)



## Yukon

Last updated on September 28, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Implementing the Regional Loan Relief Program**, which will provide up to \$100,000 in deferred-interest, partially forgivable loans with no payments until January 1, 2023.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Tourism supports**; a number of supports continue to be available through Yukon's Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan. These include extension of the \$4 million Tourism Accommodation and Non-Accommodation sector supplements to September 30, 2021; a \$450,000 contribution to Yukon's ELEVATE business mentoring program; and a \$300,000 enhancement to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Creating the Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement and the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement**; the purpose of these programs is to ensure that the accommodations sector and other visitor-dependent businesses can access additional funding after they have exhausted other financial supports. The Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS) provides up to \$400 per room each month, up to the point of break even for eligible accommodations businesses.  
*Status: in effect. UPDATE: On September 24, 2021, the government indicated that the tourism sector supplement programs would be extended until March 31, 2022.*  
[Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement](#); [Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement](#);
- **Extension to the Yukon Business Relief Program** to help businesses in need by including coverage for a broader list of fixed costs and adjusting eligibility for support. Businesses experiencing an operating deficit from August 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, are eligible to apply. The program is open to all Yukon businesses, including home-based businesses. Yukon businesses are encouraged to contact the Department of Economic Development to start an application by email at [ecdev@gov.yk.ca](mailto:ecdev@gov.yk.ca) or by phone at 867-456-3803 or toll-free 1-800-661-0408, extension 3803.  
*Status: in effect.*  
**UPDATE:** On February 25, 2021, the government announced that the program will relaunch on April 1; businesses that previously benefitted from the program can reapply for additional support until September 30, 2021  
**UPDATE:** On September 24, 2021, the government confirmed that this program will expire on September 30, 2021.  
[Information](#), [update](#), [expiry](#)
- **Retail liquor discounts**; Yukon restaurants and other businesses with a liquor licence that are struggling will be eligible to receive a discount of 25 per cent off the retail price of liquor until September 30, 2021.  
*Status: in effect.*  
**UPDATE:** On September 24, 2021, the government confirmed that this program will expire on September 30, 2021.  
[Information](#), [expiry](#)
- **Providing a variety of interim supports for the arts and culture sectors**; awards of up to \$2,500 will be available for individuals and \$5,000 for businesses, not-for-profit organizations or collectives for arts-related initiatives.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board relief measures** will allow employers to revise their annual payroll estimates, and to defer their assessment premiums without penalty or interest charges to a date that is appropriate for an employer's business situation.



*Status: expired but Board will work with employers impacted by COVID.*

[Information](#)

- **Support for aviation businesses** aviation businesses to support critical and essential routes and the transportation of vital supplies. The \$3.56 million in funding is Yukon's portion of Government of Canada support announced on April 14. Yukon aviation businesses will benefit from the waiving of commercial fees. When coupled with the previously announced waiver of aviation landing, parking and loading fees, these changes will save aviation businesses approximately \$780,000. The new fee waivers include:
  - land lease and licence fees;
  - building lease and licence fees;
  - air terminal building concession fees;
  - aircraft fuel lease and licence fees;
  - aircraft fuel concession fees;
  - parking stall fees; and
  - service recoveries like charges for electricity.
  - These fees are waived from April 1 until March 31, 2021.

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

## **Support for Workers**

- **Creating a “paid sick leave” rebate program** to allow Yukon workers or those self-employed who are without sick leave to stay at home if they are sick and required to self-isolate for 14 days and still meet their basic financial needs. All eligible Yukon employers and self-employed individuals may apply. This rebate, paid to employers and self-employed individuals, will cover a maximum of 10 days of wages per employee or 10 days of average daily earnings per self-employed individual to allow for a 14-day self-isolation period.

*Status: in effect.*

**UPDATE:** On February 25, 2021, the government announced that the program will relaunch on April 1 and will operate until September 30, 2021.

[Information](#), [update](#)

- **Creating the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program** to provide temporary financial support to lower-income workers delivering essential services during COVID-19. This program is not available to workers who have accessed the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) during the same period in which they're applying for the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program. To be eligible, the worker must provide a critical or essential service and earn less than \$20.00 per hour. Employers will earn \$100 for each registered essential worker. **UPDATE:** On November 24, 2020, the government announced that this program has been extended to February 15, 2021. Workers who received a top-up under the previous program (for hours worked between March 15 and October 3, 2020) are eligible to receive the top-up again during the extension (October 15, 2020 to February 15, 2021)

*Status: expired.*

[Information](#)

- **Changes to the Yukon Nominee Program** criteria to address concerns about nominee status for those nominees who may experience layoff or reduced hours during the state of emergency.

