



May 1, 2020

All Hatching Egg Producers and Stakeholders

RE: COVID-19 Update

Dear Stakeholders,

It is my goal to keep you updated as the COVID-19 situation unfolds; it is volatile and changes very quickly, and your attention to these Friday updates is appreciated.

Staff has created a COVID-19 file on the producer side of the Commission website. All updates and information, inclusive of the sanitation checklists, are housed there. Please contact Naylene at the office should you need assistance with getting access to that side of the website.

I have received some preliminary information on the Agri Recovery/AgriStability programming and the ability to potentially access some funding. The program is being reviewed. Please sign up as soon as possible for this program because if you are not signed up, you will not be eligible. As things unfold, I will be able to use it to assist in the relief efforts for hatching egg producers. More information to follow as I get up to date information.

Commission staff and the BC Egg Hatchery Association are consulting weekly on egg flow and the impact to the processing age. Chicken Farmers of Canada reduced their allocation for period A-164 by -7.5% in the west and -12.6% in the east. These figures are from the base allocation but as actual allocation for A164 was 2.5% higher, the impact to the hatching egg sector is an approximate reduction of 10% in egg sets for the period. Domestic production has been re-routed to the Interior, but there is more capacity there and more eggs need to be re-directed. The allocation reduction has resulted in a bottle neck at the hatcheries and many cases of eggs are being destroyed each week.

The Egg Hatchery Association and Commission staff are working on the request to the hatcheries to limit imports in order to leave room for domestic production. The Commission is further supporting the hatcheries, the BC Government and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers in a request to Global Affairs Canada for the reduction of penalties associated with not bringing in all their import allotment. This penalty further complicates the reduction of imported product being brought in by the hatcheries.

The Commission is also in the process of looking at reducing the processing age. (See the May 1 letter from the Commission to stakeholders.) Unfortunately, the processing sector has flagged labor shortages moving forward and booking these timeslots have become increasingly more difficult. The Superior Poultry plant closure has further exacerbated the shackle space shortage so broilers, breeders, turkeys and layers all competing for shackle space. This was stressed in a call today between all the feather boards and the Ministry of Agriculture. As of last weekend the Commission began to render flocks as there were no shackles available for further processing which is at the Commission's expense and the producer is not paid for the fowl.



The Commission plans to review the processing age and fowl compensation received by producers at the end of the year, as was done in 2018 and 2019. At this time, producers are being compensated only for destroyed eggs. Under performing flocks are picked for destruction with inspection staff oversight.

The breaker plant is also experiencing market interruption as a result of restaurant closures and has limited the throughput of hatching eggs to the average weekly throughput experienced in 2019. We would like to send more eggs to the breaker, but this is an Egg Farmer's of Canada national policy to avoid a surge of surplus hatching eggs going to breakers as there isn't currently a market for them.

The office remains closed and staff are working remotely. On-Farm work continues with the Producer's comfort level except for SE testing. SE is a human health risk and the testing must continue as a result. The On-Farm team is taking every precaution to ensure that we are maintaining the Public Health Authority social distancing and equipment standards. They are wearing masks and gloves on-site in addition to their regular Biosecurity attire. If producers do not want to attend the SE sampling please leave the barn door unlocked at the time of the test and leave the barn lights on. Staff will text when they have left the site.

I am still thinking of you all and hope things are going as well as can be expected in this most difficult time. Please email me directly with any questions or concerns on any of these matters.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission



COVID-19

- CHEP continues to host a weekly General Managers call, as well as an Executive Committee meeting.
- The National Poultry Group is also meeting three times a week plus additional meetings as necessary.
- AAFC is hosting teleconferences on the impact of COVID-19 daily.
 - o AAFC has launched a [website](#) that serves as a portal for more information on national and provincial job campaigns and sector resources.
 - o PHAC has confirmed that technicians required to maintain/repair equipment under manufacturers' warranty necessary for essential services are considered essential and are not subjected to the mandatory 14-day isolation period when entering Canada.
 - o 11,000 Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) of the 13,000 usually expected to arrive in April were projected by the end of the month.
 - o AAFC is working to respond to request to extend visas for TFWs that are already in the country.
 - o President Trump has ordered meat-processing plants in the U.S. to continue to operate as part of the Defense Production Act.
- Potential sources of government financial support for producers:
 - o [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#) provides a subsidy of 75% of the eligible employee's weekly pay from March 15 until June 6, 2020 to those that have had an eligible reduction in revenue (15-30% compared to this time in 2019 or the average of January and February 2020).
 - An [online calculator](#) is available to calculate subsidy amount.
 - o [10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers](#) is a three-month measure that allows eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the CRA.
 - o [Canada Emergency Business Account](#) provides interest-free loans up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for profits to help cover operating costs. Repayment of the loan by Dec 31, 2022 will result in forgiveness of up to \$10,000 of the amount.
 - o [Agri-Stability](#) – The deadline to apply has been extended to July 3rd and the application process has been simplified. CHEP is encouraging producers to explore whether the program may make sense for them in light of recent market

reductions and ongoing uncertainty. It is also possible that additional federal financial support will come through existing programs.

- CFA released a press release seeking \$2.6 billion for Agriculture and Agri-Food Emergency Fund to Maintain Food Security in Canada.
 - o The [press release](#) is available on CFA website
 - o CFA also launched a MP Letter writing campaign calling for support to Canada's Food Industry. You can complete the [form](#) to send a note to your MP. You can also promote the campaign in your respective provinces.
- The SM5 meets weekly to discuss progress on our support of the [Canada Takeout](#) campaign.
 - o The [joint press release](#), along with interviews with representatives from the SM5, has been circulating through news outlets across the country.
 - o A video featuring farmers from each province and each group within the SM5 is scheduled to be filmed and released in the coming weeks to show support towards the campaign.
- Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) board of directors revised the allocation for period A-164 (July 5, 2020 - August 29, 2020) at 7.5% (BC, AB, SK, MB) and 12.6% (QC, ON, NB, NS, PEI, NL) below base. As a result, CHEP estimates a reduction in hatchery egg production by approximately of 16.7 million broiler hatching eggs.
- CHEP requested information from Aviagen and Cobb regarding specific protocols for chick deliveries during COVID-19.
 - o These measures include use of personal protective equipment (PPE), physical distancing, daily disinfection, and paperless transactions.
 - o Producers are reminded to take precautions as recommended by local public health during chick delivery, vaccinations, catching or whenever there are other workers at the farm. Please see the information for hatching egg producers circulated March 30.
- CHEP continues to participate in the weekly Public Safety Canada (PSC) cross-sector calls to discuss industry-wide impacts of COVID-19, sector needs, and actions taken by government.
 - o By way of follow up from a question raised on the April 15 call, PSC has added food safety auditors to the food section of the [Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), as follows:
 - Workers in food testing labs and those working in food safety (such as third-party food safety auditors)
 - o As the rate of infection is dropping in many parts of the country, discussions have begun to include recovery with a focus on testing, PPE, and the need for recommendations and mitigation measures for reopening businesses in all sectors, recognizing the risk of subsequent infection waves. A joint First Ministers' [statement](#) was released on the gradual and phased approach to reopening the economy.
 - o A second federal survey on PPE was circulated. It is expected that PPE demand will increase due to return to work protocols and new requirements.



