

May 1, 2020

Notice: The BCEDA COVID19 Bulletin will now be emailed on Monday, Wednesdays & Fridays.

#COVID19 Bulletin

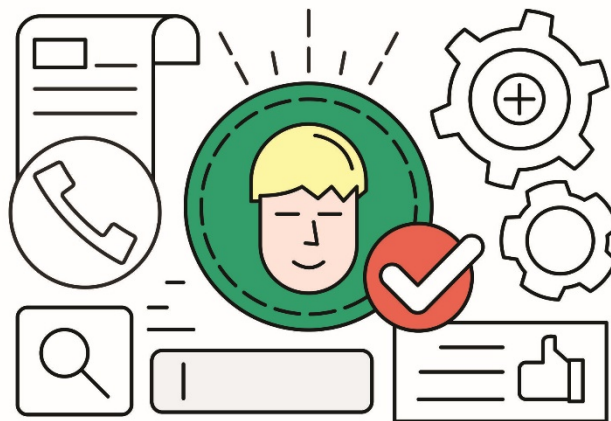


BCEDA

BC Economic Development Association



Resources for Businesses



Live Resources for BC Businesses Document

Recently Updated:

- [B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers application now open](#)
- [Indigenous Business Survey](#)
- [Futurpreneur offers support to existing clients](#)

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CECRA for Small Businesses

CMHC has released more details on CECRA for small businesses

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provides much needed relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. It offers forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners so that they can reduce the rent owed by their impacted small business tenants by at least 75% for the months of April, May and June, 2020.

More information is now available on:

Who is eligible to apply for the CECRA Small Business Program?

How does the CECRA Small Business Program work?

Program details including how funds will be disbursed and how to apply are being finalized and will be available soon. Complete the form at the link below to be notified when more details are available.

[Read More](#)



Two New Programs Support the Region's Food Supply

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of a reliable food supply and has increased the demand for locally grown products. To help Columbia Basin food producers meet this call, Columbia Basin Trust is introducing two new programs: one that provides loans for operational and equipment needs and one that provides wage subsidies to hire workers.

Primary food producers—those that grow grains, vegetables, fruit, forage or raise livestock—can now access the Basin Food Producer Loans. This program provides loans for working capital and equipment. If you're a food producer and require a loan to support increased demand, learn more at ourtrust.org/fploans. Program guidelines will be available on May 1, 2020 and applications will be available on May 6, 2020.

Primary food producers can also access the Basin Food Producer Wage Subsidy, administered by College of the Rockies. Now, producers that are bumping up production due to the pandemic can get financial aid to hire workers throughout the growing and harvesting season. If you're a food producer and require a wage subsidy to hire necessary employees, learn more at ourtrust.org/fpwagesubsidy. Program guidelines will be available on May 1 and applications open on May 11, 2020. Wage subsidies are granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition, the Trust has increased assistance through several existing programs: Small Business Working Capital Loans, Impact Investment Fund, Basin RevUP, Summer Works, School Works, Career Internship Program, Basin Business Advisors and Training Fee Support.

[Read More](#)

Resources for Economic Developers & Local Leaders

Economic Response and Restart
Weekly Teleconference for EDOs & Local Leaders

Every Thursday Starting April 2nd

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



Slides from BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Call, April 30th

Thursdays from 2:00pm to 3:00pm PST

Commercial businesses - current experience and trends

Yesterday, BCEDA hosted the weekly Economic Recovery & Restart teleconference with presentations from Jeremy Bramwell of Bramwell & Associates and Ian Tostenson of the BC Restaurant & Foodservices Association. We are pleased to share the presentation slides below.

[View the slides](#)

[Register for the next call](#)



BCEDA Launches Phase 2 COVID Business Survey

BC BusinessCounts Program

BCEDA is pleased to provide a FREE [BC BusinessCounts](#) module for every local and Indigenous government to use for business engagement at this time.

If you choose, you can upload your business database, enter survey results in the system and run reports. BCEDA also has a network of volunteers available to assist with data entry if needed.