*Status: in effect.*

[Information](#)




## Northwest Territories

Last updated on October 12, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Introduction of the Labour Market Recovery Wage Grant;** the Wage Grant is intended for employers who have been impacted by restrictions on gathering sizes under a public health order issued after August 1, 2021. It will support employers to retain or bring staff back into the workplace in an environment where the employer has lost revenue. Non-essential businesses can apply for a Wage Grant of maximum \$2,000 per employee, to a maximum of \$10,000 per employer. Employers, organizations and community partners can get more information and apply for funding by contacting their local ECE Service Centre. Applications will be processed in the order of receipt and this initiative will remain in effect until March 31, 2022 or until the allocated funding is spent.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Additional supports for tourism and accommodations;** the government has announced two support programs for tourism operators and licensed accommodation providers across the Northwest Territories. The two programs, the Pandemic Relief Extension Program (PREP) for tourism operators, and the Supplement for Tourism Accommodation Relief (STAR) Program for accommodation providers who meet the criteria, were developed to support two of the hardest hit sectors impacted by the pandemic. PREP will assist licensed tourism operators with eligible fixed costs within the NWT at a minimum of \$2,500 (to a maximum of \$100,000). Home-based tourism businesses will be also able to access this relief funding. With licensed accommodation providers reporting significant drops in occupancy levels, the STAR program will provide financial assistance for eligible expenses in facilities with three or more rooms.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#), [PREP application](#), [STAR application](#)
- **Funding for tourism operators;** The Government of the Northwest Territories is providing funding to tourism operators that have exhausted the support available to them under the federal government's Northern Business Relief Fund (NBRF) and Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF). Tourism operators will be able to apply to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment to cover the same fixed operating costs set out under the NBRF. Eligible operators will be able to claim up to \$50,000 for expenses which can include: rent/mortgage; utilities (heat; electric; water and sewer; phone and internet); subscriptions (for example: financial or booking systems); and insurance. This is a one-time funding initiative designed to help companies through to April 1, 2021 when new government supports are anticipated to become available. Expenses already covered by federal payments under the NBRF and the RRRF will not be eligible.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Labour Market Recovery Supports;** Given the unique and significant impact of COVID-19 on the Northwest Territories economy and labour market, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has created a streamlined labour market recovery program to support broad sectors of our economy in response to the pandemic. This time-limited funding is available now to support immediate labour market recovery. The funding includes three categories of support:
  - Labour Market Recovery Wage Subsidy - Supports employers recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic impacts by providing funding for a wage subsidy to hire and retain staff.
  - Labour Market Recovery Project Fund - For employers, organizations and community partners looking to implement projects that will have an impact on the recovery of the NWT labour market.
  - Community Support - Funding for all 33 NWT communities to hire local residents to address pandemic-related needs and support labour market recovery.





*Status: applications open. Employers can get more information and apply by contacting their local [ECE Service Centre](#).*  
[Information](#)

- **Waiving tourism licensing fees for 2021-22 fiscal year;** for the next fiscal year, there will be no fee charged to licenced tourism operators wishing to renew or significantly amend their Tourism Operator License.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Providing working capital loans** of up to \$25,000 (or more if need is clearly addressed) to qualified NWT businesses at a rate of 1.75%. Loans will be amortized for up to five years with options for payment deferment.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Waiver of airport landing fees.**  
*Status: airport landing fees and airport leases, licenses and concession fees waived until December 31, 2020.*  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#); [Update](#)
- **Amendments to liquor regulations** to permit the sale of beer, wine and spirits by restaurants for take-out and delivery without the need for an off-premises extension to their license. Some restrictions apply.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Waiving rent on existing surface dispositions on public land, for the fiscal year 2020-21.** Rent relief is available to all holders of existing recreational, residential, and commercial and mining surface dispositions on public land.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)
- **Support for entrepreneurs** via the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development program, which will prioritize applications from NWT businesses whose proposals focus on economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.  
*Status: in effect; applications are open.*  
[Information](#)
- **Commercial Fisheries Industry Safety Support Program;** the Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment is providing increased safety funding to commercial fishers working on the Great Slave Lake, Tathlina Lake, or Kakisa Lake. Up to \$10,000 (based on 2019 production) will be made available to individual fishers under the Commercial Fisheries Industry Safety Support Program to equip their fishing vessels with the safety equipment needed to meet both COVID-19 protection measures and Transport Canada's Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations. The new Transport Canada Regulations identifies the safety equipment that fishing vessels must carry based on the length of a vessel's hull. Eligible safety equipment can include: personal life-saving appliances and visual signals; life-rafts and other life-saving appliances; and firefighting equipment. Additionally, the program will provide fishers up to \$1,000 to purchase cleaning supplies and equipment necessary to meet COVID-19 health orders issued by the Northwest Territories Chief Medical Officer.  
*Status: in effect.*  
[Information](#)
- **Funding for Tourism Industry;** As part of the Government of Northwest Territories COVID-19 economic relief plan, a \$1.5 million Growth and Recovery by Investing in Tourism (GRIT) Fund has been announced, which will be cost-shared equally by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and CanNor. Applications for funding can be made through ITI regional offices. Tourism businesses will be required to contribute 10% cash equity and use Northwest Territories suppliers to help stimulate the economy. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2021.  
*Status: expired.*  
[Information](#)



## Support for Workers

- **Creating a wage top-up program** to support low-wage workers during the Covid-19 pandemic; workers earning an hourly wage between \$13.46 and \$17.99 have their wage topped up to \$18.00 per hour. Businesses have been asked to provide the top-up to their eligible employees on behalf of the GNWT. In return the GNWT compensates the employer for participating in the program and covers the employer CPP and EI expenses relating to the top-up.  
*Status: in effect until August 31, 2021.*  
[Information](#)

## Nunavut

Last updated on August 16, 2021

### Support for Employers

- **Providing a one-time grant of \$5,000** for eligible small businesses through the Small Business Support Program.  
**UPDATE:** On April 30, 2021, the government announced a third round of funding through this program. Additional information regarding the program was released on May 10, 2021.  
*Status: in effect*  
[Information](#), [application portal](#), [update](#)

### Support for Workers

*No supports available at this time.*