



#COVID_19 Bulletin: March 27, 2020

Information for Businesses

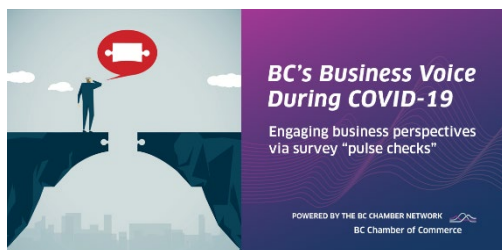
[BCEDA #COVID19 Resources for BC Businesses Guide](#)

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:

- [EDC provides relief for Canadian businesses during COVID-19 crisis](#)
- [List of essential services in B.C. during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [BCBusiness: A risk management guide for your business during COVID-19](#)
- [Province of BC - COVID-19: Supports for Small Businesses in B.C](#)

BC Chamber of Commerce Launches 'Pulse Checks' Surveys



Starting today, we'll be conducting 'pulse checks' surveys every two weeks on [BCMIndreader.com](#), to find out how businesses are faring in the age of COVID-19, and how your needs are evolving. This information will inform ongoing recommendations to government and, perhaps more importantly, help track the efficacy of government programs and initiatives as they roll out. This is your best opportunity to be heard

on an ongoing basis and get the support you need—in the days, weeks, and months ahead. We've already seen success. [Our first COVID-19 Business Impact survey](#) saw close to 8000 responses and informed many of the existing supports for business already put forth by the BC government. We will keep you informed as the results come in, please reach out if you have any questions.

<https://www.bcmindreader.com/c/r/covid-pulse-check1-2020-bceda>

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Please copy and paste the link exactly as seen above (highlight it, right click, press "Copy" or "copy link", and paste in your email). Please **do not** open the link and copy it from the survey webpage/browser itself (this will break the link).

[Government boosts wage subsidy to 75% for small, medium businesses to avoid layoffs during COVID-19 crisis](#)

[Kathleen Harris](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 27, 2020

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today announced more help for small and medium-sized businesses to keep employees on the payroll during the COVID-19 crisis, including a 75 per cent [wage subsidy](#) and guaranteed interest-free loans.

During a news conference outside his residence at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa, Trudeau called small and medium-sized businesses the "backbone" of the economy and said the new measures will help them avoid ordering layoffs or closing down because of the climate of uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

"We're thinking about that family-owned restaurant that's been around for years, [has] had many of the same employees for years. Employees who've been there through slowdowns, good times and bad times, and now in this moment of crisis they're having to lay these people off at their time of need," he said.

"We know that allowing people to continue that relationship, allow[ing] people to continue to feel and to know they have a job ... is a really important thing, not just for people's confidence, but for the ability of all us to bounce back strongly from this once we're through it."

The prime minister said the wage subsidies will be backdated to March 15, 2020. [Read the full article.](#)

Information for Economic Developers and Local Leaders

BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Weekly Teleconference

Never before has the need to work together been so prevalent. Understanding the impacts of COVID19 on our local community's economy and sharing our efforts

Economic Response and Restart Weekly Teleconference for EDs & Local Leaders

Every Thursday Starting April 2nd

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



BCEDA

BC Economic Development Association



towards response and recovery is needed. We are all in this together.

Please join us for this weekly conference call discussion during this COVID-19 pandemic to share challenges, hear what BCEDA and others are doing, and to have an open Q&A to allow for you to seek answers to your questions. The focus of these calls is intended to be on “economic” issues.

These weekly calls are hosted by the BC Economic Development Association through the Economic Disaster Recovery Program. It is open to every local, regional and Indigenous government in BC as well as Chambers of Commerce, Community Futures, and others involved in supporting the local economy. We'll share relevant information, facilitate dialog, explore collaboration opportunities and tactics for recovery.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER SOON

When: Every Thursday starting April 2

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM PST

[Click here to register](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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

- [City Requests Tax Deferrals and Financial Supports from Province](#)
- [City of New Westminster asks residents to support local](#)
- [Hydroponic greenhouse for Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society to be rooted in Prince Rupert](#)

- [SupportLocalYYJ Buy Gift Cards Online](#)
- [New West is taking action to keep the local economy afloat through COVID-19](#)
- [Victoria's Take-Out Options, Mapped](#)

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

[Getting Urban Economies Back Up & Running After COVID-19](#)

A TEN-POINT ACTION PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS (OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS)

By Richard Florida and Steven Pedigo

As the dreaded Coronavirus rips across the globe, city after city has locked down, transforming urban business centers and suburban malls alike into veritable ghost towns. Our cities can't stay in lockdown indefinitely. The economic costs - never mind the toll on our society and our mental health - is just too devastating.

But the reality is we can't just hit a reset button and revert to how things were before. This pandemic, like all great pandemics, will not end quickly. It threatens to reappear in subsequent waves over the next year to eighteen months, until we find a vaccine or develop herd immunity. The historical record shows that the cities that enforced this kind of social distancing most aggressively in 1918 experienced far fewer cases and had far fewer deaths. Social and physical distancing can work to flatten the curve of the first wave, which will hopefully end in a couple of months, maybe less. Subsequent waves and flare-ups may continue into and beyond next year's flu season, until we develop a vaccine or develop the herd immunity required to fight off this virus.

Even as cities focus on a full-out mobilization of required health and medical resources to cope with the first phase of this pandemic, it is important that economic developers mobilize all available resources to get their communities ready and prepared safely and securely.

To help with this mobilization process, we have developed a 10-point plan, based on detailed tracking of the current pandemic and historical accounts of past pandemics, and conversations with city leaders, health care professionals and economic developers across the country.

[Click here to read more at RestoreYourEconomy.org](#)

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