Other Meetings

- Animal Health Canada held an outreach call on April 27 with the NPG to discuss and solicit feedback on potential governance models for the organization. CHEP also provided feedback through a stakeholder survey.
- Aubrie hosted the initial ACP training session for NSF Third Party auditors on the requirements of the program on April 29.
- Participated in an initial call with NFACC on May 1 to discuss the upcoming 5-year review of the Poultry Code of Practice.
- CHEP held a discussion with CFIA regarding their decision to issue hatchery licenses to broiler producers under the existing Hatchery Regulations.
- A draft CHEP letter on the proposed amendments to the *Hatchery Regulations* was circulated with a request for feedback by May 14. It is expected that the comment period will be extended to the fall. CFIA will communicate this decision when it is confirmed.

**EOC Weekly COVID-19 Update
For Friday, May 1, 2020**

This will be a weekly update if the Covid-19 situation continues to rapidly change or as needed if issues trail off. The update format will be an update from the emergency operations centre (EOC), key industry news items, and useful links.

AgSafe's hot tip of the week:

COVID-19 and Your Mental Health

Another month of COVID-19 pandemic protocols - physical distancing and stay-in-place, has resulted in the agricultural community addressing intense stress, anxiety, and depression.



Just as we take precautions to protect our physical health and safety, we have to take precautions to protect our mental health and well-being.

We have compiled a list of mental health organizations that you can access from our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page.

<https://agsafebc.ca/tools/emergency-planning-resources/covid-19-resources/>

If you employ Temporary Foreign Workers who have recently arrived from Mexico, check our COVID-19 resources for Spanish language materials.

See AgSafe’s Agricultural Site for COVID-19 Prevention Procedures and worker safety for more information.

<https://agsafebc.ca/tools/emergency-planning-resources/>

UPDATE FROM THE POULTRY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)

The EOC and the BC Poultry Association continue to work with the four boards and commissions, processors, hatcheries, and the BC Ministry of Agriculture on issues related to day to day poultry operations and planning for Covid-19 related emergencies. The EOC participates in weekly poultry supply chain conference calls.

INDUSTRY UPDATES (control click on title to move to the article)

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INDUSTRY UPDATES

Support for Farmers for purchase of Personal Protective Equipment

- The On-Farm Food Safety Program is offering funding for eligible farms to acquire Personal Protective Equipment and other approved safety supplies for use at their facilities, in order to maintain a safe workplace and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.
- Participants must be either federally or provincially registered businesses with an active GST number that handle food for human consumption and can be located on a farm premise.
- The program will reimburse 70% of the cost up to \$7,500 for approved activities.
- Visit the On-Farm Food Safety program website for additional details and to apply: bconfarmfoodsafety.com/covid-19-resources/

Two more poultry plants in B.C. report workers who have COVID 19

April 29, 2020, By The Canadian Press

Two more poultry processing plants in British Columbia say they have workers who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Sofina Foods Inc. in Port Coquitlam and Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry in Chilliwack say each of their facilities has one worker who has tested positive.

Sofina Foods says in a statement its employee lives with relatives who work at another plant that was recently closed after several workers tested positive for COVID-19.

The company, which employs over 400 workers, says the plant remains fully operational, and that disinfection protocols and physical distancing measures are in place.

Fraser Valley Specialty says its employee had been off the job since Friday with mild flu symptoms and tested positive on Tuesday.

Two other poultry operations in Metro Vancouver were ordered closed by health officials this month when workers at the plants tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

As of Tuesday, 80 COVID-19 cases had been linked to the two poultry facilities, with 46 at Superior Poultry Processors Ltd. in Coquitlam and 34 at United Poultry Co. Ltd. in Vancouver.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has said there is no indication food is a source of transmission of the virus.

Fraser Valley Specialty Poultry, which produces organic and specialty chicken, duck, squab and free-run geese, says in a statement that similar businesses have not been required to recall products after COVID-19 outbreaks.

Its office and farm store remain open, but the company says its plant was closed on Wednesday while it meets with officials to determine what happens next.

Sofina plant manager Kuljeet Chahal said the company was prepared and acted quickly to assess the risks.

“Combined with the fact that the employee wore protective personal equipment at all times, we are confident that we had the right measures in place to help mitigate risks to other employees,” Chahal said in the company’s statement.

The province has reported 2,053 cases of the new coronavirus, with 1,231 people recovered. There have been 105 deaths from COVID-19 in B.C.

Source: https://www.canadianpoultrymag.com/two-more-poultry-plants-in-b-c-report-workers-who-have-covid-19/?oly_enc_id=1916E4561489D7V

WALI Update: Newest provincial requirements

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Henry, issued two new Orders relating to Industrial Camps. This applies to all employer-provided housing (domestic or foreign workers) and to situations where domestic workers camp on farm property.

Most of the requirements had been included in the previously released guidance documents, but there are a few additional details.

- **EMPLOYERS MUST:**
 - All farms with a work camp (that means EVERY farm with temporary foreign workers) must develop a COVID-19 prevention and control protocol
 - Have the protocol posted
 - Notify a health officer if someone develops symptoms associated with COVID-19
 - Appoint a coordinator who is responsible to oversee all COVID-19 related actions and act as a liaison officer with Public Health. There are additional specific requirements for the coordinator.
- **WORKERS MUST:**
 - Follow **posted farm-specific protocols**
 - Remain in accommodations on days off

- Avoid unnecessary visits to public establishments
- Only leave the accommodation if approved by the coordinator for emergencies or critical appointments
- Carry a mask/tissues

The PHO also delegated authority to a number of provincial employees (including conservation officers, regional agrologists and meat inspectors) to assist with enforcement of the regulations.

The actual Order and related material is found on the provincial website, [here](#).

We have identified a number of points that need clarification (including if workers can leave to go grocery shopping) and will be working with the province to develop additional information as needed. We understand this will likely trigger a number of questions from employers. Please know that we will circulate more information once it has been clarified by the Province.

The following Silviculture guidance document may have some information related to other types of tent camps that could be useful for domestic campers, [click here to view](#).

Support for Processors for purchase of Personal Protective Equipment

In response to the COVID -19 global pandemic and the increased need for food safety precautions, Food Processing Skills Canada's **Post-Farm Food Safety Program** has been updated to include a **“one-time” reimbursement up to \$15,000** for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and other approved safety supplies. The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture through the Province of British Columbia wants to support food and beverage processors to maintain safe workplaces and keep the food supply safe.

