



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

I hope that each one of you is managing to cope with this difficult situation. In this newsletter, I want to share with you the latest actions taken by the federal government to support Canadians and businesses affected by COVID-19.

You will notice that the first measures that we announced aim to offer a lifeline to as many people as possible so that everyone is able to weather the storm in dignity and quickly resume their participation in our society and our economy.

In the current circumstances, we have opted to favour speed over perfection. In the coming days and in the coming weeks, we will be clarifying the various new programs and taking further steps to ensure that no one is forgotten.

I invite you to regularly visit CANADA.CA for reliable, up-to-date information on the situation. Do not hesitate to contact my team and me if you have any questions or comments.

Take care of yourself and of your loved ones,

Marie-Claude Bibeau



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CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit** (CERB) replaces the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit, and will be available for the week beginning on March 15, 2020 and ending October 3, 2020.

The new benefit will help workers who have lost their wages due to COVID-19. A **weekly amount of \$500 will be paid in four-week installments** for up to 16 weeks.

After the 16-week period covered by the CERB, Canadians who are eligible for EI regular or EI sickness benefits will still be able to access these benefits if still unemployed.

The benefit will be available to wage earners, self-employed individuals and contract workers residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old, and who:

- Have earned **at least \$5,000 in 2019** from any or a combination of the following sources: employment, self-employment, Employment Insurance maternity and parental benefits, and/or similar benefit paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan;
- Are **without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in a four-week period**, for reasons related to COVID-19.

Individuals will be asked to **certify that they have not quit their job** and have been without income for at least 14 consecutive days within a four-week period.

Temporary foreign workers and international students in Canada may be eligible to receive the benefit if they stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

Workers who are already receiving EI regular and sickness benefits as of today will continue to receive their benefits and should not apply to the CERB.

Workers who have already applied for EI and whose application has not yet been processed would not need to reapply they will be automatically transferred to the CERB.

The CERB will be accessible through a **secure web portal** and via a phone service starting **early April**. Our goal is to make sure that Canadians receive their CERB payments **within 10 days of application**.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2UROI3n>.

2 things to do **BEFORE** you apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit



Sign up for My Account through the Canada Revenue Agency.

This will speed up your application process when applications open the week of April 6.



Sign up for direct deposit.

This will help get money in to your account faster once your application is processed.

MANDATORY SELF ISOLATION

Our federal government has announced an Emergency Order that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to **self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19**.

Failure to comply with the Order will result in a fine up of to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months. Spot checks will be conducted by the Government of Canada to verify compliance.

All individuals permitted to enter Canada are subject to this Order, with the exception of certain people who cross the border regularly to ensure the continued flow of goods and services and those who provide essential services.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2QNxePA>.

SUPPORT THE PUBLISHING AND NEWS SECTORS

It is essential that the media receive the support they need during these difficult times so that Canadians stay informed. Our government has announced **\$30 million** to create a national awareness campaign and ensure the media has the support needed.

The Independent Advisory Board on Eligibility for Journalism Tax Measures is now in place. Journalism organizations that meet the Board's criteria could receive the **Qualified Canadian Journalism Organization designation**, which is a prerequisite to take advantage of the new tax measures.

Moreover, funding requests for the **Canada Book Fund** and **Canada Periodical Fund** will be simplified so as to quickly provide the financial support needed.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2UFoqRV>.

SUPPORT FOR CANADIANS

MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR SENIORS

The Government of Canada will contribute **\$9 million** through **United Way Canada** to help local organizations provide essential and immediate services to our seniors impacted by COVID-19.

These services could include the delivery of groceries, medication or other essential items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community supports.

For more information, consult the following link:
<https://bit.ly/2WWI7rZ>.

REASSURE OUR YOUTH

The Government of Canada will give **\$7.5 million** in funding to **Kids Help Phone** to provide young Canadians with the mental health support they need during this difficult time.

For more information, consult the following link:
<https://bit.ly/2WWI7rZ>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY

The **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** is a key measure to ensure that workers are able to count on a source of income through this difficult time. It will enable employers to re-hire workers previously laid off, and to keep those who are already on payroll, so that Canada's workforce and supply chains are able to return from this crisis in a strong position.

Businesses, registered charities and non-profit organizations will be eligible for the temporary wage subsidy if their revenues have decreased by at least 30% in March, April or May 2020, when compared to the same month in 2019.

The temporary wage subsidy, retroactive to March 15, 2020 will be available until June 6, 2020.

This subsidy can cover **up to 75%** of the first \$58,700 paid to an employee in salary. Thus, an employer could receive a maximum subsidy of \$847 per week, per employee.

Eligible employers would be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying through a Canada Revenue Agency online portal. More details regarding how to apply for the program will follow. Those organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration paid from March 18 to before June 20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/39vvKEY>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

This \$25 billion program will provide **interest-free loans of up to \$40,000** to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs.

To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.

Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25%, up to \$10,000.

Small businesses and non-profits should contact their current financial institution to apply for these loans.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2JxyiYl>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

DEFERRAL OF SALES TAX REMITTANCE

Businesses, including self-employed individuals, will be allowed to defer payments of the Goods and Services Tax as well as the Harmonized Sales Tax.

The Minister of National Revenue will extend until **June 30, 2020** the time that:

- Monthly filers have to remit amounts collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting period;
- Quaterly filers have to remit amounts collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period.

For more information, contact the **Canada Revenue Agency** at **1-800-959-7775** or consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3bJoDdl>.

DEFERRAL OF CUSTOMS DUTY AND SALES TAX FOR IMPORTERS

Payments owing for customs duties and the GST on imports are due before the first day of the month following the month in which the Statements of Accounts are issued.

Given the exceptional situation, payment deadlines for statements of accounts for March, April and May are being deferred to **June 30, 2020**.

For more information about particular accounting and payment obligations on imported goods, contact the Canada Border Services Agency by calling **1-800-335-3237** or by sending an email to contact@cbsa.gc.ca.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

LOAN GUARANTEE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Export Development Canada (EDC) is collaborating with financial institutions to guarantee new operating credit and cash flow term loans to SMEs, up to **\$6.25 million**.

Interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2JxyiYl>.

CO-LENDING PROGRAM FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The Business Development Bank of Canada, together with financial institutions, will provide up to **\$6.25 million** in additional liquidity to Canadian businesses through the new co-lending program for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2JxyiYl>.

BEST SANITARY PRACTICES

To have up-to-date information concerning the coronavirus, we invite you to contact:

- The Canadian Government Website : <https://bit.ly/2QFBAwY>
- Phone **1-833-347-4397** (toll free).

If ever you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), contact **1-877-644-4545** (toll free).

For more information on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the **workplace**, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3adWvz3>.



Public health experts recommend that we:

- Limit our contact with other people by practicing social distancing;
- Frequently wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if we don't have access to water and soap;
- Cough and sneeze in a tissue or in the crux of our arm
- Avoid touching our eyes, nose or mouth if we haven't previously washed our hands;
- Use approved sanitizers to clean hard surfaces;
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched (telephones, door handles, etc...)

To learn more on risk prevention, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Uv9d5M> or send an email to phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca.