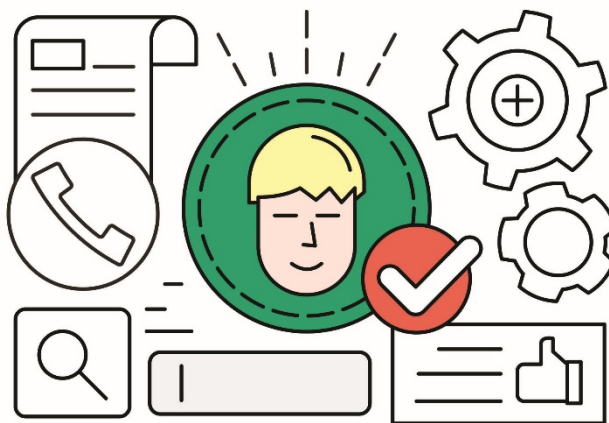


April 3, 2020

# #COVID19 Bulletin



## Resources for Businesses



### Live Resources for BC Businesses Document

Just added:

- [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\) Application](#)
- [BC Forest Safety Council COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Spring Webinar: Finding a New Normal - Leading Your Business Through Times of Uncertainty](#)

[View More](#)

## **Regional Economic Support**

### **Island Coastal Economic Trust**

Emergency Support on its way for Regional Workers

Urgent support for the region's businesses affected by COVID-19 will soon be available through direct, one-on-one service delivery programs developed in collaboration with Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), Tourism Vancouver Island (TVI) and Innovation Island Technology Association (IITA).

With funding from ICET, two response programs have been set up with regional partners to help the tourism sector and other enterprises with rapid recovery in the face of economic and operational challenges.

TVI's Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Project will provide tourism businesses with practical assistance as they navigate the current crisis, through to their eventual recovery, post-pandemic. IITA's Digital Economy Response Program (DER3) will provide personalized technical and industry expertise to enterprises ready to adapt their business models to the digital economy.

[Read More](#)

### **Coast Funds**

Upholding Each Other in Uncertain Times

Coast Funds and First Nations work in close partnership to make responsible and objective decisions. With this in mind, we commit to the following over the coming months:

#### **KEEPING FUNDS FLOWING**

We can reschedule and extend projects — We will partner with First Nations to amend funding agreements and reschedule project milestones in order to maximize the sustainability and long-term success of every program and project currently receiving funds.

#### **FOCUSING ON CURRENT EFFORTS**

We are suspending all final and outcome reports — We are suspending the requirement for Final Reports in funding agreements (economic, social, environmental, cultural outcomes) until October 2020. We can further extend the timing of Final Reports if requested by First Nations.

#### **STREAMLINED ACCESS TO FUNDS**

Our staff are here for spring 2020 funding — Coast Funds has always had a continuous intake for new applications. If you plan to APPLY FOR FUNDING for our spring round of funding (open through April 10), please contact us and our staff will work with you to build your application in a simplified, streamlined manner. If you require more time to apply this spring, please contact us and we will work with you to support your efforts. 604-684-0223

[Read More](#)

### **Columbia Basin Trust**

Columbia Basin Trust Helps Communities Address Pandemic's Impacts

People in the Columbia Basin are experiencing the broad and serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Columbia Basin Trust is announcing \$11.7 million in new funding to provide immediate support.

To aid local small businesses, 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. If your business needs help right now, visit [ourtrust.org/COVID19](http://ourtrust.org/COVID19) or call 1.800.505.8998.


[Read More](#)


## 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

 **BCEDA**  
BC Economic Development Association

 **ERP**  
Economic Disaster Recovery Program

### Slides from BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Teleconference

Yesterday, BCEDA hosted the first Economic Recovery & Restart teleconference. We are pleased to share the presentation slides from BCEDA President & CEO, Dale Wheeldon.

[View Now](#)

[Register to Participate](#)



### What BC Communities Are Doing

South Surrey & White Rock Chamber of Commerce set to host 'virtual town hall' sessions

[More info](#)

Here's what Bowen Islanders are doing to help one another: COVID-19

[More info](#)



# BC Chamber of Commerce

## **Pulse-Check Survey Shows Many BC Businesses in Need of Life Support**

April 3, 2020, Vancouver, BC - The COVID-19 crisis is significantly hurting British Columbia businesses and their employees. In the past two weeks alone, approximately half of the 1,900 businesses surveyed have experienced revenue decreases of 75% or more, while two-thirds have seen revenues drop by 50% or more.

This is according to a survey of the members of the BC Chamber of Commerce and its regional chamber network, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, and the Business Council of British Columbia, with the assistance of the Mustel Group. This is the first in a series of bi-weekly pulse checks using the BCMindReader.com platform.

The data paints an ominous picture of what businesses and workers are experiencing now and what they expect to face in the future:

- Nearly one-third are planning to cancel or have had contracts or tenders cancelled, while a quarter will defer or cancel capital projects in the next two weeks.
- Among those laying off staff, on average, organizations have laid off 43 employees. As B.C. businesses tend to be skewed to smaller businesses (less than 20 employees), the median or mid- point is much lower, at five employees.
- More than 50% of businesses are concerned they will be insolvent or not have the fiscal capacity to restart their business.
- Businesses are trying to pivot with 23% increasing efforts towards online, digital, or e-commerce options.
- Businesses tend to expect the economic rebound in their market will be slow (55% versus 14% fast) but a sizable group is unsure (31%).

[More info](#)