The request for supplies must be accompanied by a suitable justification and meet Health Canada and/or Canadian Food Inspection Agency policies or guidelines related to COVID-19. The COVID-19 related expenses are only eligible for the 2020- 2021 funding year. Processors must operate an agri-business that handles food for human consumption

Learn more and apply: <http://bcpostfarmfoodsafety.com/covid-19-resources/>

Plans to lift some COVID-19 related restrictions

[Plans to lift some COVID-19 related restrictions](#) have been announced by some Provinces and Territories:

- **SK** has designed a [5-phase plan](#) to [Re-Open Saskatchewan](#) and slowly lift restrictions on businesses and services beginning May 4th, 2020. SK has also released [guidelines for industries](#) to follow through the implementation of the 5-phase plan
- **NB** announced a [recovery plan](#) and easing of some health restrictions
- **MB** announced that [starting this week](#), it will start releasing its plans to reopen the province's non-essential businesses
- **PEI** announced that they will begin removing some restrictions on outdoor activities and some elective surgeries [starting in early May](#)
- **ON** released [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#), which will have a phased approach to the lifting of restrictions
- **QC** is set to release their plans this week, such as the [phased approach to reopen elementary schools and daycares](#) (*in French only*) [beginning in May](#)
- **NL** will announce new COVID-19 projection models for this week, and it [will discuss its reopening plan](#) only after reviewing the new models
- **BC** is expected to announce a move towards removing some restrictions (particularly for restaurants/food industry), [in early May](#)
- **AB** may begin a safe, gradual reopening of the economy [by mid-May](#) if the province continues to see low hospitalization and fatalities
- **YT** announced that [a recovery plan is in development](#) but will not be released for several weeks

Expect higher prices, not food shortages due to coronavirus pandemic

BY [JANET BROWN](#) GLOBAL NEWS

With some beef and poultry plants closing temporarily because of [COVID-19](#) outbreaks, are we heading towards a shortage of those products and higher prices?

Meat, pork and chicken aren't going to disappear from store shelves, but consumers could face less selection and higher prices, said Kevin Kenny, the chief operating officer with Decernis, a Washington, D.C.-based risk management firm for the food and beverage industry.

He said the national food supply chain is stressed with several poultry and beef plant closures both in Canada and the U.S.

"There will be times when you go to the supermarket and you just can't find certain pieces of meat," Kenny told Global News.

A lack of migrant agricultural workers coupled with the closing of restaurants is also causing a steep drop in demand, he said. Meanwhile, he said, large amounts of food, such as potatoes, aren't getting processed.

Last weekend, [Global News reported](#) that the Canadian Potato Council, which represents 1,000 potato growers across the country, has asked the federal government for urgent help because the demand for french fries has all but dried up.

"I do hope it's a fairly short-term problem," Kenny said. "It's definitely worrisome, and I think it will be years before we completely sort out the changes in the supply chain after this."

Federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and others have acknowledged that supply chain problems could result in higher prices and potential shortages of certain products, though has reassured the public there will be no food shortages.

Gord Johns, the NDP MP from Port Alberni, B.C., has suggested the federal government institute a "Canada Purchase Program" to essentially become the buyer of last resort for fish, seafood and other agricultural products where demand has dropped off.

Source: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6880414/supply-chain-food-shortage-coronavirus/>

[Conservative MPs press Ag Minister on support for hurting agriculture producers](#)

Conservative MPs on the House industry committee pressed Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau to introduce additional measures to support Canada's hog, cattle and poultry producers, who have been financially hurting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Bibeau said agriculture producers have access to the general Canada Emergency Business Account, which offers up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans; \$5 billion in loans through Farm Credit Canada; an array of business risk management (BRM) programs like AgriInvest or AgriStability; and other "very beneficial loans" that are available for most sectors through commercial banks. However, Conservative MP John Barlow said most producers do not qualify for any of these programs, or the amounts are "woefully inadequate."

"What programs, if anything, are you going to be announcing in the near future to address this critical situation within the hog, cattle and poultry industry?" Barlow asked.

For example, Barlow said CEBA loans of \$40,000 aren't enough for producers, noting that one pork producer in his riding puts 16 hogs through his farm each month with a feed bill of almost \$300,000 per month.

"He's already lost more than \$200,000 since [COVID-19] started," Barlow explained.

In recent weeks, meat-packing plants in Alberta and Ontario responsible for a substantial portion of Canada's beef have paused operations or reduced lines as they try to contain COVID-19 outbreaks. The delay in processing has created unmanageable backlogs, with farmers being forced to euthanize thousands of pigs they can't afford to keep feeding. Bibeau said she recognizes the situation for producers is critical and business risk management programs still exist, such as AgriInvest or AgriStability, which are jointly managed by federal, provincial and territorial governments. As well, she said producers can ask for advanced payments, though Barlow noted that the vast majority of agriculture producers don't subscribe to these programs.

Earl Dreeshen, a Conservative member on the committee, also pressed Bibeau for details on the new federal aid package for producers, referring to a report from CBC News in which spokesperson for Agriculture and Agri-food Canada said the federal government is developing a new aid package for the agriculture sector. Dreeshen said support must be offered within two weeks, noting that planting season has already arrived for farmers — many of whom are without migrant workers to fill their labour needs.

"Farmers need some assurance that they can grow and plant their crops this spring or send their livestock to market and that the COVID-type stressors have been recognized and are being compensated for," he said. "They can't wait for things to roll out at normal government speed."

Bibeau said she's working to bring additional measures to support the various sectors, but it's too soon for her to be making any announcements. She said there are many options on the table, as well as a need to coordinate with provinces and territories.

While Bibeau said the government's efforts to bring as many temporary foreign workers to Canada as possible is moving in the right direction, the government has created a portal for Canadians to find jobs in the agricultural sector, as well as putting in place additional funds for provinces to incentivize people to work in essential services like agriculture.

"I want to tell farmers that yes, we have their backs, we'll be there," she said, speaking in French.

Bibeau said farmers should focus on accessing BRM programs, though acknowledged that while they might not be perfect, the department is working with the provinces to improve them.

But Dreeshen noted the federal government would still be on the hook for more funds, noting that the AgriRecovery program is a shared burden.

"When it comes down to the decision of who is ending up paying for this, the federal government has a great commitment that is going to be required because it's a shared between the provinces and the federal government," he said.

Later in the meeting, Dreeshen questioned department representatives on whether the Health of Animals Act, which can be used to compensate farmers depopulation due to animal disease, could be used in the circumstance of COVID-19 to compensate farmers who are forced to euthanize their animals. He argued that BRM programs have not been effective for hog, cattle and poultry producers.

Siddika Mithani, president of Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said regulations in the act focus on disease only, whereas COVID-19 has raised the issue of humane slaughter. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's deputy minister Chris Forbes said the department is looking at programs like AgriRecovery, which is to be used for extraordinary costs resulting from depopulation or extended feeding of animals, with provincial colleagues.

