

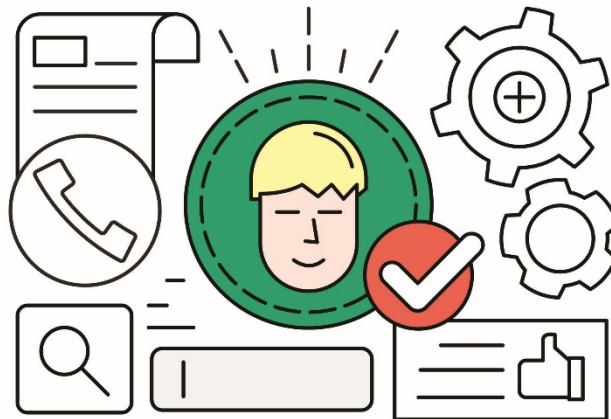
May 4, 2020

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:

- [SBBC Webinar: Google Strategies for Food and Beverage Businesses](#)
- [Indigenous Tourism BC - Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- [BLG Law: Coming out of the COVID-19 lockdown: issues and challenges facing Canadian employers](#)
- [Trudeau unveils new COVID-19 Supply Council in charge of stockpiling equipment](#)

[View More](#)



Government creates COVID-19 temporary layoff period

To ease financial hardship on businesses and to keep employees connected with their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, government has extended the temporary layoff period to 16 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons.

Previously under the Employment Standards Act, a temporary layoff longer than 13 weeks in any 20-week period (or about three months in a five-month period) was considered a permanent layoff. With a permanent layoff, employers are required to provide employees with written working notice of termination and/or pay severance to qualifying employees, based on their length of service. **Now, temporary layoffs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic can be extended to 16 weeks, if the employee agrees.**

This change to the Employment Standards Act aligns B.C.'s temporary layoff provisions with the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit period. The federal period provides 16 weeks of financial support, allowing employees to take full advantage of those benefits.

It also allows employees to keep their job, even if they are not working, for 16 weeks of temporary layoff. Employers will be able to quickly resume operations should the public health emergency end within that time.

The COVID-19 emergency temporary layoff provisions are not intended to be permanent and will be repealed when no longer needed.

[Read More](#)



CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS.

Request Letter Template for Qualified Tenants

CFIB has prepared a template letter for qualified tenants to ask their landlords to offer the 75% rent reduction. They also have a template for landlords to offer this much needed relief to their tenants.

1. CECRA Request Letter: Invite your landlord to participate in the Canada Emergency Commercial Rental Assistance program with this letter template. Plug-in your information to let your landlord know when your lease expires, what actions you've taken to obtain financial relief during the crisis and why their participation in the program would help.

[Download Now](#)

2. CECRA Landlord Letter: Notify your tenants about the relief from the federal government available to them and open a discussion about the Canada Emergency Rent Assistance program. Let them know your thoughts on the program so far and your intended course of action.

[Download Now](#)

[Read More](#)

WorkBC Assistive Technology Services Webinar

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - 10:00am PST

Assistive technology to overcome a functional barrier at work!

Could you or an employee or a community member benefit from assistive technology to overcome a functional barrier at work?

Do you or they have a disability or a chronic medical condition such as back, neck, or shoulder pain, or carpal tunnel syndrome?

Funding is available now for supports such as: assistive technology, ergonomics, restorative supports, communication and hearing devices, vehicle modifications, and more.

To learn more, join Nate Toevs for a webinar on WorkBC Assistive Technology Services.

This program is operated by Neil Squire Society and provides supports to individuals experiencing work-related barriers caused by a disability or functional limitation.

Below are the Zoom Room meeting details for your Work BC webinars:

Room Name: WorkBC ATS Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/635547822>

Dial in number is 1855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

Meeting ID: 635 547 822

[Read More](#)

Resources for Economic Developers & Local Leaders

Economic Response and Restart Weekly Teleconference for EDOs & Local Leaders

Thursdays at 2:00pm PST

This week: Steven Pedigo



RESONANCE



BCEDA Economic Response & Restart Call

Thursday, May 7

2:00pm to 3:00pm PST

Economic Development & Resilience in the Age of COVID-19 - Concrete Plans & Next Steps for Communities

It's a special edition of BCEDA's weekly teleconference celebrating Economic Development Week! Join us for guest speaker, **Steven Pedigo of Resonance** as well as the launch of the revised **BCEDA Economic Recovery & Resiliency Toolkit**.

An expert in real estate and economic development research and strategy, marketing and place branding, Steven has advised cities, universities, real estate developers, nonprofit organizations, Fortune 500 companies, and major media outlets across the globe.

As Vice President, Strategy, at [Resonance](#), Steven leads the economic development practice and works with real estate developers to build more inclusive, creative communities.

[Register for the next call](#)



What BC Communities Are Doing

District of Kent expands home business opportunities

[More info](#)

Good deeds in the midst of a pandemic

[More info](#)

Surrey Economic Recovery Task Force is aimed at providing practical back-to-business support and communications for businesses and workplaces

[More info](#)

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



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

IEDC Webinar: Rethinking BR&E in the COVID-19 Era

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. PST

Business retention and expansion has always been the basis for successful economic development, and in the era of COVID-19, a strong BR&E program is more essential than ever before. However, the pervasive health and economic consequences of this global pandemic require economic developers to rethink our traditional mindset and approaches to BR&E.

This Wednesday, join IEDC CEO Jeff Finkle and ExecutivePulse Inc. President Laith Wardi, CEcD to get started on reframing your BR&E strategy for our current circumstances.

They will discuss:

- How does COVID-focused BR&E differ from a traditional approach?
- What traditional BR&E tactics can be used for a COVID-19 rapid response?
- Which BR&E methodologies need to be changed or abandoned altogether?
- What opportunities will arise from the pandemic?

[Register Now](#)



Creating Connections: A Workshop on Exploring Co-Operatives

Creating Connections is an online workshop designed specifically for economic developers. The workshop is practical, results focused and delivered by experienced practitioners. So, no fluff. Plus, this FREE course is EDAC accredited.

Gain practical insight into how to explore an opportunity for co-op business development. Plus, get a better understanding of how to work with groups interested in structuring their business as a co-operative.

Explore real-life case studies to achieve a deeper understanding of the business model. Just as importantly, get a clear understanding of where the model fits as a problem-solving tool.

[Read More](#)



Celebrating #EconDevWeek May 4-9, 2020

Tell us:

What is your community doing to celebrate Economic Development Week 2020?

What do you love most about being an EDO?

We would love to share on this week's Economic Recovery & Restart Call.

[Email info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca)

Thank you to our Partners & Members!



2020 PARTNERS



BCEDA is a non-profit association with a mandate to provide education, services and tools to support the economic development profession in British Columbia. BCEDA is funded solely by membership and partnership revenue.

BCEDA activities could not be accomplished without the support of partners, like FortisBC, BC Hydro, the Province of BC, Indigenous Services Canada and others. The most important partnership for us all is the one with communities and economic developers throughout BC, whether it is in an Indigenous, local or regional government, community organizations like Chamber of Commerce, or a federal agency like Community Futures we need to all work together to identify opportunities, overcome challenges, and to lead all of our communities to economic success.

You all are local leaders, you are change agents, you are team players, you are believers and most of all you are all economic developers. For that we all thank you. The work you are doing is making our communities, our regions, our province and our country a stronger and more prosperous place for us all.

[Join BCEDA Today](#)