



COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

For Friendship Centres and Provincial / Territorial Associations with existing enterprises and small businesses the NAFC has assembled a list of new supports from the federal government and from provincial governments:

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

1. Temporary Wage Subsidy

The Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers is a three-month measure that will allow eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

For more information regarding the Temporary Wage Subsidy and to see if you qualify please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>

2. Business Credit Availability Program

On March 13, 2020, the Government announced the establishment of a Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to help Canadian businesses obtain financing during the current period of significant uncertainty. The BCAP will support access to financing for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions.

Through this program, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will provide more than \$65 billion in direct lending and other types of financial support at market rates to businesses with viable business models whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted. By working in close cooperation with financial institutions, this program will fill gaps in market access and leverage additional lending by private sector institutions.

For more information on the BCAP please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html>

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- Loan payments on business loans administered by the Innovation and Business Investment Corporation are deferred by three months.



- Workers safety training certificates that expired since February 28, 2020 have been extended to June 30, 2020, with workers having to recertify by August 30, 2020.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/newfoundland-and-labrador-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

NOVA SCOTIA

- Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.
- Government will defer payments until June 30 for small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums.
- Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through credit unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30, enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000, and for those who might not qualify for a loan, government will guarantee the first \$100,000.
- Small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days.
- NSBI has updated the **Small Business Development Program** to serve Nova Scotia businesses better. The program helps businesses work with a private consultant to overcome a pain point or barrier, or a business expert to help identify and develop the leadership skills needed to scale your company.
- The government of Nova Scotia is encouraging landlords to defer rent payments for their commercial tenants for 3 months, spreading the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term.
- If you're deferring rent because your tenant's business is shut down or significantly restricted by the Health Protection Act order, you could be eligible for coverage (up to a maximum of \$50,000 per landlord and \$15,000 per tenant) if you can't recover the deferred rent.



- To be eligible for the COVID-19 Small Business Rental Deferral Guarantee Program, landlords must register with the Department of Business by 3 April by emailing NSRentDeferral@novascotia.ca.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/nova-scotia-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

NEW BRUNSWICK

- Waiving late penalties on property taxes, though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19.
- Deferring interest and principal payments on existing loans, as an immediate measure, and on a case-by-case basis – the Government of New Brunswick will defer loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans. This support will enable businesses to have immediate relief if they are experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19. This assistance is available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan.
- New operating loans for small business, to support our small businesses, the Government of New Brunswick will provide operating loans to support small businesses. Loans will help companies respond to challenges associated with COVID-19. Loans will be up to \$200,000. Payments of interest and principal will not be required during the first 12 months.
- Opportunities New Brunswick (ONB) will work with a trusted partner to administer the application process.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/new-brunswick-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- The government has announced **Emergency Working Capital Financing** to help small businesses maintain normal business operations. Each qualified company is



eligible to receive up to \$100,000. To qualify, you must be: an existing small business (start-ups not eligible) located and operating in the Province of PEI, and have been generating revenue on PEI, registered to conduct business within the Province of PEI, satisfactory in terms of credit rating and without any defaulted outstanding debt obligation on file in the Province's Central Default Registry. [Click here](#) to find out how you can apply.

- As well, the **Worker Assistance Program** provides funding for employers who have employees working a reduced number of hours. Private sector businesses who have workers who have seen a reduction in weekly hours by at least 8 hours are eligible to apply. Employers will receive a maximum of \$250 per week per employee whose hours were reduced.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/prince-edward-island-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

QUEBEC

- To help businesses whose cash flow is affected by the impact of COVID-19, the government has implemented the **Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses**. This program provides a minimum of \$50,000 in emergency financing in the form of a loan or a loan guarantee. To access this program, you must contact your account or project manager directly if you are a client of Investissement Québec. If you are not already a client, you need to get in touch with your financial institution, which will then contact Investissement Québec.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/quebec-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

ONTARIO

- Providing a **five-month interest and penalty-free period** to make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes, providing \$6 billion in relief to help support Ontario businesses when they need it the most
- Deferring the upcoming quarterly (June 30) remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days. This will provide municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals of over \$1.8 billion to local residents and businesses while ensuring school boards receive their funding.