Source: <https://ipolitics.ca/2020/04/29/conservative-mps-press-ag-minister-on-support-for-hurting-agriculture-producers/>

Meat plant covid-19 cases

A map of North American meat plant locations where the companies have reported COVID-19 positives (blue). *It is missing the BC plants.*

Red-colored pinpoints signify plants that have temporarily closed due to the virus. Green signifies reopening.

Click on the location for details specific to the location. https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1vpbLCkW_gWODiUVg_n7IZ-gLeBUWqgiD&ll=41.0507437808502%2C-88.95023143057745&z=5

FCC's thank you video to the entire food system

In these extraordinary times, we know the Canadian food value chain matters now, more than ever. From farmers, to truckers, to food processors and the people stocking our grocery shelves; everyone matters.

As a way to express our appreciation for the work you and your members do each and every day, FCC has produced a short video that celebrates the entire food system – it's our 'Thank-you' card to the food industry for pulling together during this extraordinary time.

We have also created the #WeFeedTogether hashtag as a point of unification for everyone in the industry that is connected to food. As you post content demonstrating your support for all those in the food system, we encourage you to use this hashtag as a point of unification for the importance of Canadian Agriculture and Food.

[FCC Facebook English](#)

[FCC Twitter English](#)

[FCC YouTube English](#)

From all of us at FCC, thanks for all you do.

#WeFeedTogether

We'll Ride Again

Okay, this has nothing to do with poultry, but it is a great example of marketing and recovering from a Covid-19 cancellation.

This week came the official announcement that the Calgary Stampede 2020 was canceled. While we all knew this was going to happen, this is another blow for the thousands of volunteers, the majority of the full-time staff employed year-round, and the thousands of part-time and students that are employed for the 10-day event and casually throughout the year. It's also a huge blow to the Calgary and Alberta and Canadian economy as the Stampede is one of the big events that attracts people from around the world.

The little video in the attached link was released this weekend by CS. It's an "inspirational metaphor" for anyone or any business facing adversity or teetering on the edge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQ4QbPcxV6w&feature=youtu.be>

Updates and summary from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates. This week, we added information on assistance that is available to employers of temporary foreign workers with regards to the mandatory 14-day isolation period, as well as initiatives underway to increase the amount of employees in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

1. Foreign technicians deemed essential

We received confirmation from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) that technicians specified by manufacturer or the manufacturer warranty to maintain or repair equipment necessary to support critical infrastructure, including food, are deemed essential workers. As such, they are not subject to the 14-day mandatory isolation period. By order of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, these individuals must present an

exemption form upon entering Canada. You will be able to find more information soon on [PHAC's website](#).

2. Additional financial support to businesses

On April 17, 2020, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced [new actions](#) to provide more support to businesses and organizations dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19, including:

- \$675 million to give financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's **Regional Development Agencies**.
- \$287 million to support rural businesses and communities, including by providing them with much-needed access to capital through the **Community Futures Network**.
- \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada's **Industrial Research Assistance Program**.

3. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Calculator

On April 21, 2020, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) launched the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy [calculator](#) to support employers as they prepare to apply for the CEWS. The calculator is a tool to help eligible employers estimate the amount of their wage subsidy.

4. AAFC job portal is now live - Step up to the plate - help feed Canadians

On April 21, 2020, AAFC launched a [website](#) that serves as a portal for more information on national and provincial job campaigns and sector resources. The portal is accompanied by an awareness and recruitment campaign that will encourage those who are healthy and able to take a job that contributes to Canada's food security.

5. COVID-19 Guidance – Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) and Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHR)

For additional guidance on how to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic for higher-risk and essential occupations and industries, including food processing, please consult these free [tip sheets](#). In addition, please note that CCOHS has made available [free online courses](#) to support workplaces in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, including on Pandemic planning and Pandemic Awareness.

You can also visit the [CAHR's website](#) to obtain templates for pandemic preparedness plans. You can currently access the AgriHR Toolkit for free (discount code: COVID-19).

6. Update on Statistics Canada's reports and products

On April 20, 2020, we sent you the list of reports and products that Statistics Canada will publish to continue to respond to the need for data related to the food supply. Please find **attached** a list of products that Statistics Canada continues to release that include data on the Canadian food and beverage processing industry.

7. Update on international supply chains

- **United States**

We continue to monitor impacts on global agriculture and agri-food supply chains, particularly the highly integrated Canada-U.S. supply chain. On April 18, 2020, Canada and the U.S. agreed to extend border restrictions for another 30 days.

Last week, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$20.72 billion in support of the U.S. agriculture sector – (this includes \$16 billion in direct payments and \$4.72 billion in commodity purchases). More details have yet to be publically released by the USDA, including eligibility, payments rate, and other implementation details. We are monitoring this closely to ensure that the U.S. abides by its international obligations.

- **Mexico**

The Mexican government has announced that the suspension of non-essential activities due to COVID-19 will be extended until May 30th in regions classified as high-transmission. These regions include large cities such as: Mexico City and its surroundings, Monterrey, Guadalajara and Puebla.

- **India**

The Government of India has extended its lockdown period for an additional three weeks (until May 3, 2020). There have been previous reports of delays in testing and clearances at customs for non-essential shipments. However, the Government of India has now confirmed that ports and inland container depots for cargo transport will operate 24/7, easing restrictions to facilitate transportation of all agricultural goods (essential and non-essential).

Reminders

In case you missed it:

1) Special Compliance Inspections for Employers of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program during the COVID-19 Pandemic

On April 24, 2020 AAFC circulated information released by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) regarding compliance inspections during COVID-19 for all temporary foreign workers employers. These new requirements are in accordance with changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR) that came into force on April 20, 2020.

2) CFIA Notice to Industry: Six-month extension for approved facilities to continue to export animal products

The CFIA has reached a [temporary agreement](#) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) around export and import of animal products between the two countries. It takes effect immediately and runs until September 30, 2020.

3) Update on Canada Summer Jobs

The Canada Summer Jobs call for applications closed in February 2020. The temporary changes announced by the Prime Minister on April 8, 2020 extended the application period to April 24, 2020 and increased the eligible wage subsidy. MPs are being asked to identify potential employers and local organizations who may not have originally for the program. Please consult [ESDC's website](#) for more information on the temporary flexibilities for the Canada Summer Jobs introduced in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Please continue to consult regularly the [AAFC website](#) for updates.

Conference Board of Canada - Is COVID-19 a catalyst for long-term change?

Even as cases of COVID-19 start to decline, containment measures could persist as governments work to avoid new outbreaks. The severity of disruptions has caused governments, businesses, and consumers to rethink the way they do business, both now and into the future.

Read our latest impact paper to learn more about the potential long-term impacts of COVID-19 on global business.

