COVID-19 Businesses Support Program Summary

The following is a summary of some of the Business support programs that have been announced by Federal and Provincial governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are having issues applying to any of these programs, please let us know so that we can follow up on behalf of our members.

Provincial

COVID-19 Business Adaptation Advice Program

This program provides a non-repayable contribution of up to $2,500 (up to 100%) toward the cost for a PEI business to hire a professional to provide advice and support to adapt to or recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

This assistance will contribute to the costs associated with obtaining:

- Business, HR and financial planning and advice
- Advice on transitioning to digital or IT solutions
- Advice on exporting, marketing, and logistics
- Other professional services which may be of assistance in adapting or recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, determined in consultation with Innovation PEI


COVID-19 Income Support Fund

One-time lump sum payment of $750 effective March 13, 2020 – April 30, 2020 to bridge the gap between the loss of job/lay-off, loss of primary source of income, EI benefits have expired or loss of all revenues through self-employment as a result of COVID-19.

For more details and to apply use this link: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/covid-19-income-support-fund](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/covid-19-income-support-fund)

For more information regarding this program call 1-877-491-4766.

**Online applications can be submitted until April 30, 2020.**

Emergency Relief - Worker Assistance Program

A temporary program to provide financial support to employers to assist their employed workers who have been impacted by reduced hours at work as a result of COVID-19.

For more details and to apply use this link: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-relief-worker-assistance-program](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-relief-worker-assistance-program).

Please contact SkillsPEI at 902-368-6290 or 902-438-4151.

**Online applications can be submitted until April 30, 2020.**
Employee Gift Card Program

$100 gift card from Sobeys to employees who have received a lay-off as a result of COVID-19. The application form is to be completed by the employer, who will then distribute the gift card letters to affected employees.

Eligible to employees that have received an ROE for a lay-off as a result of COVID-19, between the dates of April 15th to April 30th, 2020

For more details and to apply use this link: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/employee-gift-card-program

For questions, you can email giftcard@gov.pe.ca or call 1-866-213-7521 for assistance.

Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed

The Emergency Income Relief Fund is a temporary program put in place to support the self-employed who have been significantly affected by COVID-19. A maximum of $500 per week for the period of March 16 to March 29, 2020 (this period will be reviewed as required).

For more details and to apply use this link: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-income-relief-self-employed

Online applications can be submitted until April 30, 2020.

Emergency Working Capital Financing

Developed to provide emergency working capital financing to assist PEI’s small business during this unprecedented economic disruption to business, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. This new loan program is to assist qualifying companies maintain normal business operations during these difficult times.

• Up to a maximum of $100,000 per company
• The loans will bear interest at fixed rate of 4% per annum, commencing at first disbursement and accruing during the term of the loan.
• Repayment of this loan will commence 12 months after the first disbursement, with the balance outstanding to be repaid over the remaining 5-year period (for a total term of 6 years).
• Loans are secured by: Promissory Note for the full amount of the loan, Personal guarantees of the business owner(s), General Security Agreement

For more details and to apply use this link: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-working-capital-financing

Workers Compensation Board (WCB)

WCB will defer all assessment due dates related to 2020 employer payrolls. This temporary change means that covered employers will not have to pay WCB premiums until June 30th, 2020. Neither interest nor penalties will accrue during this time.

For more information refer to this link: http://www.wcb.pe.ca/DocumentManagement/Document/pub_assessmentdeferralfaq.pdf

For more information on payment options, contact (902) 368-5680.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Federal

**Record of Employment for EI**

If your employees are directly affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) and they are no longer working, you must issue a Record of Employment (ROE).


---

**Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

The CERB supports Canadians by providing financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19. It provides a payment of $2,000 for a 4-week period (the same as $500 a week) for up to 16 weeks.

For more details and to apply use this link: [https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html)

---

**Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy**

As a Canadian employer whose business has been affected by COVID-19, you may be eligible for a subsidy of 75% of employee wages for up to 12 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020, to June 6, 2020.

This wage subsidy will enable you to re-hire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19, help prevent further job losses, and better position you to resume normal operations following the crisis.