- Providing up to \$1.9 billion in financial relief by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for up to six months.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/ontario-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

MANITOBA

- The Manitoba Government is extending tax payment filing deadlines for business: The province is extending the April and May filing deadlines for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000. Businesses will have up to two additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the payroll tax.
- The Ministry of Finance will also work with businesses regarding flexible repayment options above the \$10,000 cap.
- Retail sales tax (RST) returns for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly RST remittances of no more than \$10,000 per month that would normally be due on April 20th and May 20th will now be due on June 20, 2020.
- Businesses that file on a quarterly basis that have a due date of April 20, 2020 will now have the due date extended to June 22, 2020.
- Businesses that qualify for the above filing extension that were not able to file and remit their February sales tax return by the March 20th due date will not be assessed a late filing penalty and interest will not be applied until after June 22, 2020.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/manitoba-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

SASKATCHEWAN

- Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have three-month relief from penalty and interest charges.
- Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected.



- Audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and minimize the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel.
- All Crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan customers whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

For more information visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses>

ALBERTA

- Corporate income tax balances and instalment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 are deferred until August 31, 2020 to increase employers' access to cash so they can pay employees, address debts and continue operations.
- Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer WCB premium payments until 2021.
- For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021 – saving businesses \$350 million.
- Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due.
- Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.
- Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.
- Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until Aug. 31 for amounts that become due to government on or after March 27, 2020. Payments deferred until Aug. 31 will not be subject to penalties or interest.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/alberta-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>



BRITISH COLUMBIA

- The BC Government is deferring many provincial tax filings to Sept 30, 2020. This is effective as of March 23, 2020 and means the deadline to file and pay for the following taxes has been extended.
- The BC Government is also delaying the increase of the Carbon Tax to Sept 30, 2020 (initially planned for April 1, 2020), and cutting the Provincial Property tax (i.e. Provincial School Tax) rate in half this year for commercial and industrial properties (Class 4, 5 and 6). The latter is especially important, as it is a tax cut and will translate into meaningful savings for your business if you are responsible for paying property taxes (e.g. own the property or are on a triple net lease).
- To support non-profits, service delivery agencies, and childcare providers, BC will continue to fund these agencies regardless of if they are open, closed or regular operations have been disrupted in any way. Licensed childcare providers staying open will receive enhanced funding to keep operations going. They will be eligible for seven times their average monthly operating funding from government.

For more information visit: <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/advocacy/british-columbia-covid-19-relief-measures-your-business>

YUKON

- Paid Sick Leave Rebate for employers: The Yukon government announced a new rebate program for employers to help benefits workers and self-employed individuals (announced March 26). The rebate covers a maximum of 10 days of wages per employee (not including benefits, payroll taxes, or deduction) to allow for sick leave and/or for a 14-day self-isolation period. The maximum daily rebate is \$378.13 per day, per employee. The program will run from March 11, 2020, to September 11, 2020.

For more information visit: <https://yukon.ca/en/work#yukon-business-support>

NWT

- Low interest loans to business operators through the Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC). Loans of up to \$25,000 are available to NWT businesses at a rate of 1.75%. To see if you are eligible and to apply, [click here](#).
- Clients of the BDIC can also apply to reduce or defer up to three months of loan payments without penalty or additional interest charges. Businesses will be



automatically approved and do not require demonstration of financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Requests must be received no later than the 24th day of the month prior to the payment date.

For more information, [click here.](#)

NUNAVUT

- Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$5,000 in support in the form of a non-repayable contribution.

Interested small businesses can get more information at: <https://gov.nu.ca/edt/programs-services/small-business-support-program>