For the report: https://www.conferenceboard.ca/temp/b9886a6e-84a6-4b8f-a3d4-0fcf5d912627/10693_Issue-Briefing-COVID-19-Supply-Chain-Disruptions.pdf?utm_source=ECON&utm_medium=EMAIL&utm_campaign=WRU20APR27.20&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWVxpRM056RmIORGxtT1RSbSIsInQiOiJOUXdBd3JqaHhDRE9MbFdlajdBVmdKTEdWcVNkcG90STM2Q0dXeDhqS3NtaitaRElrQlIRamVkeFN2b251d2xla3NBMXNRSTFrMEpJYzI3ajROOXQ4QU9SUWRndmpmdVhZcUpkQjhBRHVxb1RSNk0xYjdiSjU0bU9DTFFKM2pWUyJ9

Farmed Animals Culled En Masse as COVID-19 Outbreaks Halt Meat and Dairy Production

With COVID-19 closures impacting meat and dairy supply chains, the industry faces a choice: stay open and risk the lives of its employees or shut down and force farmers to cull millions of animals.

Andrew Skowron

Since the start of April, many of the world's biggest meat processing companies—JBS USA, Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods, and Cargill—shut down over 20 slaughterhouses and packing facilities across the U.S. and Canada, in response to the growing numbers of staff infected with COVID-19. While producers pushed to keep slaughter lines running, these facilities became hotbeds for the virus. In Canada, one Alberta Cargill plant is now responsible for the biggest outbreak in the country, with one in four cases of the virus in the province linked to the facility.

Subsequently, meat plant closures are interrupting supply chains, leaving many farmers with too many animals that they are now killing, or will soon kill, en masse. One report by the Des Moines Register on the closures quotes U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, who estimates that the country's pork industry has about 100,000 pigs who should be sent to slaughter each day but now have nowhere to go. "Apply that over 10 days, and with a million pigs, you've got a big problem."

The Guardian reports that at least two million animals have already reportedly been killed on farms in the U.S., "and that number is expected to rise."

Similarly, due to closures of restaurants, hotels, and schools, dairy and egg producers are also seeing interruptions in their supply chains. As a result, dairy producers are dumping milk, and chicken producers are trashing eggs across the U.S. and Canada. One recent New York Times article called the amount of waste "staggering." The article cites Dairy Farmers of America, estimating as much as 3.7 million gallons of milk being dumped by farmers each day. And, "a single chicken processor is smashing 750,000 unhatched eggs every week."

Other media reports throughout April described producers gassing pigs and chickens and aborting piglets. A recent report by Reuters details how Iowa farmer Al Van Beek had nowhere to ship his pigs in order to make room for the 7,500 piglets he was expecting from his breeder sows. "He ordered his employees to give injections to the pregnant sows, one by one, that would cause them to abort their baby pigs."

On April 28th, The National Pork Board published a document entitled COVID-19: Animal Welfare Tools for Pork Producers, listing permitted methods of mass euthanasia. These include gunshot, manual blunt force trauma, electrocution, carbon dioxide, and "in times of constrained circumstances," like right now: ventilation shutdown plus.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, "ventilation shutdown involves closing up the house [barn/ shed], shutting inlets, and turning off the fans. Body heat from the herd raises the temperature in the house until animals die from hyperthermia. Numerous variables may make the time to death of 100% of animals in the barn subject to a range of times." The *plus* included by the National Pork Board means adding carbon dioxide and/or simply turning up the heat.

This week, President Donald Trump signed an executive order, forcing U.S. slaughterhouses to remain open, deeming meat production “critical” despite concerns for worker safety. There are, however, questions about the capabilities of the order, and it is yet to be seen how it may be enacted.

No such order has been made in Canada, and so culling of farmed animals has begun, along with the dumping of milk and dairy. One farmer on Prince Edward Island reportedly killed 270 pigs last week, disposing of their bodies in a landfill. According to a tweet by Alberta Pork: “Some reports suggest more than 90,000 #pigs are likely to be disposed of by #farmers.”

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, professor of food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University, puts estimates of dumped dairy at “anywhere between 50 to 160 million litres, across Canada.” For the animals, this is a no-win situation, as they would have been exploited and killed one way or another. The waste of animal products, money, and other resources, as well as the unnecessary strain on the environment, only add insult to injury. What this unique situation especially illuminates though, is the glaring fragility and unsustainability of our current food system, as well as the lack of forethought, care, and compassion for those animals bound to be food.

Source: <https://sentientmedia.org/farmed-animals-culled-en-mass-as-covid-19-outbreaks-halt-meat-and-dairy-production/>

COVID-19 and its Impact on the Chinese Economy

Provincial and municipal governments are announcing timelines for the elementary schools, junior and high schools to reopen. For example, in Shanghai, students in Grade 9 and Grade 12 return to school on April 27, while students of other grades will return on May 18. Universities are able to set their own timeline to reopen classes, of which some will reopen in May and some will remain closed.

Restaurant and food service business are still far from a full recovery. So far, hot pot and teppanyaki type of restaurants have enjoyed good bounce back, because diners have the perception that the food is cooked with high temperature. Some high-end restaurants and independent small restaurants are closing business.

Airlines are decreasing the frequency of flights. Most international flights are still under cut. Public transportation such as metro will limit passengers during rush hour.

So far, only outdoor tourist spots can be opened, but not indoors. In addition, the total number of tourists shall be maintained under 30 % of total capacity. This will be applicable to the upcoming May 1 Holiday, which is the top three tourist season in China. Travellers to Hainan, a vacation destination in southern China, from certain high-risk regions, such as Ha'erbin, Guangzhou, Wuhan are required to provide COVID-19 tests results.

Institutional sector, such as school lunches, company canteens, airline catering, as well as restaurants and hotels are big consumers of frozen pork. The slow recovery will impact the demand for frozen pork.

The offline or traditional retail is still under recovery. Shops are hosting online live streaming to introduce the products for consumers to order online. The online retail business now accounts for 1/4 of total retail business for tangible goods, which is significantly higher than before the COVID-19 situation.

COVID-19 tests are starting to become more accessible to whoever want to take the test. For example, Meituan, an online food delivery company, offer reservations for COVID-19 tests in 39 cities via their platform. The COVID-19 lab test costs about \$ 50 CAD and the result is available within 24 hours.

In short, analysts are expecting a more of U-shape economic recovery other than a V-shape recovery

COVID-19 RESOURCES - USEFUL LINKS:

Several organizations have compiled a list of COVID-19 resources helpful to producers.

No new links this week.

Key BC provincial Links

Non-medical information about COVID-19 is available 7:30am-8pm, 7 days a week at 1-888-COVID19 - (1-888-268-4319).

Download a Covid-19 self-assessment tool:

<https://bc.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR3wzChMn8L1Qn6AdCCdfb4xxzSi5dzG2FLLdYHPi0sXrrG4lCf7AutSh14>

AgSafe's Agricultural Site for COVID-19 Prevention Procedures and worker safety

<https://agsafebc.ca/tools/emergency-planning-resources/>

AgSafe's A farm worker has a suspect or confirmed COVID -19 infection.

