

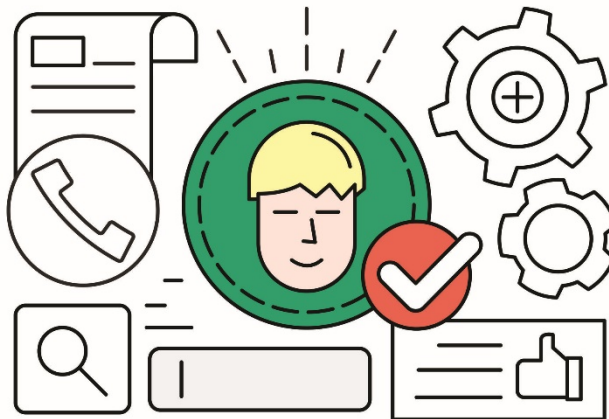
May 11, 2020

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

#COVID19 Bulletin



Resources for Businesses



Live Resources for BC Businesses Document

Recently Updated:

- [Tender Notice: Cloth Face Masks](#)
- [BIV Podcast: Coping with COVID-19: What does B.C.'s plan to reopen mean for business](#)
- [BC Tech Association Webinar - Managing your Business and Teams Remotely](#)
- [Imagine Canada is collecting stories about the charitable and nonprofit sector's experiences with COVID-19](#)
- [RCC's curbside pickup for retailers cheat sheet](#)

[View More](#)



Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs

May 11, 2020 - Ottawa, Ontario

COVID-19 has altered the way we live our lives and, every day, Canadians are facing new challenges during this crisis. As more people worry about paying their bills and caring for their loved ones, the Government of Canada is continuing to take unprecedented action to help protect middle class jobs, and the health and safety of all Canadians.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced new measures to support businesses so they can keep their workers on the payroll and weather this pandemic.

Millions of Canadians pay their bills and feed their families by working for large and medium-sized businesses. The government will offer support to those businesses affected by COVID-19 based on a number of conditions. To help protect Canadian middle class jobs, and safeguard our economy, the Government of Canada will :

- **Establish a Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)** to provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic downturn, and avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable firms where possible. This support will not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms, nor will it provide financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis. The additional liquidity provided through LEEFF will allow Canada's largest businesses and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time, and position them for a rapid economic recovery.
- Use key guiding principles in providing support through the LEEFF, including:
 - Protection of taxpayers and workers: Companies seeking support must demonstrate how they intend to preserve employment and maintain investment activities. Recipients will need to commit to respect collective bargaining agreements and protect workers' pensions. The LEEFF program will require strict limits to dividends, share buy-backs, and executive pay. In considering a company's eligibility to assistance under the LEEFF program, an assessment may be made of its employment, tax, and economic activity in Canada, as well as its international organizational structure and financing arrangements. The program will not be available to companies that have been convicted of tax evasion. In addition, recipient companies would be required to commit to publish annual climate-related disclosure reports consistent with the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, including how their future operations will support environmental sustainability and national climate goals.
 - Fairness: To ensure support across the Canadian economy, the financing is intended to be applicable to all eligible sectors in a consistent manner.
 - Timeliness: To ensure timely support, the LEEFF program will apply a standard set of economic terms and conditions.

- **Expand the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs.** Support for mid-market businesses will include loans of up to \$60 million per company, and guarantees of up to \$80 million. Through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with private sector lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions.
- **Continue to provide financing to businesses through Farm Credit Canada, the BDC, and EDC,** including through the Canada Account. This will ensure the government is able to respond to a wide range of financing needs, including for some large employers facing higher risks, with stricter terms in order to adequately protect taxpayers.

These measures are part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which has helped protect Canadian jobs, and committed billions in support to Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the pandemic. This includes an extension on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, which allows businesses to keep workers on the payroll. The government will continue to monitor and respond to the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19, and take additional actions as needed to protect the health and safety of Canadians and stabilize the economy.

[Read More](#)



Retail Council of Canada Recovery Playbook

To assist retailers in their reopening planning, Retail Council of Canada, in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group and retailers from across Canada, are leveraging global best practices for a diverse range of retail formats with the fundamental aim of ensuring a safe environment for employees and customers.