To join, please have your community economic development contact email info@bceda.ca

Current Users: You will need to modify your add screen to use the feature. Just click Add on the main menu and then click Add a New Widget (oval on screen capture) and select the new Phase 2 COVID Survey.

[View the survey](#)



Government takes action to help forest sector keep doors open

The B.C. government is deferring one of the fees it charges to help people, communities and forest companies navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

Stumpage, the fee operators pay the Province to harvest, buy or sell trees from Crown land, is being deferred for three months.

“As government, we had already taken a number of steps to help forest communities and the industry because they were facing tough times even before the COVID-19 crisis came along,” said Premier John Horgan. “Now, we’re deferring stumpage fees so companies can maintain their financial liquidity, which will not only benefit them, but ideally, forest workers and communities as well.”

The deferral with interest is available to Tree Farm Licence, Replaceable Forest Licence and First Nations’ Woodlands Licence holders who are in good financial standing with the Province. They also must be following through on their reforestation obligations.

The deferral will leave eligible companies with an estimated \$80 million so they can pay employees, pay contractors and pay other bills needed to keep their doors open or reopen them faster.

[Read More](#)



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

Chambre de
Commerce
du Canada

Canadian Chamber Identifies Five Keys to Reopening the Economy

April 28, 2020 - Ottawa, Ontario

(OTTAWA, ON) – April 28 2020 – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce’s Vice-President of Policy and Chief Economist, Trevin Stratton, issued the following statement outlining five key considerations to help re-open the economy:

“As governments and public health officials increasingly consider the gradual relaxation of shutdown orders and set the conditions, they need to work closely with business.”

Businesses want to ramp up economic activity quickly and safely in a way that allows Canadians to get back to work while protecting employees, customers and the general public. As they implement public health measures, businesses will need time to procure personal protective equipment and change how they operate.

Policymakers need to develop clear, predictable measures that are coherent domestically and aligned internationally where possible, and that minimize unintended consequences. Doing so will give Canadians the confidence to return to their workplaces and patronize businesses in their communities.

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What BC Communities Are Doing

Community businesses, organizations come together to launch #SupportPG online hub

[More info](#)

Salmon Arm council turns travel money into emergency fund for non-profits

[More info](#)

City of Nelson Council Adopts Economic Stimulus and Financial Stability Plan

[More info](#)

Chilliwack Economic Recovery Network Launched to Help Local Businesses

[More info](#)

BC Breweries Making All Together IPA

[More info](#)

info@bceda.ca Share your community's news by emailing



2020 Economic Development Week is May 4-9, 2020

A REMOTELY AWESOME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Not quite halfway into 2020, this year has proven to be unlike anything we've ever seen. The effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic continue to be felt at every level, taking our economy into uncharted territory. Yet the global response from EDOs to this crisis underscores exactly how essential economic developers are. Now, as always, economic developers are critical to ensuring our communities remain economically resilient.

Created by the International Economic Development Council in 2016, the goal of Economic Development Week (EDW) is to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities and increase the quality of life in communities everywhere. Economic Development Week includes activities in communities large and small designed to highlight the importance of economic development and the good work that economic developers do every day.

Looking for ideas to celebrate Economic Development Week?

Get involved and take part in the celebration by downloading the [#EDW2020 Toolkit](#) and access:

- Special ways to engage your elected officials
- Press release templates
- Electronic and print advertising templates
- City, county, and state resolutions templates
- Social media marketing sample promotional messaging
- Event ideas
- #EconDevWeek Excellence in Economic Development Week Awards details
- Championing Economic Development resources
- And much, much more!

You can also watch our #EconDevWeek primer for tips and tricks on how to make your #EDW2020 the most effective celebration possible.

During #EDW2020, BCEDA is excited to highlight the 2020 BC Economic Development Award winners, share economic recovery resources and host a special edition of the weekly Economic Response & Restart Call on Thursday, May 7th.

Get started now and create awareness for the value that the economic development profession brings to your community.

[Read More](#)