<https://agsafebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-09-COVID-19-Employer-Guide-Worker-Infection-AgSafe.pdf>

AgSafe's The farmer owner /manager has a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 infection .

<https://agsafebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-09-COVID-19-Employer-Guide-Self-Infection-AgSafe.pdf>

AgSafe's worker self-assessment chart

<https://agsafebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-17-Self-Assessment-Flow-Chart-AgSafe.pdf>.

BC Centre for Disease Control

www.bccdc.ca

COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information

gov.bc.ca/covid19

Province of BC - Protecting BC farmers and farm workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-farms-farm-workers.pdf>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/small-business/resources/covid-19-supports>

BC Business COVID-19 Support

Servicefile:///C:/Users/Christine/Documents/Jobs%20two/Covid-19/Supports%20for%20Business%20in%20BC%20-%20Small%20Business%20BC%20April%2017,%202020.pdf

National sources:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada COVID-19 Information Page

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-information-for-industry/?id=1584732749543>

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/covid-19/cfia-information-for-industry/eng/1584462704366/1584462704709>

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

Canada's Emergency Wage Subsidy

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

Preparation for the Canada emergency wage subsidy application

https://logankatz.com/article/business-mybusinessaccount/?mc_cid=775f61dd61&mc_eid=662a56ce8a

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

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

Canada – interactive help page

https://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca/s/group-groupe?language=en_CA&token=a0B5W000000BJcSUAW

Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council

<https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs/emerging-agriworkforce-issues/information-and-updates-coronavirus-covid-19>

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

<https://www.cfa-fca.ca/resources/resources-on-covid-19/>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency COVID-19 Page

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/covid-19/eng/1584729805758/1584729899016>

CFIA's Guidance to Meat Slaughter and Processing Establishments on Prevention and Response to Suspect and Confirmed COVID-19 Plant Employees

<https://inspection.gc.ca/covid-19/cfia-information-for-industry/guidance-to-meat-slaughter-and-processing-establish/eng/1585620151816/1585620617343>

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA):

www.cmha.ca

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH):

www.camh.com

CMHA "Six tips to respond to employee anxiety about COVID-19:

<https://cmha.ca/news/6-tips-to-respond-to-employee-anxiety-about-covid-19>

CRA - Frequently Asked Questions – Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html#h2>

Do More Agriculture Foundation

<https://www.domore.ag/>

Employment and Social Development Canada - employers of Temporary Foreign workers (TFWs).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/employer-compliance/covid-faq.html>

Export Development Canada (EDC)

<https://www.edc.ca/en/about-us/newsroom/edc-covid-business-support.html>

Federal programming for producers:

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/prime-minister-announces-support-farmers-and-agri-food-businesses>

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizen Canada - travel ban exemption for Temporary Foreign Workers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-special-measures.html>

Public Safety Canada's guidance on essential services and functions in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>

Service Canada COVID-19 – Benefits and services

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Step up to the plate – Help feed Canadians

http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/canadian-agri-food-sector/step-up-to-the-plate-help-feed-canadians/?id=1587057952017&utm_source=ext_web&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=feed-canadians&utm_content=2020-04-20_0013

The Working Mind Self-Care and Resilience Guide:

<https://theworkingmind.ca/blog/working-mind-covid-19-self-care-resilience-guide>

World Health Organization (WHO) Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=359a81e7_6

Subject: Public Safety NEW PPE and Sanitization Products Inventory Survey / NOUVEAU sondage sur l'inventaire des ÉPI et des produits d'assainissement par Sécurité publique Canada

Importance: High

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In an effort to better understand the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs of critical infrastructure partners, Public Safety Canada is launching a second [survey](#) to capture more in-depth data with respect to supply and demand regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including sanitization products and COVID-19 testing kits. More specifically, the new [PPE and Sanitization Products Inventory Survey](#) seeks to capture organization contact information and sub-sector information, and to better articulate supply chain challenges and projected PPE shortages.

Please ensure that you have reviewed guidance regarding the use of PPE in your jurisdiction prior to completing the survey, as well as the PHAC guidance on [Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Participation in the survey is voluntary and the data obtained from the survey will be stored on Government of Canada infrastructure. In order to produce timely results from this [survey](#), it will be open until **8:00 PM EDT, Friday, May 1, 2020**.

This survey is being shared with CI owners and operators, Provincial and Territorial governments, and national associations to seek input from CI organizations across the country. Please feel free to share this link with other organizations in your industry through the appropriate channels. Public Safety Canada asks that you do not share this survey via public facing websites or social media platforms in order to limit participation to CI partners.

B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service

The **B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service** is operated by Small Business BC (SBBC) and is a one-stop resource for businesses that have questions about the supports available from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners. SBBC advisors are available Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at **1-833-254-4357**, covid@smallbusinessbc.ca and live chat. Support is available in several languages.

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新冠肺炎疫情期间小型企业如需帮助请拨打 Small Business BC (要求普通话或广东话服务) **1-833-254-4357**.

Supports for Businesses

Governments and the private sector are supporting businesses in British Columbia affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan, the B.C. government is providing an additional \$5 billion in income supports, tax relief and funding for people, businesses and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the links below for the most up-to-date information.

Need access to credit and financing?

Government of Canada & Financial Institutions

Speak to your Lender

Canada's largest financial institutions (**BMO**, **CIBC**, **National Bank of Canada**, **RBC**, **Scotiabank**, and **TD Bank**), as well as some credit unions like **Vancity**, are committed to working with business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible financing solutions such as payment deferrals, reduced interest rates on credit cards and temporary limit increases.

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA):

The new CEBA will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. Repaying the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (up to \$10,000). Interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions. Rural small businesses can contact **Community Futures**, which is receiving federal funding to support businesses that don't qualify for the CEBA.

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP):

The Federal government has established the BCAP to help Canadian businesses obtain financing during the current period of significant uncertainty. The BCAP will support access to financing for businesses in all sectors and regions through financial institutions. These programs will roll out in mid-April, and interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions.

- **Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:**

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium enterprises, for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligibility has been extended to all legal businesses, including cannabis businesses and those in the hospitality sector operating bars and lounges.

- **Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:**

Export Development Canada (EDC) is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium enterprises.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

<p>Government of Canada Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)</p> <p>On April 16, 2020, the Federal government announced its intent to introduce the CECRA for small businesses. The program will provide loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who in turn will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June. The B.C. government will work with the Federal government to implement the CECRA program, and more details will be available soon.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Specific Industry Sectors</p> <p>Energy Sector Supports: The Federal government has expanded BCAP to provide credit and financing support for at-risk medium-sized energy companies through BDC and EDC.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Indigenous Businesses</p> <p>The Federal government has announced up to \$306.8 million in funding to help small- and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Rural Businesses and Communities</p> <p>The Federal government is providing \$287 million to support rural businesses and communities by providing them with much-needed access to capital through the Community Futures Network. Rural businesses can contact their local Community Futures office for more information.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Farm Credit Canada Financing Products through Farm Credit Canada (FCC)</p> <p>Through an additional \$5 billion received from the Federal government, FCC is offering loan payment deferrals and other financing products to the agriculture and food industry.</p>	<p>CONTACT FCC ></p>

Need help paying your employees?

<p>Government of Canada Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)</p> <p>75% Wage Subsidy: Employers whose business has been affected by COVID-19 may be eligible for a subsidy of 75% of employee wages for up to 12 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020, to June 6, 2020. This wage subsidy enables businesses to re-hire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19, help prevent further job losses, and better position them to resume normal operations following the crisis. To check your eligibility and calculate your subsidy amount, visit the Federal government's CEWS website.</p> <p>10% Wage Subsidy: Organizations that do not qualify for the 75% CEWS may qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10% of remuneration paid from March 18, 2020, to before June 20, 2020, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Canada Summer Jobs Program</p> <p>Temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help employers hire summer staff and provide young Canadians access to the jobs they need during COVID-19. Changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100% of the provincial 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 	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>

Government of Canada

Employment Insurance (EI) Work Sharing Program

For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours as a result of COVID-19, this program provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers. The eligibility of such agreements has been extended to 76 weeks, eligibility requirements have been eased, and the application process has been streamlined.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Government of Canada

Temporary Foreign Workers

The Federal government has announced \$50 million to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers put in place the measures necessary to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period required for everyone arriving from abroad. Employers will receive \$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker to ensure that mandatory 14-day isolation period requirements are fully met.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Need help with taxes?

Government of Canada

Federal Business Taxes

General Sales Tax (GST) and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) remittances and customs duty payments are deferred to June 30, 2020.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Income Tax: The Federal government is allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020.

No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. For self-employed individuals or those who have spouses or common-law partners that are self-employed, the deadline to pay any balance due for your individual federal income tax and benefit return has been extended from April 30, 2020, to September 1, 2020.

B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan

Provincial Business Taxes

Businesses with a payroll over \$500,000 can defer their employer health tax payments until September 30, 2020. Businesses with a payroll under this threshold are already exempt from the tax.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Provincial business tax filing and payment deadlines have also been extended until September 30, 2020 for:

- provincial sales tax (PST);
- municipal and regional district tax;
- tobacco tax;
- motor fuel tax; and
- carbon tax.

The scheduled April 1, 2020 increase to the provincial carbon tax, as well as the new PST registration requirements on e-commerce and the implementation of PST on sweetened carbonated drinks, will be delayed with timing to be reviewed by September 30, 2020.

B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan

B.C. Relief for Commercial Property Owners and Tenants

The B.C. government is reducing the school property tax rate for commercial properties to achieve an average 25% reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses, providing up to \$700 million in relief. This enhances the 50% reduction to the provincial school property tax rate that was originally announced for classes 4, 5 and 6 as part of B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

The date that late payment penalties apply for commercial properties in classes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 has been postponed to October 1, 2020 to give businesses and landlords more time to pay their reduced property tax without penalty.

Looking for ways to pivot your business operations?

Government of Canada

Help Canada Combat COVID-19

Contact the Government of Canada if your business can supply products and services, or rapidly scale up production or re-tool manufacturing lines to develop products made in Canada that will help in the fight against COVID-19.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Government of British Columbia

B.C. COVID-19 Supply Hub

The B.C. government is looking for both medical and non-medical products and services. Please contact the B.C. government if your business can donate or supply products listed on the COVID-19 Supply Hub.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Government of British Columbia

Supporting B.C. Businesses to Pivot their Operations

B.C. Restaurant Alcohol Delivery:

Licensed restaurants are now temporarily allowed to use servers with a Serving it Right certificate to deliver liquor products alongside the purchase of a meal.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Manufacturing:

Distillers in British Columbia are temporarily authorized to manufacture alcohol-based hand sanitizer to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

B.C. Farmers' Markets Online:

The B.C. government is providing \$55,000 to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets to help member markets move to an online model to continue providing consumers with locally grown and prepared food products.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Local Organizations

Support from Local Organizations

Participate in “buy local” and similar business support campaigns by contacting business organizations in your area, such as the Small Business BC Marketplace, Support Local YYJ, YYJ Locals for Locals, Things That Are Open - Kamloops.

Check with local organizations for more information.

Financial Institutions

Financing to Help Businesses to Pivot their Operations

Financial institutions are supporting businesses to pivot their operations with financing products, such as the Unity Pivot Business Loan from Vancity which offers loans up to \$150,000 to businesses that have changed track to support the COVID-19 specifically, or have had to adapt to the changed environment.

Check with your financial institution for more information.

Other supports and resources available to businesses

B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan

B.C. Longer-Term Economic Plan

\$1.5 billion in provincial funding will support economic stimulus once the pandemic has passed. The B.C. government is working in partnership with the business and labour sectors to develop the long-term plan for economic recovery.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

<p>Regional Organizations Support for Regional Businesses</p> <p>Community Futures: Businesses operating in rural communities can check with their local Community Futures office for emergency loans and supports to assist with COVID-19-related business interruption, including payment and interest breaks.</p> <p>Island Coastal Economic Trust: Direct, one-on-one service delivery programs to help the tourism sector and other enterprises affected by COVID-19 with rapid recovery have been developed in collaboration with Island Coastal Economic Trust, Tourism Vancouver Island and Innovation Island Technology Association.</p> <p>Columbia Basin Trust: To aid local small businesses in the Columbia Basin with COVID-19 challenges, the Trust will provide low-interest loans through the new Small Business Working Capital Loan program to help them meet their immediate needs. The Trust will also increase support to existing programs, including the Impact Investment Fund, Basin RevUP, Summer Works, School Works, the Career Internship Program, Basin Business Advisors and Training Fee Support.</p>	<p>LOCATIONS ></p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Arts, Culture and Sports Sectors</p> <p>A new COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations will provide \$500 million to help address the financial needs of affected organizations within these sectors. The fund will be administered by Canadian Heritage via contribution agreements. Support will be provided in a manner consistent with other COVID-19 supports such as the CEWS and the CEBA.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>BC Hydro Support for BC Hydro Customers</p> <p>COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program: BC Hydro is providing residential and commercial customers the option to defer bill payments or arrange flexible payment plans with no penalty. Customers are encouraged to call BC Hydro at 1-800-224-9376 to discuss options.</p> <p>COVID-19 Relief Fund: Businesses that needed to close due to COVID-19 may be eligible to have their electricity use charges waived for up to three months. Large industrial companies can defer 50% of their payments for the next three months.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>FortisBC Support for FortisBC Customers</p> <p>FortisBC's Customer Recovery Fund is supporting residential customers and small businesses impacted by COVID-19 with bill deferrals, interest free repayment schedules and bill credits.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Insurance Corporation of British Columbia ICBC Commercial Insurance</p> <p>ICBC customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty. Deferment is also available for commercial fleets. Apply online or call 1-800-665-6442.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>WorkSafeBC Support for Employers</p> <p>WorkSafeBC is postponing the reporting and payment deadlines for Q1 2020 to June 30, 2020 for employers who report and pay on a quarterly basis. Employers who report and pay on an annual basis may defer until March 2021.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Young Entrepreneurs</p> <p>The Federal government is providing \$20.1 million in support which allow Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Private Sector Organizations Other Goodwill Supports</p> <p>Private sector organizations such as Facebook, Shopify, Hootsuite and Uber Eats are offering enhanced services and other supports to help businesses through difficult times.</p>	<p>Check with your industry organizations for more information.</p>

