

April 24, 2020

Notice: The BCEDA COVID19 Bulletin will now be emailed on Monday, Wednesdays & Fridays.

#COVID19 Bulletin



Resources for Businesses



Live Resources for BC Businesses Document

Recently Updated:

- [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\) Applications Open Monday](#)
- [bdc Webinar: COVID-19 - How to get through the crisis with an online strategy](#)
- [Export Navigator Webinar: Exporting Beyond COVID-19 - Preparing Your Business For The Long-Run](#)

[View More](#)



Trudeau announces rent relief of 75% for small businesses affected by coronavirus

April 24, 2020 - The Canadian Press

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is announcing significant rent relief for businesses that can't afford to pay their landlords at a time when their operations are shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal help, expected to lower rent by 75 per cent for affected small businesses, will be provided in partnership with the provinces and territories, which have jurisdiction over rents.

The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance for small businesses will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three monthly rent payments payable by eligible small business tenants experiencing financial hardship during April, May and June.

The loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a pledge not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place.

The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent.

Affected small business tenants are those paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations, or have experienced at least a 70-per-cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues.

The federal Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. will administer and deliver the program.

Provinces and territories have agreed to cost share total costs and ensure implementation of the program. They will cover up to 25 per cent of costs, subject to terms of agreements with Ottawa. It is expected the new program will be operational by mid-May, with commercial property owners lowering the rents of their small business tenant's payable for the months of April and May, retroactively, and for June.

[Read More](#)



BC Emergency Benefit for Workers

The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a tax-free, one time \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19. You can apply online starting May 1, 2020.

- [Find Out If You're Eligible](#)
- [What You Need To Apply](#)

- [How To Apply](#)

Note: If you haven't applied for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit yet, you must apply for it now as this is one of the eligibility requirements for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers.

[Read More](#)



Supply Products and Services to Support B.C.'s COVID-19 Response

Are you a business that can supply products and services in support of B.C.'s COVID-19 response?

As worldwide demand increases, the B.C. Government is looking for both medical and non-medical products and services to help with the response.

Priority Products Needed (Last Updated: April 23, 2020)

If you can donate or supply products from the list below you are invited to submit an offer.

- Coveralls
- Disinfectant
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Hoods
- Masks
- Respirator-related
- Sample collection
- Shoe covers

[View Canadian criteria for priority medical supplies](#)

[Submit an offer via the BC Supply Hub](#)

Resources for Economic Developers & Local Leaders

Economic Response and Restart
Weekly Teleconference for EDOs & Local Leaders

Every Thursday Starting April 2nd

2:00pm to 3:00pm PST - Register to participate



Slides from BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Call, April 23 Thursdays at 2:00pm PST

Workforce – Current Situation, Trends and the Future

Yesterday, BCEDA hosted the weekly Economic Recovery & Restart teleconference with presentations from Trudy Parsons of MDB Insight and Ken Peacock of the Business Council of British Columbia. We are pleased to share the presentation slides below.

[View the Slides](#)

[Register for the next call](#)



Community Tips for Response & Recovery

- Increase the activation level of your Emergency Operations Centre
- Work with local partners and expand your volunteer network
- Establish clear communication protocols
- Establish Business Transition Teams
- Talk to your local financial institutions
- Don't forget other disasters may happen
- Expand Community and Business Transition Centres
- Expand your Business Retention & Expansion Program
- Establish a shop local first program
- Celebrate and promote open businesses
- Increase social media activities
- Support BCEDA efforts

Five Business Resources to Share

B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service

The service will act as a one-stop resource to answer questions about supports available to businesses from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners.

Support is available in multiple languages and a call-back feature will be in place to help manage high call volumes. The BC Business COVID-19 Support Service is open Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-6:00PM, and Saturday 10:00AM - 4:00PM.

Call: 1-800-254-4367 (TLEP)
Email: enq@bcbusiness.ca
Chat online: enq.bcbusiness.ca

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak. On this page you will find support for individuals, businesses and industries.

FortisBC Customer Recovery Fund

The Customer Recovery Fund addresses the billing concerns of residential and small business customers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Customers who are unable to work or have lost their livelihood, and small businesses that have experienced income loss or been forced to close as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, can receive assistance from FortisBC.

Small businesses at www.fortisbc.com/customer-recovery-fund

Call us at 1-888-777-7463 for electricity or 1-888-997-4104 for natural gas, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Note: Other practices of utilities are not eligible for recovery of charges if charges result out to your provider for more information.

BC Hydro COVID-19 Relief Fund

If you own a small business that needed to close due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to have your business' electricity use charges waived for up to three months. Our [application form](https://www.bchydro.com/covid-19-relief-fund) for small businesses is now open. Eligible customers can apply any time until June 30, 2020.

Insurance Bureau of Canada

IBC has consumer information centres in each of its regional offices to address your specific questions. If IBC's information offices do not have the answers to your questions, they will direct you to someone who does.
Call: 1-844-744-9321 / 844-277-5427

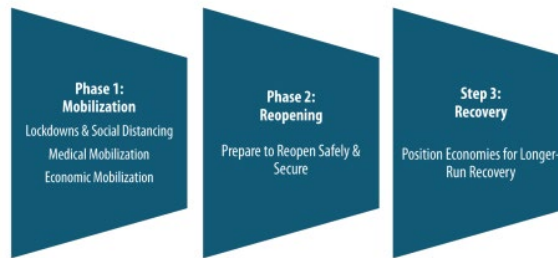
More resources available at bceda.ca/coronavirus

BCEDA Community Tips for Response & Recovery

This BCEDA document gives you a snapshot of some steps you can take to point your community towards response and recovery. We've also detailed five businesses resources you can share with your business community.

[Read More](#)

Three Phase Recovery Plan



Top Ten Impacts COVID-19 is Having on Local Economic Development and Ways that Economic Developers Can Help

By Stephen Morris,

Economic Development Resources Unit, Province of Ontario

The rapidly emerging impacts of COVID-19 on local communities has left economic developers seeking guidance on how to best respond to the crisis and offer effective support measures. Working together, elected officials, partners, local businesses, community members and economic developers can implement actions to mitigate the negative outcomes of this outbreak and work towards a more resilient future.

The International Economic Development Council held a webinar in early April to discuss a ten-point action plan for how economic developer organizations (EDOs) at all levels of government can work through a three phase recovery plan: mobilizing to help their local businesses now (Phase 1), preparing to reopen safely and securely (Phase 2) and positioning economies for longer run recovery Phase 3).

The ten points of the action plan are summarized at the link below, and touch all levels of government and industry.

[Read More](#)



Saskatchewan Announces Re-Open Plan

The plan introduces five phases to methodically, gradually and cautiously re-open businesses and services across Saskatchewan, beginning May 4, 2020. The plan also details physical distancing measures and restrictions that will remain in place throughout the five phases and provides a number of factors to inform decisions regarding the lifting of long-term restrictions.

[Read more](#)

Canada

Government of Canada Launching Student Service Grant

While the COVID-19 pandemic will limit employment opportunities for students, it presents an opportunity for students and youth to mobilize and take part in national service activities that can provide valuable labour market and skills development experiences, while giving back to their local communities.

To encourage students to participate in the COVID-19 response, the government will launch a new national service initiative to recognize students' significant contributions to the COVID-19 efforts, and provide support through a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall.

More details will be made available on the I Want to Help platform over the coming weeks, including more detailed information about eligibility, the levels of funding available under the grant, how to apply for a national service position, and how applications will be assessed.

Also announced was \$40 million to Innovation, Science and Economic Development to support Mitacs in order to create 5,000 new job placements. The Business/Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) will also create a further 5,000 to 10,000 new student placements, by reorienting existing federal support and building online tools.

[Read more](#)



What BC Communities Are Doing

I Love Mission campaign launched

[More info](#)

Penticton conducts business survey

[More info](#)

City of Nelson reaches out to business community

[More info](#)