

## COVID-19 Financial Assistance to Businesses and Individuals

Federal and provincial support measures and terms are updated regularly as ongoing needs are assessed. The information below can change without notice. Please refer to provincial and federal websites shown for the most up-to-date information:

- **Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html>
- **Alberta - COVID-19 Supports for Albertans**  
<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>

## SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES

### **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

**Update: The April 19, 2021 Federal Budget proposes to further extend this benefit beyond June 2021, to be phased out by September 25, 2021.**

***The Federal government has made ongoing changes to this program, including:***

- ***Extension to June 2021***
- ***Qualification for employers with revenue decline of less than 30%***
- ***Expanded definition of "eligible entity"***
- ***Calculations changes***

***Refer to the website for further details.***

Based on their drop in revenue, eligible employers may receive a subsidy for claim periods from March 15 to June 2021. ***(Note new extension proposed)***

Employers may also be eligible for a subsidy on salaries and wages paid to new employees.

Includes employers of all sizes and across all sectors of the economy, with the exception of public sector entities.

Special rules apply for registered charities and non-profit organizations, and for eligible employers that derive all or substantially all revenue from one or more non-arms-length person or partnership.

Qualifying employers must:

- Attest to a qualifying rate of decline in gross eligible revenues. (See website for details on calculation methods based on claim periods).
- Make best efforts to top up employee salaries to 100% of maximum wages covered
- Endeavor to rehire recently laid-off employees.

**EI Benefits received by employees through the Work-Sharing Program will reduce the benefit that their employer is entitled to receive under CEWS.**

**Where employer gets the wage subsidy for an employee, CERB is not available to that employee.**

## **Application:**

The first application deadline for this program was **January 31, 2021**, for claim periods 1-5, ending August 1, 2020. **Applications are typically due within 180 days after the end of the claim period.**

A separate application must be filed for each claim period and for each payroll account. Deadlines and program terms differ for different claim periods.

Businesses may apply using Canada Revenue Agency's *My Business Account* portal, or through their registered representative using *Represent a Client*, or by signing in to the *CRA Web Forms Application* at [https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/ghnf/netf/prot/ntrWgSbsdyStndAln.action?request\\_locale=en\\_CA](https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/ghnf/netf/prot/ntrWgSbsdyStndAln.action?request_locale=en_CA)

Employers are required to repay amounts paid under CEWS if they do not meet eligibility requirements. Claims will be subject to verification and severe penalties may be imposed in cases of fraudulent claims.

Review the website for claim periods, claim period deadlines and further important details and changes.

## **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html>

**Update: The April 19, 2021 Federal Budget proposes to extend this benefit beyond June 2021, to be phased out by September 25, 2021.**

This program is designed to provide direct rent and mortgage support to eligible small businesses tenants affected by Covid-19 and will operate from September 27, 2020 to June 2021. **(Note new extension proposed)**

The subsidy is based on a sliding scale determined by the decrease in revenue, up to a subsidy maximum of 65% of eligible expenses. The base CERS subsidy is largely based on the revenue decline computation of the CEWS program, therefore CEWS elections may impact future CERS claims.

Application may be made through either the CRA portals: MyBusiness Account (MyBA) or Represent a Client.

An application must be made for each claim period and filed no later than 180 days after the end of each period.

### **To be eligible you must:**

- Own property in Canada that is real or immovable and that is used by your business for its ordinary activities
- Have eligible rent expenses totalling no more than \$75,000 per location per period and \$300,000 per entity per period
- Have experienced a revenue loss during a CERS claim period
- Have a payroll account as of March 15, 2020 (or have been using a payroll service provider) or have a business number (BN) as of September 27, 2020.

### **Non-eligible properties include:**

- Residential properties such as your home or cottage used by you, your family or other non-arm's-length persons
- Properties you own that are primarily used to earn rental income from arm's-length parties

## Eligible Expenses

- For Renters
  - Gross rent or rent based on a percentage of sales or similar structure
  - Regular instalments of operating expenses (i.e. insurance, utilities, common area maintenance expenses, customarily charged to the lessee under a net lease)
  - Property taxes
  - Regular instalments of other amounts payable to the lessor for ancillary services (i.e. parking fee)
- For Property Owners
  - Property taxes
  - Property insurance
  - Interest on commercial mortgages (as long as the debt doesn't exceed the mortgage at the time the property was acquired, or the cost of the property)

Note:

- For renters: Only amounts paid or payable to an arm's-length party are considered eligible expenses
- For property owners: If you earned any revenue from sub-leasing space to arm's-length parties, you must subtract that revenue from your eligible expenses
- Expenses must fall within the claim period for which you are applying. Note that the CERS calculator prorates eligible expenses to 28 days.
- Eligible rent expenses are limited to those under agreements entered into before October 9, 2020 and must be in writing.