Topics include:

Customer Health & Safety

Ensure customers are & feel safe while shopping in your stores, including guidance on:

- Customer screening
- Social distancing

- Check & payment
- Store cleanliness

Employee Wellbeing

Keep employees safe & healthy while operating your stores, including guidance on:

- Protective equipment
- Confirmed case response
- Employee testing

Retail Operations

Continue to efficiently & effectively deliver product & operate stores, including guidance on:

- Supply chain management
- Inventory management
- Store operations

Merchandising & Marketing

Provide a relevant offering given the new market context, including guidance on:

- Product offering & assortment
- Pricing, promotion & markdown
- Advertising & communications

[Download Recovery Playbooks](#)



BCRFA Blueprint for Reopening

Upon receiving the call to action for innovative thinking from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, the British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Association (BCRFA) assembled a group of world-class British Columbia restaurant operators and industry representatives to come together with the goal of building a set of best practices for operators timed for the reopening of in-restaurant

dining. The group includes a cross-section of independent restaurants, chains and franchises including both licensed and non- licensed establishments.

[Download the Blueprint](#)

[Watch Webinar Recording](#)

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



BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Call, May 14

Thursday, May 14

2:00pm to 3:00pm PST

The Changing Business Landscape for Retail, Shopping Centres and Events Industries

As the province starts to shift towards reopening, some questions arise:

- What will the retail landscape look like?
- How can businesses gain back their customers and markets?
- Will shopping centres still be viable?
- Can cancelled events and festivals be held virtually?
- What's the future for the event/festival and conference industry?

Join us on this week's call to hear from the following experts in the retail, shopping centre and events industries:

- Karl Littler, Vice President, Public Relationships, Retail Council of Canada
- Michael Kehoe, Canada Ambassador, International Council of Shopping Centers
- Calvin McCarthy, President, SW Event Technology & Showtime Event and Display

[Register Now](#)



COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations

A collaboration between FCM and the Canadian Medical Association Foundation

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations directly funds cities and communities to support vulnerable populations struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Made possible by an unprecedented \$10 million philanthropic donation from the Canadian Medical Association Foundation (CMAF), it will empower municipalities across Canada to better reach, protect and assist the most vulnerable among us—including those experiencing homelessness or grappling with mental health and substance use challenges.

FCM is supporting the CMA Foundation with the delivery of this initiative by providing expertise on community needs and engaging recipients. This joint effort by two of Canada's largest membership organizations will save lives and help keep those needing medical assistance out of emergency rooms and community health centres.

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations will direct allocations to communities with homeless populations according to needs, based on the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness Streams of the federal Reaching Home program for homelessness interventions.

Use of funds

For example, these funds could help communities secure or repurpose facilities for overnight shelter or daytime use that allow for physical distancing or isolation, along with associated supports and services; create or expand community hygiene facilities; provide emergency food access or emergency mental health services.

Eligible communities will be contacted by FCM, on behalf of CMAF, regarding their allocations and funding details.

[Read More](#)



Rising Stronger Forum: Preparing Canada's Post-Pandemic Workforce

Wed, 13 May 2020 - 11:00am to 12:00pm PST

Moderator Ron Painter (National Association of Workforce Boards) will be joined by panelists Steven Tobin (Labour Market Information Council), Trudy Parsons (MDB Insight), Gladys Okine (Canadian Council for Youth Prosperity), Sarah Watts-Rynard (Polytechnics Canada) and Jake Hirsh-Allen

(LinkedIn) for an interactive conversation to examine priorities and strategies that reflect the early and essential efforts of those working at the intersection of workforce and economic development. Where do we start? How do we ensure an effective workforce transition for getting people back to work? Thinking beyond the current crisis, the coordination of our efforts and the long-term impact of COVID-19 will also be among the topics of discussion.

This Leadership Forum is being convened by Workforce Central Canada, a collaboration of MDB Insight, the National Association of Workforce Boards and HIEC.

[Register Here](#)



What BC Communities Are Doing

District of Kitimat launching survey to analyze COVID-19's impact on local business

[More info](#)

Victoria mayor says city looking to open up streets, sidewalks to restaurants, retailers this summer

[More info](#)

Fort St. John hosts virtual Small Business Roundtables

[More info](#)

Penticton's EOC working toward safe 'restart' of City facilities

[More info](#)

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