

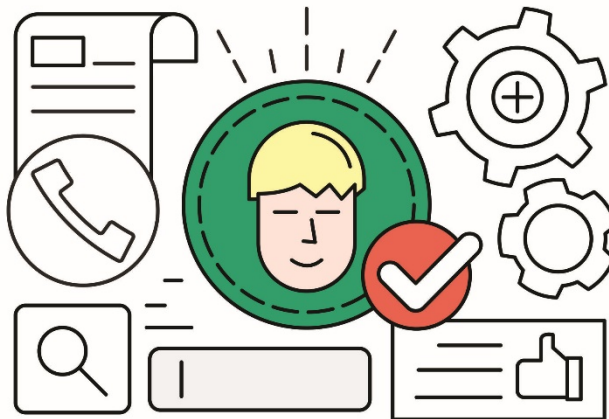
June 3, 2020

Notice: The BCEDA COVID19 Bulletin will now be emailed weekly on Wednesdays.

# #COVID19 Bulletin



## Resources for Businesses



### Live Resources for BC Businesses Document

Recently Updated:

- [Small Business Relief Fund: Applications now open](#)
- [Destination BC Road to Recovery webinar recordings available online](#)
- [WorkSafeBC - Inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic: Frequently asked questions for employers](#)
- [Small Business BC Webinar: How to Become an Inclusive Employer After COVID-19](#)

[View More](#)



## B.C. strengthens federal commercial rent program

B.C. businesses eligible for rent support from the federal government will be protected from evictions as the B.C. government issues a new order under the Emergency Program Act (EPA).

“The federal launch of the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program has been a welcome step in B.C., but we heard from small businesses that they need us to help fill a gap that has left some of them unable to get the support they need,” said Carole James, Minister of Finance. “We’re listening to small businesses and have their backs. Preventing landlords who are eligible for CECRA from evicting tenants can encourage landlords to apply for the program and give some temporary relief to businesses who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.”

Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines.

The EPA order restricts the termination of lease agreements and the repossession of goods and property.

The CECRA program provides relief for small businesses experiencing severe financial hardship due to COVID-19. It offers forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners to reduce the rent owed by their impacted small business tenants and to meet operating expenses on commercial properties.

Property owners must offer a minimum of a 75% rent reduction for the months of April, May and June 2020. The CECRA loans to landlords will be forgiven if the landlord complies with program terms and conditions, including an agreement to not recover forgiven rent amounts when the program is over.

The emergency order restricting evictions is effective immediately.

This latest measure also aims to put B.C. businesses in a stronger position to participate in the Province’s restart and recovery plan.

[Read more](#)



**B.C. Farm, Fish & Food Job Connector**

**Become a B.C. Food Hero!**

The industry is ramping up for this year’s harvest and employers are facing challenges to fill labour needs. Join us and become a B.C. food hero. Contribute to B.C.’s economy and help feed communities across our province and beyond.

## B.C. Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector

British Columbians are now able to access a new online resource that will make it easier to learn about jobs and careers in agriculture, while providing farmers, seafood businesses and food processors with a one-stop shop to support their hiring and planning needs.

The new B.C. Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector will showcase current job vacancies throughout the province, including those for crop and seafood harvesters, food processing and farm workers, agrologists, large machinery operators and marketing specialists. The site also has sector-specific

information and guidance to support businesses as they adapt their recruitment and human resource management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Many British Columbians are passionate about buying local and are looking towards careers in the agricultural, seafood and food processing sectors. We are making it easier for employers and employees to connect so we can fill vacancies and get more British Columbians working to put fresh and local food on our tables,” said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture. “At the same time, we recognize the workforce challenges brought on by COVID-19 and are helping to address the need to establish a secure agricultural labour force so we can generate economic activity and maintain food security in our communities.”

The connector site will also provide information and context about the opportunities that exist within the different regions of B.C.’s agriculture, seafood and food processing businesses and will highlight the available jobs.

