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## Updated Information May 11, 2020

For a copy of BC's Restart Plan visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Government has extended the temporary layoff period from 13 weeks to 16 weeks  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0013-000810>

For information on employment standards around temporary layoffs, visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/termination#laying-off>

Coming out of the Covid-19 lockdown: issues and challenges facing Canadian employers:  
[https://www.blq.com/en/insights/2020/04/coming-out-of-the-covid-19-lockdown-issues-and-challenges-facing-canadian-employers?utm\\_campaign=5b9a9913d6c70b0001005dd8&utm\\_content=5eaa10ea3cb5280001d56117&utm\\_medium=smarpshare&utm\\_source=linkedin](https://www.blq.com/en/insights/2020/04/coming-out-of-the-covid-19-lockdown-issues-and-challenges-facing-canadian-employers?utm_campaign=5b9a9913d6c70b0001005dd8&utm_content=5eaa10ea3cb5280001d56117&utm_medium=smarpshare&utm_source=linkedin)

Small business BC webinars: <http://smallbusinessbc.ca/article/catch-up-with-sbbcs-free-covid-19-webinars/>

Women of Recreation, Tourism & Hospitality (WORTH) Webinars:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEodeuorjMqHNGoOBtprSdEL-3VkURvI4FV>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit:  
[www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca) Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter

For the provincial health officer's orders, notices and guidance, visit:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance](http://www.gov.bc.ca/phoguidance)

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports, travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/Covid-19)  
Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

## Updated Information May 1, 2020

If you are collecting CERB payments and are recalled back to work through Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), you will have to cancel CERB. All you need to do is not apply for the next month. You are allowed to earn \$1,000 per month additional income, but if you exceed that amount, you may need to stop collecting. [https://www.macleans.ca/economy/workers-who-are-rehired-may-have-to-cancel-and-repay-their-cerb-payments-heres-how/?utm\\_source=OneSignal&utm\\_medium=WebNotifications&utm\\_campaign=MME\\_WN&utm\\_term=01-May-2020&utm\\_content=Cancel\\_CERB](https://www.macleans.ca/economy/workers-who-are-rehired-may-have-to-cancel-and-repay-their-cerb-payments-heres-how/?utm_source=OneSignal&utm_medium=WebNotifications&utm_campaign=MME_WN&utm_term=01-May-2020&utm_content=Cancel_CERB)

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CMHC has released more details on CECRA for small businesses. Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provides much needed relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. It offers forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners so that they can reduce the rent owed by their impacted small business tenants by at least 75% for the months of April, May and June 2020.

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business>

BC Emergency Benefit for workers is now open.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports/emergency-benefit-workers#how-to-apply>

Updated #Covid19 Resources for Businesses:

[https://www.bceda.ca/covid19\\_business\\_resources.php](https://www.bceda.ca/covid19_business_resources.php)

Indigenous Business Survey. CANDO is gathering information to help advise the Government of Canada on policy decisions that directly impact Indigenous businesses. Your participation is crucial. Please click the following link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/c-19taskforce> . Questions about the survey?

Please contact [research@ccab.com](mailto:research@ccab.com)

## Updated Information April 24, 2020

VICTORIA -- British Columbians will be able to apply for the province's one-time emergency benefit payment during the COVID-19 pandemic starting next week. Applications for the \$1,000 emergency benefit payment open Friday, May 1. For help with applications or general questions, people can call 778-309-4630, or toll-free within B.C. at 1-855-955-3545, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Applications over the phone will begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports/emergency-benefit-workers>

## Updated Information April 22, 2020 – Support for Businesses

Community Futures is offering a Covid-19 Loan Program for Small Business up to \$20,000:

<https://www.cfsun.ca/?fbclid=IwAR0Inl88CLJUUYTPYzWiKTADhvdM6mXWrY4DnV8dGFfD4agrX86fmAAiSc>

BC Hydro Covid-19 Relief Fund for Small Business. May be eligible to have business electricity use charges waived for up to 3 months: <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/covid-19-relief-fund/commercial.html>

Small Business Marketplace – resources and advice: <https://smallbusinessbc.ca/marketplace/>

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How to calculate your Canada Emergency Wage subsidy amount (for re-hiring workers previously laid off as a result of Covid-19). Application will be available on April 27<sup>th</sup> and processed by May 5th: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-calculate-subsidy-amount.html>

## Updated Information April 15, 2020 – Support for Businesses

The federal government passed Bill C-14 that provides a wage and salary subsidy of up to \$847 per week to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks. For businesses that have experienced at least a 15% decrease in revenue in March, April, or May compared to the same month in 2019 (down from 30% decrease). <http://harrisco.com/federal-government-announces-changes-to-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-but-still-awaiting-legislation/>

How to make it through Covid-19 with your business intact: <https://www.edc.ca/en/blog/10-principles-managing-risk-covid-19.html>

For businesses who hire summer students, the temporary changes to the program for this year include:

- an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee
- an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021
- allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
- allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/08/changes-canada-summer-jobs-program-help-businesses-and-young>

## Updated Information April 8, 2020 – Support for Businesses

The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) are accepting applications for the “Development Stimulus Fund that assist in providing relief for Canadian Indigenous tourism business that are being affected by the impacts of travel restrictions and prepare for future tourism season (ITAC, 2020). CEO, Keith Henry speaks to Minister Joly on tourism:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO45CjyBavo&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO45CjyBavo&feature=emb_title)

To apply for this funding requires membership to ITAC, which is free. Here is the link to the application for funding:

<https://indigenoustourism.ca/corporate/tourism-development-funding-support-program/>

BDC has posted information on: Covid-19: 7 steps to sustain your business through the disruption:

[https://www.bdc.ca/en/blog/pages/covid-19-steps-to-sustain-your-business-through-disruption.aspx?utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_medium=socialmedia&utm\\_campaign=bdcsocial](https://www.bdc.ca/en/blog/pages/covid-19-steps-to-sustain-your-business-through-disruption.aspx?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_campaign=bdcsocial)



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British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) provides a link for BC businesses – Covid-19 Resources for business:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OjtkSJ\\_VedTzPVJIRL2fDp8NyXA07RkXMB6St12eYdc/e/dit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OjtkSJ_VedTzPVJIRL2fDp8NyXA07RkXMB6St12eYdc/e/dit)

For business who are FortisBC customers, FortisBC has a Covid-19 Customer Recovery Fund that provides support measures for residential and small business customers:

[https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/supporting-british-columbia-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/covid-19-customer-recovery-fund?utm\\_campaign=corporate&utm\\_source=collateral&utm\\_content=recoveryfund](https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/supporting-british-columbia-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/covid-19-customer-recovery-fund?utm_campaign=corporate&utm_source=collateral&utm_content=recoveryfund) or  
Email: [covid19recovery@fortisbc.com](mailto:covid19recovery@fortisbc.com)

BC Hydro has Covid-19 Relief Fund for those who have experienced job loss, have had to close their businesses, or are otherwise unable to work:

<https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2020/covid-19-updates.html>

The International Economic Development Council offers webinars, e.g. Preparing for what comes next: <https://iedconline.org/web-pages/accritest/covid-19-webinars/>

Updated Government of Canada Covid-19 Economic Response Plan:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

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Previously sent out:

## Support for Individuals and Families

The Federal Government announced today a new program to support those out of work due the Covid-19 virus. Those of you that have already applied for or are receiving Employment Insurance (EI) do not need to reapply as you will continue to receive your benefits. Both EI and non-EI eligible individuals will be able to access this new benefit. The new benefit will provide a flat amount of \$2,000 a month, paid in four-week instalments for up to 16 weeks. This benefit is available until October 3, 2020, retroactive to March 15, 2020, and can apply online starting in April. If you qualify for EI benefits you can apply today. Link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html>

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is available to wage earners, contract workers and self-employed people who do not qualify for EI. However, the program registration will not be available until April 6<sup>th</sup> with payments expected within 10 days. Income support will provide up to about \$2,000 per month and

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financial support will be available for 16 weeks.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html> (press release)

On March 25, the Federal Government announced two additional support programs in addition to the new CERB program: [https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved\\_access\\_employment\\_insurance](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved_access_employment_insurance)

The Canada Child Benefit Program will provide an additional \$300 per child through the program. You do not need to apply for this additional funding, it will be included as part of your May regular payment. If you need to apply:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-apply.html>

In addition, the Government has announced an increase in the Special Goods and Services Tax Credit. This will provide a one-time payment of about \$400 for individuals and up to \$600 for couples. The Tax credit will be based on your 2018 taxes and you will receive it automatically if you qualify. Link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/gsthstc-eligibility.html>

Mortgage support: <https://cba.ca/mortgage-deferral-to-help-canadians-experiencing-financial-hardship-due-to-covid-19>

Renters support: The BC Government announced yesterday a support program for those who rent, and for landlords. **There were no details released on how to apply for the program.** Rental support goes to the landlord, not the renter.

The funds will support renters experiencing a loss of income by helping them pay their rent and will be paid directly to landlords on their behalf, to ensure landlords continue to receive rental income during the pandemic. Benefiting people with low to moderate incomes, this supplement will be available to renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs.

- The new temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month, paid directly to landlords.
- Halting evictions by ensuring a landlord may not issue a new notice to end tenancy for any reason. However, in exceptional cases where it may be needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the property, landlords will be able to apply to the Residential Tenancy Branch for a hearing.
- Halting the enforcement of existing eviction notices issued by the Residential Tenancy Branch, except in extreme cases where there are safety concerns. The smaller number

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of court ordered evictions are up to the courts, which operate independently of government.

- Freezing new annual rent increases during the state of emergency.
- Preventing landlords from accessing rental units without the consent of the tenant (for example, for showings or routine maintenance), except in exceptional cases where it is needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the unit.
- Restricting methods that renters and landlords can use to serve notices to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19 (no personal service and allowing email).
- Allowing landlords to restrict the use of common areas by tenants or guests to protect against the transmission of COVID-19.

The Press Release can be found at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0048-000561>

Ministry of Health and Addictions information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/mental-health-addictions>

Support for businesses:

Provincial Tax Changes: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes>

Other info:

- [enhancing the Work-Sharing program](#) to support employers and their workers who are experiencing a downturn in business
- a new [Business Credit Availability Program](#) to make more than \$10 billion available to Canadian businesses in financing and credit insurance solutions through:
- the Canada Revenue Agency will [defer tax payments until August 31, 2020](#), to help businesses with cash flow
- immediate relief for small businesses with a [10% wage subsidy](#) for the next 90 days, up to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer
- a new [Emergency Care Benefit](#) of up to \$900 biweekly for up to 15 weeks for self-employed people and others who are not eligible for EI sickness benefits

Links:

Helping Canadians with the economic impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html>

Resources for Canadian Businesses:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business/maintaingrowimprovebusiness/resources-for-canadian-businesses.html>



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Support for employees: The BC government has introduced a one-time, tax free payment of \$1,000 to BC workers whose work has been affected by COVID-19. Link:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved\\_access\\_employment\\_insurance](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved_access_employment_insurance)

Canadian Federation of Independent Business Help Center: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/small-business-resources-dealing-covid-19#govt>

BDC bank video on the state of the economy and continuity and strategy planning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWtYS2XwovM&feature=youtu.be>

Trudeau's Response Plan: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/18/prime-minister-announces-more-support-workers-and-businesses-through>

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