Supports for Workers, Individuals and Families

Governments are providing supports directly to workers, individuals and families facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers are encouraged to inform their workers of the supports available to them.

Have you been impacted by COVID-19?	
<p>Government of Canada Enhancements to Employment Insurance (EI)</p> <p>The Federal government has waived the one-week waiting period for individuals in imposed quarantine that claim EI sickness benefits. The requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits has been waived.</p>	<p>APPLY HERE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)</p> <p>The Federal government is providing a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. Learn more and apply through the Federal government’s portal which will direct you to the service option that best fits your situation (i.e. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or the CERB). You can also apply over the phone: 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan Emergency Benefit for Workers</p> <p>The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to people whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19. B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance or the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit are eligible.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>B.C COVID-19 Action Plan Enhanced Climate Action Tax Credit</p> <p>In July 2020, eligible families of four will receive up to \$564 and eligible individuals will receive up to \$218 in an enhanced payment. This boosts the regular climate action tax credit payment of up to \$112.50 per family of four and up to \$43.50 per adult.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Enhanced Canada Child Benefit (CCB)</p> <p>The maximum annual CCB payment amounts will be increased, only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by \$300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately \$550 on average; these families will receive an extra \$300 per child as part of their May payment.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Enhanced Goods and Services Tax Credit (GSTC)</p> <p>A one-time special payment in early April 2020 through the GSTC for individuals who file their income tax and benefit return before June 1, 2020. This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) & Registered Pension Plans (RPPs)</p> <p>Required minimum withdrawals from RRIFs will be reduced by 25% for 2020, in recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors’ retirement savings. This will provide flexibility to seniors concerned that they may be required to liquidate their RRIF assets to meet minimum withdrawal requirements. Similar rules would apply to individuals receiving variable benefit payments under a defined contribution RPP.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Financial Institutions Speak to your Lender</p> <p>Canada’s largest financial institutions (BMO, CIBC, National Bank of Canada, RBC, Scotiabank, and TD Bank), as well as some credit unions like Vancity are committed to working with personal and business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions. Support will include such measures as up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products such as reduced interest rates on credit cards.</p>	<p>Contact your financial institution for more information.</p>

<p>B.C COVID-19 Action Plan Support for Renters</p> <p>The B.C. government is providing temporary relief for eligible renters of up to \$500/month for four months through the BC Temporary Rental Supplement (BC-TRS) Program, imposing a moratorium on evictions (with some exceptions) during the COVID-19 pandemic, and placing a freeze on new annual rent increases by landlords.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>BC Rent Bank Rent Bank Programs</p> <p>Renters in some parts of B.C. can receive emergency help for rent payments and one-time interest-free loans.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada & B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan Support for Students</p> <p><u>Canada Emergency Student Benefit:</u> Through the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, the Federal government will provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the CERB. This benefit will offer \$1,250/month for eligible students or \$1,750/month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities, and will be available from May to August 2020.</p> <p><u>B.C. Emergency Funding Supports for Students:</u> Students attending B.C.'s 25 public post-secondary institutions, who are experiencing emergency financial pressures, will benefit from a one-time investment of \$3.5 million in emergency financial assistance. Students in need may contact their school's financial aid office, which will assist with the application process.</p> <p><u>Canada Student Loan Assistance:</u> The Federal government is placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans.</p> <p><u>B.C. Student Loan Assistance:</u> Starting March 30, 2020, the B.C. government is freezing B.C. student loan payments for six months.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p> <p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Tax Filing Deadlines for Individuals Extended</p> <p>The deadline for individuals to file income tax and benefit returns has been deferred until June 1, 2020. The deadline to pay any balance due for individual income tax and benefit returns for 2019 has been extended from April 30, 2020, to September 1, 2020. This means individuals will not be assessed any penalties or interest if the balance due is paid by September 1, 2020.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Support for Indigenous Communities</p> <p>Indigenous Services Canada is working closely with First Nation partners to protect the health and safety of First Nations and support First Nations communities in responding to the public health crisis resulting from COVID-19.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>BC Hydro Support for BC Hydro Customers</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program:</u> All BC Hydro customers have the option to defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty. Residential customers facing temporary financial hardship and possible disconnection of their service due to job loss, illness, or loss of a family member may be eligible for BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund, which provides access to grants of up to \$600 to pay bills.</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Relief Fund for Residential Customers:</u> Residential customers who have lost employment or have become unable to work due to COVID-19 may be eligible for free bill credit equal to three months of their average monthly electricity consumption between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>FortisBC Support for FortisBC Customers</p> <p>FortisBC's Customer Recovery Fund is supporting residential customers and small businesses impacted by COVID-19 with bill deferrals, interest free repayment schedules and bill credits.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>

<p>Insurance Corporation of British Columbia Support for ICBC Customers ICBC customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty. Apply online or call 1-800-665-6442.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of Canada Emergency Travel Assistance Canadians who need immediate financial assistance to return to Canada can access an emergency loans of up to \$5,000. Canadians abroad who need urgent assistance can email sos@international.gc.ca.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>B.C. COVID-19 Action Plan Support for Parents with Children in Child Care The B.C. government is supporting the child care sector and ensuring parents working in essential services continue to have access to child care through the Temporary Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers system.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Government of British Columbia Support for the B.C.'s Most Vulnerable People currently receiving income or disability assistance and low-income seniors receiving the B.C. Senior's Supplement will be provided a temporary exemption of federal employment insurance benefits, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. They will also receive an automatic \$300-monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for 3 months if not eligible for the federal emergency support programs.</p>	<p>LEARN MORE ></p>
<p>Municipalities and Service Providers Other Supports Some municipalities and service providers are announcing adjustments day by day. Look online to see if supports like these are available in your community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred municipal utilities payments • Waived local transit fares • Payment and international roaming options from your telecommunications provider • Freezing or refunding membership fees at facilities such as gyms 	<p>Check with your municipality and service providers for more information.</p>