



BCEDA
BC Economic Development Association



#COVID_19 Bulletin: March 30, 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:

- [Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada's COVID-19 Development Stimulus Fund Application](#)
- [A Solution for Your Displaced Employees: Jobs from Other Sectors on go2HR Job Board](#)
- [BC Chamber of Commerce Launches 'Pulse Checks' Surveys](#)
- [Minister's statement on COVID-19 support for arts and culture sector](#)

All businesses seeing 30% drop in revenue due to pandemic will be eligible for 75% wage subsidies: Trudeau

Kathleen Harris · CBC News · Posted: Mar 30, 2020

Businesses and non-profit organizations seeing a drop of at least 30 per cent in revenue due to COVID-19 will qualify for the government's 75 per cent wage subsidy program, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced today.

During the daily media briefing outside his residence at Rideau Cottage, Trudeau said the number of people a business employs will not determine its eligibility. Charities and companies big and small will qualify, he said.

For those companies experiencing a decrease in revenues of at least 30 per cent, the government will cover up to 75 per cent of a salary on the first \$58,700, which could mean payments of up to \$847 a week. The prime minister also encouraged businesses to top up their employees wages with the remaining 25 per cent of their salaries.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that businesses and non-profit organizations seeing a drop of at least 30 per cent in revenue due to COVID-19 will qualify for the government's 75 per cent wage subsidy program.

Trudeau said the wage subsidies will be retroactive to March 15, 2020.

More details of the program will be unveiled tomorrow by Finance Minister Bill Morneau.

Minister's statement on COVID-19 support for arts and culture sector

Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, has released the following statement about immediate responses to novel coronavirus (COVID-19) for the arts and culture sector:

"COVID-19 and the need for physical distancing has had a significant impact on everyone, including those in the arts sector. Arts organizations right away responded to the orders, direction and recommendations from the provincial health officer, showing great leadership by cancelling events, performances and festivals to protect people's health. We understand this has had a significant impact on artists, their families and arts organizations.

"My colleague Bob D'Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission, and I have been in regular contact with arts and culture leaders to understand their initial needs during this pandemic.

"To support the people and organizations in the arts sector, we have developed a \$3-million Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement to be administered by the BC Arts Council. Operating and eligible project clients will receive a supplement of up to \$15,000 in early April to help them pay their bills.

"Starting in April 2020, the BC Arts Council will provide operating clients a 50% advance on 2020-21 funding to help with their cash flow. We are also extending application deadlines, relaxing reporting requirements and allowing organizations to use funding to cover immediate needs like rent and utilities.

"These actions build on our government's COVID-19 Action Plan. The new BC Emergency Benefit for Workers allows people in the arts sector, who have had their income affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, to apply for a one-time payment of \$1,000. Our government's financial support plan includes several actions that arts organizations are eligible for, such as delaying tax filing and payment deadlines.

"This is a first, but very necessary, step. These measures are what we can do right away within the existing BC Arts Council budget to help arts organizations during the pandemic. We will have more to announce regarding additional supports for the sector in the weeks ahead."

Information for Economic Developers and Local Leaders

WANTED: Professionals willing to donate their time to BC's 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 of Colwood - How to use parks & trails safely](#)
- [Esk'etemc First Nation on 14-day lockdown as precaution against COVID-19](#)
- [Victoria Homelessness - Boxes of Hope](#)
- [#SupportPG - What's open in Prince George](#)

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

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.](#)

Institute for Sustainable Development - Tips for Business and Community Leaders Working to Address the Social and Economic Fall-Out from the Coronavirus

The number one issue in addressing the Coronavirus is to protect public health as much as possible. For more information visit the National Institutes of Health and CDC websites. Many states and localities have created information portals as well. However, as with many disasters, there is also an “invisible disaster” that affects businesses and communities due to changes in consumption, supply chain disruptions, social distancing, and other factors. Read more for some tips and guidance for addressing these social and economic impacts. [Read more.](#)

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