## Ineligible expenses include the following:

- Sales tax (e.g. GST/HST)
- Amounts paid under a guarantee, security, or similar indemnity of covenant
- Payments arising due to default under the agreement by the eligible entity
- Interest and penalties on unpaid amounts
- Fees payable for infrequent items or special services, and
- Reconciliation adjustment payments

## Lockdown Support

An additional 25% support may be available if your business is forced to temporarily close or significantly restrict operations for one week or longer due to a COVID-19 related public health order.

## Calculating the subsidy

The program's website offers an online tool to calculate the subsidy amount:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy/cers-calculate-subsidy-amount.html>

## **Information required for the application**

- Monthly qualifying revenue amounts from 2019 and 2020
- Eligible expenses broken down by business location
- Property address
- Name and contact information for your
  - Mortgage holder (for property owners)
  - Landlord (for tenants)
- Affiliated entities will also require:
  - Number of affiliated entities in the agreement
  - Percentage assigned to you under the agreement with your affiliated entities
  - Business number of each affiliated entity
  - Percentage assigned to each affiliated entity under the agreement

## **Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP)**

The April 19, 2021 Federal Budget proposes this program to provide eligible employers with a subsidy of up to 50% of the incremental remuneration paid to eligible employees between June 6, 2021 and November 20, 2021.

To be eligible, a for-profit employer would be a Canadian-controlled private corporation with a CRA payroll account open (by the company or their payroll service provider) as of March 15, 2020. The higher of CEWS or the new CRHP could be claimed for a particular qualifying period, but not both.

## **EI Work Sharing Program**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/apply.html>

**Update: This program has been extended to September 26, 2021.**

The federal EI Work Sharing Program supports employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of COVID-19. This allows for job sharing of employees to avoid full layoff. The program was initially **effective until March 14, 2021**, then extended from 38 weeks to 76 weeks.

## **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

<https://ceba-cuec.ca>

**Updates: Application period has been extended; applicants have until June 30, 2021 to apply. As of December 4, 2020, qualifying applicants can receive a \$60,000 loan, with eligibility for loan forgiveness of 33% (up to \$20,000) if the loan is repaid on or before December 31, 2022.**

Provides for interest-free government-guaranteed loans of up to \$60,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover non-deferrable operating costs where revenues are reduced due to COVID-19.

Effective June 26, 2020, eligibility was extended to small businesses that do not have a payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, and family-owned corporations paying dividends.

As of October 26, 2020, the program expanded to allow eligible Canadian business that operate through a personal bank account to apply upon opening a business operating account with their primary financial institution.

If the loan is not repaid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a three-year term loan at 5 percent interest.

To qualify, the borrower must:

- be a law-abiding Canadian business earning in operation as of March 1, 2020, earning revenue from the regular supply of good or services
- have a federal tax registration
- have eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1,500,000 in 2020.
- have employment income paid of more than \$20,000 and less than \$1.5M for the 2019 calendar year, or

Applicants with less than \$20,000 employment income paid must have an operating account at a participating financial institution and a CRA business number, must have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, and must have eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million.

Contact your primary financial institution for additional information and to apply.

### **Western Economic Diversification Canada**

<https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20052.asp>

Provides support and resources to new and existing entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations looking to strengthen the economy of Western Canada

Established the new **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** to mitigate financial pressures and support business projects to prepare for recovery.

Existing clients may be eligible to receive additional funding and/or flexible arrangements.

### **Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)**

<https://www.cdev.gc.ca/leeff-factsheet/>

Provides bridge financing to Canada's largest employers to avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable businesses. Companies must be seeking \$60 million or more, have significant operations or workforce in Canada, and not be involved in active insolvency proceedings.

### **Other Bank Relief Measures**

Canadian banks are offering support for those suffering hardships, including deferred mortgage and loan payments, waiver or reduction of fees and interest, and temporary lines of credit or limit increases for businesses.

Needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Contact your financial institution to apply.

### **Non-Profits Assistance**

Community Initiatives Program Operating Grant

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=71334634BDF0E-D1EB-45E8-203CD702CFAD9684>

Funding will be prioritized for 'front-line' small and medium-sized organizations that focus on food security, shelter and housing, and addictions and mental health. Limit for grant requests will be increased from \$60,000 to \$75,000, and the three-year eligibility period will be waived to allow organizations in need of operational funding to apply. See the Community Grants website for information and updates.

### Alberta Charitable Donation Matching Program

<https://www.alberta.ca/charitable-donation-matching-program.aspx>

Between April 15 and May 31, 2020, the Government of Alberta matched donations up to \$2 million dollars to designated Alberta-based charities and non-profit organizations with COVID-19 fundraising campaigns.

