



BCEDA

BC Economic Development Association



#COVID_19 Bulletin: March 26, 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:

- [CCAB research data confirms Indigenous SMEs are most vulnerable](#)
- [Worksafe BC](#)
- [Co-Operatives First: Covid-19 Resources for Western Canadian Co-operatives](#)

Information for Economic Developers and Local Leaders

[Community Response & Recovery Efforts Survey](#)

Through this quick survey, BCEDA is trying to collect information on what local, regional and Indigenous governments are doing to support the local economy and businesses during COVID19.

[Click here to begin](#)

WANTED: Professionals willing to donate their time to BC's small business community

[BCEDA Professionals Network - Economic Disaster Recovery](#)

As part of our effort to support communities and small businesses during the COVID19 crisis, **BCEDA is seeking accredited professionals/firms willing to DONATE their services to small businesses in British Columbia.**

We are building a database of interested firms to share with local/regional/Indigenous business and economic development professionals to support demand across the province. We are seeking services in the areas of legal; accounting; marketing; business planning/coaching and HR. All volunteers will be asked to not promote paid services through this assistance.

[Click here to complete the form](#)

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

- [Houston & District Chamber of Commerce hosts #TakeOutTuesday #WooHooWednesday & #TTYLThursday](#)
- [Comox Valley establishes a Business Directory](#)
- [Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce offers 'Get Your Business Online' Webinar](#)
- [City of Terrace asks surveys local businesses 'How Can We Help?'](#)
- [Metro Vancouver Unflushables Campaign](#)

#StrongerTogether - Have you developed processes or resources that you would like to share with other communities? Please email to info@bceda.ca

[Province takes unprecedented steps to support COVID-19 response](#)

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is using extraordinary powers under a state of provincial emergency to keep British Columbians safe, maintain essential goods and services, and support the Province's ongoing response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

"B.C. is in a strong position to effectively respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Farnworth. "Informed by the direction of the provincial health officer, we're taking these critical steps to keep our communities safe, goods moving and essential service workers supported."

Using the extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act, the minister is issuing a series of ministerial orders to ensure a co-ordinated response to COVID-19 across all levels of government for the duration of the provincial emergency. These include:

- **Supply chain:** Establishing a new Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit to co-ordinate goods and services distribution; taking a more active role in co-ordinating

essential goods and services movement by land, air, marine and rail; and suspending any bylaws that restrict goods delivery at any time of day.

- **Protecting consumers:** Banning the secondary resale of food, medical supplies, personal protective equipment, cleaning and other essential supplies; and restricting quantities of items purchased at point of sale.
- **Enforcement:** Enabling municipal bylaw officers to support enforcement of the provincial health officer's orders for business closures and gatherings, in line with offences under the Public Health Act.
- **Travel:** Ensuring **all passenger and car-ferry services** provide minimum service levels and priority access for residents, and essential goods and workers.
- **Protecting B.C.'s most vulnerable:** Making it easier to support critical services for vulnerable people, like food banks and shelters.
- **Co-ordination:** Suspending local states of emergency specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for the City of Vancouver; giving municipal councils the ability to hold more flexible meetings to expedite decisions; and co-ordinating potential use of local publicly owned facilities, like community centres, for self-isolation, testing, medical care, warehousing and distribution.

These unprecedented steps, made based on the recommendation of B.C.'s health and emergency management officials and invoked for the first time under a provincial state of emergency, will support the provincial health officer and minister of health in a co-ordinated cross-government approach to COVID-19 response and recovery.

Farnworth added, "Many local governments, First Nations and partners have stepped up to make sure they have prepared to protect their communities from the impacts of COVID-19. Today's measures will make sure communities are taking necessary steps, in co-ordination with the Province, to get ready should more action be required to combat COVID-19."

The Province, in consultation with the Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, has defined essential services British Columbians rely on in their daily lives in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery. This is distinct from essential service designations under the Province's Labour Relations Code.

In consultation with the provincial health officer, any business or service that has not been ordered to close, and is also not identified on the essential service list, may stay open if it can adapt its services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the PHO.

"In these new and challenging times we are facing, we're asking British Columbians to stay strong as a community, and together we can get through this," said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. "I'm proud of the strategic measures we have enacted government-wide to help our families and health-care workers, to keep them safe and supported. By issuing a series of ministerial orders, we recognize that this is not forever, but it is for now. With everyone stepping in and respecting the extraordinary means we have to take, we will overcome this."

Farnworth declared a provincial state of emergency on March 18, 2020, after the provincial health officer declared a public health emergency on March 17. The Province previously declared states of emergency in 1998, 2003, 2017 and 2018 – all related to wildfires. In each of those previous declarations, necessary actions were able to be taken without issuing minister's orders under the Emergency Program Act.

Quick Facts:

- Declarations of provincial states of emergency may be issued by the minister responsible under the Emergency Program Act.
- The provincial government can extend the period of a declaration made by the minister responsible for further periods of time.
- During the 2017 wildfire season, the Province was in a provincial state of emergency for 10 weeks from July 7 to Sept. 15.

Learn More:

For recommendations on protecting yourself and your community, including for employers and businesses, visit: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

For the COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and planning materials, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/pandemic-influenza>.

For more information and latest medical updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit its website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For more information on non-medical issues like travel recommendations and how to manage social isolation, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/COVID-19

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