



**BCEDA**

BC Economic Development Association



Economic



Disaster



Recovery



Program

## #COVID\_19 Bulletin: March 25, 2020

### Information for Businesses

#### [BCEDA #COVID19 Resources for BC Businesses Guide](#)

All of these updates are now located in one document. This shareable, live guide is being continually updated with the most relevant information, tools and resources for the BC business community. [Click here to view.](#)

#### Newly Updated:

- [Western Canada Beauty Council: Chair renters and independent contractors – what should you do now?](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

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### Information for Economic Developers and Local Leaders

#### [BCEDA Webpage Update](#)

The #COVID19 resources shared by BCEDA, have now been split into two categories:

1. **Resources for BC Businesses** - we encourage you to share these resources with your business community. *(These updates are at the top of this bulletin)*
2. **Resources for Economic Developers and Local Leaders** - information for communities including templates and examples .

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#### [BCEDA Issues Call for Volunteers](#)

BCEDA is seeking volunteers to assist with making outreach phone calls to businesses in communities that have requested assistance. Volunteers will complete a survey with the impacted business via telephone or email. Experience with BRE or Business Walks is preferred but not necessary. Volunteers will be asked to commit to confidentiality. [Click here to complete the volunteer form.](#)

### **[Request for Assistance with Business Outreach](#)**

We recognize that some local and Indigenous governments have limited capacity especially during times like this. If you would like to undertake some business outreach but just do not have the capacity, please let us know and we will find volunteers to help out. While we can't guarantee at this time how many volunteers we will have, we are prepared to try.

Volunteers will be trained to complete a telephone survey with the impacted business and how to enter data electronically into the BC BusinessCounts Program. Designated community contacts will have access to the data to run reports, follow-up on red flags, etc. [Click here to complete the request form.](#)

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### **[Around the Province: Examples of What BC Communities Are Doing](#)**

- [City of Abbotsford provides links to open businesses](#)
- [Westbank First Nation's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [City of Quesnel's Council Corner](#)
- [Kamloops is #YKAStrong](#)
- [COEDC's OYP Collective #LocalLove Bingo](#)(respecting isolation guidelines) There is a Central Okanagan version and a generic version that all communities are welcome to use

**#StrongerTogether - Have you developed processes or resources that you would like to share with other communities? Please email to [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca)**

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### **[Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses](#)**

**March 25, 2020 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada**

The Government of Canada is taking strong, immediate and effective action to protect Canadians and the economy from the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. No Canadian should have to choose between protecting their health, putting food on the table, paying for their medication or caring for a family member.

To support workers and help businesses keep their employees, the government has proposed legislation to establish the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). This taxable benefit would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB would be a simpler and more

accessible combination of the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

The CERB would cover Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures. The CERB would apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).

Additionally, workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19, would also qualify for the CERB. This would help businesses keep their employees as they navigate these difficult times, while ensuring they preserve the ability to quickly resume operations as soon as it becomes possible.

The EI system was not designed to process the unprecedented high volume of applications received in the past week. Given this situation, all Canadians who have ceased working due to COVID-19, whether they are EI-eligible or not, would be able to receive the CERB to ensure they have timely access to the income support they need.

Canadians who are already receiving EI regular and sickness benefits as of today would continue to receive their benefits and should not apply to the CERB. If their EI benefits end before October 3, 2020, they could apply for the CERB once their EI benefits cease, if they are unable to return to work due to COVID-19. Canadians who have already applied for EI and whose application has not yet been processed would not need to reapply. Canadians who are eligible for EI regular and sickness benefits would still be able to access their normal EI benefits, if still unemployed, after the 16-week period covered by the CERB.

The government is working to get money into the pockets of Canadians as quickly as possible. The portal for accessing the CERB would be available in early April. EI eligible Canadians who have lost their job can continue to apply for EI [here](#), as can Canadians applying for other EI benefits.

Canadians would begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The CERB would be paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.

This benefit would be one part of the government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, to support Canadian workers and businesses and help stabilize the economy by helping Canadians pay for essentials like housing and groceries, and helping businesses pay their employees and bills during this unprecedented time of global uncertainty.

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## **[GIS Planning: 10 Impacts on Economic Development & Solutions to Mitigate These Challenges](#)**

The unfolding COVID-19 crisis has impacted investment attraction and BRE around the globe. While public health, public policy, and businesses are working to respond to the impact of this novel coronavirus, so too must the profession of economic development.

There are specific impacts and responses that economic developers can take to adapt to this challenging environment for the businesses and workers our profession supports.

With that in mind, we're offering this white paper to economic developers, site selectors, CRE professionals, elected officials, chambers of commerce and others interested in their area economies. Written by Anatalio Ubalde, co-founder and Managing Director of GIS Planning, this white paper covers 10 specific impacts economic developers are facing and direct solutions to these problems.

**We will cover:**

- What your economic development organization must do immediately
- Site selection without visits
- Local business assistance
- Prospecting without conferences
- Technology necessities
- Pivoting foreign direct investment
- Much more

[Click here to download](#)

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**More resources are available  
at <https://bceda.ca/coronavirus.php>**