### **Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)**

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/industrial-research-assistance-program-innovative-solutions-canada-covid-19-challenge-program>

Provides advice, connections, and funding to help increase health and biomedical innovation capacity and market new ideas.

Available to early-stage small and medium-sized businesses (fewer than 500 staff) that are unable to access other COVID-19 business supports.

### **Futurpreneur Canada**

<https://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/2020/covid-19-resources-for-small-businesses/>

This program for young entrepreneurs provides financing, mentoring and support tools.

### **Tariff Relief on Select Protective Products**

[www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-19-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-19-eng.html)

This Remission Order administered by the Canada Border Services Agency provides for relief of customs duty for eligible medical, protective and sanitizing goods imported on or after May 5, 2020. Claim can be made within two years of importation.

### **Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant**

<https://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx>

***Update: The Alberta government has extended this grant for an additional spring 2021 benefit, and to include eligible taxicabs/ rideshares and hotels.***

This grant offers funding to eligible businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations based on their revenue reductions if they were ordered to close or curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The spring 2021 grant offers up to 15% of the eligible organization's revenue for a chosen month, to a maximum of \$10,000, for eligible businesses that commenced between November 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

Initial grants provided up to 15% of pre-COVID revenue and were eligible in two phases: up to \$5,000 based on revenue reductions in April or May 2020, and up to \$15,000 based on revenue reductions resulting from new health orders after November 6, 2020. Application closed March 31, 2021 for initial grants.

Eligible businesses are those which:

- were ordered to temporarily close or curtail operations through a COVID-19 public health order
- can demonstrate a pandemic-related revenue reduction of at least 30%
- maintain a permanent, registered establishment in Alberta
- carried on business in Alberta on February 29, 2020 or began operations prior to March 31, 2021.

- have fewer than 500 employees
- have reopened or plan to reopen as public health orders are lifted
- have not received federal or provincial government or insurance payments to compensate for loss of revenue, except from: Alberta Workers' Compensation Board premium relief, Business Credit Availability Program, Canada Emergency Business Account, Western Economic Development Regional Relief and Recovery Fund, Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance, Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Canada Recovery Benefit, Canada United Small Business Relief Fund, Government of Alberta grant relief funding for the child care sector, or relief funding from municipalities.

Application:

Application intake for the spring 2021 benefit will remain open until 11:59pm on May 31, 2021, until the program budget is exhausted, or until otherwise announced.

Organizations with multiple Alberta permanent physical establishments may apply for each qualifying establishment using separate applications.

See website for further details and for the program's Online Application Portal.

## **Supports for the Agriculture Industry**

### Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19.html>

FCC will increase lending capacity by \$5B to farmers and processors facing cashflow issues, including the \$100 million Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund. To qualify, companies need to demonstrate impact from an unexpected business disruption.

See the website or contact your FCC relationship manager for additional information.

### Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Programs

<https://afsc.ca/news/new-supports-help-address-covid-19-disruptions-in-the-agriculture-industry/>

- The AgriStability enrollment deadline was extended to July 3, 2020
- AgriRecovery will compensate cattle producers for the extraordinary cost of keeping slaughter-ready cattle on maintenance feed ration through the period of inventory backup.
- The AgriStability Interim Payment Program will increase the interim payment under AgriStability from 50% to 75% for hog and potato producers experiencing COVID-19 disruptions.

### Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPPI)

<https://wlpip.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/WLPPI-COVID-19-FAQ.pdf>

The deadline to purchase WLPPI calf price insurance was extended from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

This extension applies only to the spring purchasing period; fall settlement dates have not changed.

### Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/employee-training-supports-for-agri-businesses.html>

The Agriculture Training Support Program will provide up to \$2,000 per new employee, to a maximum of \$50,000 per employer, to offset training and safety needs. A further \$1 million in funding will be assigned for meat producers to provide support for new hires.

Applications are accepted via the Canadian Agricultural Partnership website.

### Temporary Foreign Workers – Quarantine Support

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/04/keeping-canadians-and-workers-in-the-food-supply-chain-safe.html>

The federal government will provide employers of temporary foreign workers with up to \$1,500 for each worker who observes the 14-day quarantine protocol requirement. This will support quarantine initiatives and assist the agricultural sector, including fruit and vegetable producers and fish and seafood processing plants, who rely on the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to fill labour shortages.

### Dairy Farmers & Canadian Dairy Commission

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/helping-the-dairy-sector-mitigate-the-impact-of-covid-19.html>

The Canadian Dairy Commission's borrowing limit has been increased by \$200 million to allow cheese and butter to be temporarily stored and avoid waste. Stakeholders throughout the dairy industry supply chain are working with provincial marketing boards to help manage supply and demand issues.