---

**Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)**

$65 billion of support through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC). BDC and EDC are working with private sector lenders to coordinate on credit solutions for individual businesses, including in sectors such as oil and gas, air transportation, exportation and tourism.

This program includes:

**Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

The new CEBA will provide interest-free loans of up to $40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between $20,000 and $1.5 million in total payroll in 2019.

Please note that the CEBA enrollment will only be available online.

Links for Canadian Banks:

- Credit Union - [www.creditunionspei.com/ceba.html](http://www.creditunionspei.com/ceba.html)
Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to $6.25 million to SMEs.

Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to $6.25 million through the program. These programs will roll out in the three weeks after March 27 and interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions.

Learn more about the Business Credit Availability Program:

Support for Farmers (Farm Credit Canada)

Payment deferrals and credit line program
To ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors can remain focused on business-critical functions rather than worrying about how to access funds to keep operating through this challenging period, effective immediately, FCC has put in place:

- a deferral of principal and interest payments up to six months for existing loans; or
- a deferral of principal payments up to 12 months
- access to an additional credit line up to $500,000

If you’d like more information on these options or on how FCC can help improve your financial position, please contact your local office or the Customer Service Centre at 1-888-332-3301 for further details.

Term loans up to $2.5M,

With no fees and an 18-month interest-only option available over a 10-year amortization. These funds can be used for working capital and to modify production due to the impacts of COVID-19.

For further details go to: www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html

To learn more or to apply please contact:
Peter Nelson, P.Ag, Director, Commercial Financing
Tel: (902) 956-0889 / peter.nelson@fcc-fac.ca

Work-sharing

Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides EI benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Must be a year-round business with 2 employees in the WS department.

There are specific eligibility criteria that apply to this program. More information is provided at the following link: https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html

Applications to the Program in the Atlantic region can be sent to the following e-mail:
ESDC.TP-ATL-WS-TP.EDSC@servicecanada.gc.ca
Other COVID-19 Supports and Services

Provincial

- For general questions about COVID-19, call 1-800-958-6400
- For business questions about COVID-19 call 1-866-222-1751 or email peibusinesshelpline@gov.pe.ca
- If you have just returned from outside of Prince Edward Island and have symptoms, including a cough, fever or difficulty breathing, call 811
- For up-to-date and accurate information on COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island, visit: www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19
- For the up-to-date business supports, visit: www.princeedwardisland.ca/covidforbusiness
- For an up-to-date list of essential and non-essential services, visit: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/essential-and-non-essential-services
- Government of Prince Edward Island Facebook page: www.facebook.com/govpe
- Government of Prince Edward Island Twitter page: https://twitter.com/InfoPEI
- Subscribe to the provincial news releases here: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/subscribe-to-government-subscription-service
- PEI Broadband Fund: includes coverage for mi-fi units and boosters to help support working-from-home arrangements where access to high-speed internet remains a challenge: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/broadband-fund-businesses
- Commercial Rent Deferral program: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/finance-pei/commercial-lease-rent-deferral-program
- Commercial Tenants and Landlords: Rent can be deferred for three months. Landlords can be compensated: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/finance-pei/commercial-lease-rent-deferral-program
- Deferral of Provincial Loan Payments - The Government of PEI is deferring all scheduled loan payments for clients of Finance PEI, Island Investment Development Inc. and the PEI Century Fund for the next three months. www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/province-announces-more-financial-support-islanders
- An Emergency Child Care Program is being developed for essential workers, to assist with this process a survey has been developed to collect important information for implementing emergency child care services: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-child-care-services

Federal

- There is also a link there to the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) COVID-19 Information and Tips, including their AGRI HR Toolkit, which is free right now with the access code: COVID-19.
- DFO: http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/covid19/industry-industrie/index-eng.html

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- Additional measures from [CRA for individuals and businesses](https://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/)

- Transport Canada safety bulletins - please refer to them at the following link: [https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-menu.htm](https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/bulletins-menu.htm)

- As a reminder, please continue to monitor the following web page as more supports are developed: [www.princeedwardisland.ca/covidforbusiness](http://www.princeedwardisland.ca/covidforbusiness)