



Prince Edward Island
AQUACULTURE
ALLIANCE

SUPPORT. PROMOTE. GROW.

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.**

Latest Updates:

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – Changes to the eligibility criteria have been announced, go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-what-changes.html> for further details

Further details will be communicated to all members once they are announced.

Provincial

COVID-19 Support for Essential Workers - Earning \$3,000/month or less

This program is intended to provide a temporary wage top-up to essential workers employed during the PEI Public Health State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible employees earning \$3,000 per month or less will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000, administered through their employer.

For more details and to apply use this link: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/covid-19-support-essential-workers-earning-3000month-or-less

Closes August 28, 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: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-working-capital-financing.

Fisheries Emergency Loan and Interest Relief Program

This loan provides funding in the form of a repayable loan to qualified applicants. Interest payments on loans approved through this program will qualify for interest relief for a period of 18 months with Finance PEI offering principal deferrals to match the same 18 month period.

For more details and to apply use this link: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/fisheries-emergency-loan

The interest relief program will provide relief for qualified applicants (12 months of interest relief).

For more details and to apply use this link: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/fisheries-interest-relief-program.

Workers Compensation Board (WCB)

WCB will defer of all assessment due dates related to 2020 employer payrolls. This temporary change means that covered employers will not have to pay WCB premiums until September 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.

Monday, August 17, 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).

More details provided at the following link <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

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>

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.

For more details and to apply use this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>

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
- RBC - <https://www.rbc.com/covid-19/business.html>
- TD - www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/covid-19/small-business-relief
- Scotia Bank - <https://www.scotiabank.com/ca/en/personal/scotia-support/business-banking.html>
- BMO - www.bmo.com/main/business/covid-19-business-support
- CIBC - <https://www.cibc.com/en/business/advice-centre/covid-19.html#governmentrelief>

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:

www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Atlantic Association of Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) are distributing the RRRF in Atlantic Canada.

For more information and to apply please check the ACOA website (www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/services/application-for-financial-assistance.html)

or contact your local CBDC <https://www.cbdc.ca/en/prince-edward-island-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-rrrf>.

Please note: The demand for funds for the RRRF has exceeded the funds available. The CBDC application portal remains open and you are encouraged to submit an application which will be processed should more funds become available. Applicants will be contacted to discuss their individual case and the full range of CBDC programs and services available to them.

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

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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

PEI Aquaculture COVID-19 Toolkit

All Island businesses need to develop an operational plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been highlighted by the Provincial government (click [here](#) for more details).

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance has been hard at work on behalf of all our members, mussel, oyster and finfish farmers, and is happy to share this [COVID-19 SOP Toolkit](#). **Simply click on the link to download a Zip file.**

The toolkit is designed to help all PEI Aquaculturists, it contains a set of template SOPs that each grower can adapt to their unique requirements, a guide to assessing the risks specific to each part of their operation, as well as a number of useful posters and handouts, and links to further information.

If you are an Alliance member and have any questions, need any help with developing SOPs for your operation or have suggestions for additions to the toolkit please get in touch with us.

We would like to thank all of our members who have generously contributed their own SOP documents to help in the creation of this toolkit.

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
- COVID-19 FAQs for Employers: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/covid-19-facts-employers
- 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

- Agriculture and Agri Food Canada: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-information-for-industry/?id=1584732749543>
- 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.
- ACOA - <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19/covid-19information.html>
- DFO: <http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/covid19/industry-industrie/index-eng.html>
- Federal COVID-19 <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>
- Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/additional-support-for-canadian-businesses-from-the-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html#_Deferral_of_Sales
- Additional measures from [CRA for individuals and businesses](#)
- Transport Canada safety bulletins - please refer to them at the following link: <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
- Fisheries Council of Canada – Employer Guidance on COVID-19 <http://fisheriescouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Employer-Guidance-for-COVID-19-1.pdf>