### **Employment Standards Code – Alberta**

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-employment-standards-rules.aspx>

<https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/E09.pdf>

Note provisions related to job-protected leave and employee's use of accrued vacation pay or banked time.

## **SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS**

### **Find Financial Help During COVID-19**

<https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start>

This individual Q & A site will help guide your benefits search.

### **Canada Recovery Benefit**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>

**Update: The April 19, 2021 Federal Budget proposes to extend the term of this benefit and the maximum number of qualifying weeks available to an eligible claimant.**

Proposals from Federal Budget 2021:

- The maximum CRB would be extended by 12 weeks to a maximum of 50 weeks. The first four additional weeks will be paid at \$500 per week, with subsequent weeks paid at \$300 per week. All new CRB claims after July 17, 2021 would receive the \$300 per week benefit, which will be available until September 25, 2021.
- The maximum Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit would be extended by 4 weeks, to a maximum of 42 weeks, paid at \$500 per week.
- Legislative amendments would be made providing the authority for additional potential extensions of CRB, EI and related programs until November 20, 2021.

This benefit provides \$1,000 (\$900 net of tax) for each two-week eligibility period for up to 19 of 26 weekly periods between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021. This benefit is designed to support employed or self-employed workers who are not eligible for EI and whose income has been reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19. The claimant must be available for work and looking for work, and may earn income while receiving benefits.

The applicant must apply for each eligibility period separately and applications may be made up to 60 days after the eligibility period has ended. Claimants will be subject to clawback of benefits based on net income, and would need to repay \$0.50 of benefit for each dollar of annual net income above \$38,000 in

the calendar year to a maximum of the full benefit amount received. (CRB benefits are excluded from net income for this calculation, but all other forms of income and benefits will count, including CERB and CESB.) Tax will be withheld at source at a rate of 10%.

### **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>

This benefit will provide \$500/week (\$450 net of tax) for up to two weeks for workers who cannot work at least 50% of their normally scheduled work in a given week because they are sick or must self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have conditions that, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.

The worker must be employed or self-employed on the day immediately preceding the period for which the application is made. The benefit will not be available to applicants receiving other benefits in respect of the same week.

Application must be made separately for each claim period, beginning on the first Monday after the 1-week claim period, and application may be made up to 60 days after the claim period has ended.

The benefit is proposed to be available between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

Tax will be withheld at source at a rate of 10%.

### **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit.html>

**Update: The April 19, 2021 Federal Budget proposes to extend the term of this benefit and the maximum number of qualifying weeks available to an eligible claimant.**

This benefit provides \$500/week (\$450 net of tax) per household for up to 26 weeks between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021 for eligible Canadians unable to work at least 50% of their normal work schedule in a given week because they must care for a child, dependant or disabled family member during a time when a usual caregiver or care facility is not available due to COVID-19, or because the child or family member is sick, required to quarantine, or at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19.

The worker must be employed or self-employed on the day immediately preceding the period for which the application is made. The benefit will not be available to applicants receiving other benefits in respect of the same week.

Application must be made separately for each claim period.

Tax will be withheld at source at a rate of 10%.

### **Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits**

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

Temporary changes have been made to the program as of September 27, 2020 and are in effect until September 2021. You may be eligible for a minimum taxable benefit of \$500 per week, or \$300 per week for extended parental benefits, if you:

- were employed for at least 120 insurable hours in the past 52 weeks
- received the CERB, the 52 week period to accumulate insured hours will be extended
- stopped working through no fault of your own
- have not quit your job voluntarily

- are ready, willing and capable of working each day (EI regular benefits)
- are temporarily unable to work while you care for someone else or yourself (EI maternity, parental, sickness, compassionate care, and family caregiver benefits)

### **Bank Relief Measures**

Banks and lending institutions are offering support for those suffering hardships, including deferred mortgage and loan payments and waiver or reduction of fees and interest.

Needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Contact your financial institution to apply.

### **Other Government Support Initiatives**

- Support of Practical Services and Personal Outreach for Seniors (*contact United Way and/or the New Horizons for Seniors Program for details*)
- Indigenous Community Support Fund
- Enhanced “Reaching Home” Initiative in support of the homeless
- Support for Women’s Shelters and Sexual Assault Centres
- Support for Youth and Mental Health
- New portal for mental health resources: Wellness Together Canada
- Support for charities and non-profits in providing essential services and food

### **Notice to Applicants for Canada Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan Disability or Old Age Security**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for benefits online through My Service Canada Account <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/my-account.html>

*This content is intended for general information only. Programs are updated frequently and entitlement calculations can be complex. We recommend that you seek professional advice from your CPA specific to your own circumstances.*