[Read more](#)

[Visit the B.C. Farm, Fish & Food Job Collector](#)

## Resources for Economic Developers & Local Leaders

### Economic Response and Restart Weekly Teleconference for EDs & Local Leaders

Every Thursday Starting April 2nd

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



## Tomorrow's BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Call Rethinking Business Engagement and Practices in a Post-COVID Era

Thursday, June 4, 2020 - 2:00pm to 3:00pm PST

Now more than ever, economic developers need to understand the importance of engaging with existing businesses. Our communities are faced with unprecedented challenges from the pandemic that will result in long-lasting changes to economies and the economic development profession. COVID-19 has demonstrated a clear need to focus on creating the best possible business environment for existing businesses post-disaster.

Join us for this week's webinar, where we will provide expert advice and best practices on Business Retention and Expansion in a post-COVID era. We will explore what economic developers need to know and how to now engage with local businesses. What are the new tools for engagement, and how can we get the data required to determine the nature and extent of COVID-19 on commerce today and tomorrow.

### Speaker:

Laith Wardi, President, ExecutivePulse

Laith Wardi, CEcD, is President and founder of ExecutivePulse, Inc. He has worked in the economic development professional for over 21 years. Laith has comprehensive experience in business retention & expansion that includes one-to-one outreach to hundreds of value-added client companies, work as a resource provider, and 15 years of regional program management in his home state of Pennsylvania. During his tenure in economic development, he also worked in business incubation and provided small business mentoring services to entrepreneurs.

Questions? Submit in advance to [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca)

[Register Now](#)

# Canada

## **Prime Minister announces support to help communities create jobs and restart the economy**

On June 1, 2020, the Government of Canada announced that the allocation of \$2.2 billion under the federal Gas Tax Fund would be accelerated this year and provided in a single payment in June to help Canadian communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible while respecting public health guidelines.

[Read More](#)

[Learn more about how the federal Gas Tax Fund is working in British Columbia](#)



## **ABM Without Borders Pacific**

June 16, 2020

ABM allows you to keep moving and is your recovery tool to regain lost ground post-pandemic!

A well-known business matching forum has innovated its proprietary technology to create virtual events that eliminate geographic boundaries and encourage relationships across all industries and countries.

Advanced Business Match (ABM) launched ABM Without Borders this month, with online business matching events that offer 10 appointments over the course of half a day, scheduled based on time zones.

Use code BCEDA to save 10% off your registration

[Read More & Register](#)



## Webinar: What Comes Next? BC Air Carriers and Airports Chart Recovery

Tuesday, June 9th - 2:00pm to 3:00pm PST

COVID-19 stopped air carriers and airports in their tracks, with aviation business down over 93% in the Province. Travel, tourism and economic development are some of the most virus impacted sectors. In response, air carriers and airports are developing and implementing action plans in real time. This one-hour webinar allows industry professionals responding to the crisis to discuss their plans and views looking forward.

This webinar is co-hosted by the BC Aviation Council (BCAC), the Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC), and the BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) in recognition of the impact that this crisis has had on aviation, aerospace, tourism, communities, and the economy. We will all need to work closely together for recovery to be successful.

### Speakers:

- Quentin Smith, President, Pacific Coastal Airlines (third largest YVR air operator by movements)
- Parm Sidhu, Airport General Manager, Abbotsford International Airport
- Brant Arnold-Smith, Director, Security and Terminal Operations, Victoria International Airport
- Moderator, Rob Beynon, Founder, Operations Economics Inc.

[Register Now](#)



## What BC Communities Are Doing

City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program

[More info](#)

City of Richmond Temporary Outdoor Patio Program

[More info](#)

City of Penticton Pilot Project: Responsible Liquor Consumption in Designated Public Spaces

[More info](#)

Fort St. John Small Business Round Table hosts WorkSafeBC speaker

[More info](#)

[info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca) Share your community's news by emailing

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### **#DifferentTogether Pledge**

*Our B.C. is inclusive and respects people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths and their contributions to our collective well-being.*

*Our B.C. holds diversity as a fundamental value at the heart of the success, strength and resilience of our communities, workplaces, schools, public and private institutions.*

*I pledge to uphold and promote these values and I commit to speaking up to oppose racism and hate in all its forms.*