

# COVID-19 – Tax and Economic Relief Measures

TAXNET PRO

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**(Note – the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) is Covered in a [Separate Second Newsletter](#))**

**JUNE 12, 2020** (recent additions – i.e. since the previous posting – have been highlighted)

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## Summary Table: Extended Tax Filing and Payment Deadlines and Special Administrative Measures during the COVID-19 Crisis

Below is a summary (PB: Ryan Keey) of tax relief related measures that have been announced to-date by the federal and provincial governments, followed by an extensive compendium of CRA and provincial publications and links that provide more details on the tax measures as well as other economic/business related measures ([editorial comments have been added]).

Federal	
<a href="#"><u>Corporate tax return (T2) and payments</u></a>	The filing deadline is extended to June 1, 2020 for corporations that would otherwise have a filing-due date after March 18 and before June 1, 2020. Applicable to corporations that would otherwise have a filing deadline in June, July, or August 2020, on May 22, the CRA announced that the deadline would be extended to September 1, 2020. As a <i>temporary</i> administrative measure, the CRA will recognize <a href="#"><u>electronic signatures</u></a> as having met the signature requirements in respect of Forms T183 and T183CORP. Note that all drop boxes not located at the CRA's tax centres have been closed. Also, the CRA has made various requests regarding correspondence, filing and payment procedures due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19; see <a href="#"><u>Tax Services Offices and Tax Centres</u></a> . See also Bruce Ball, " <a href="#"><u>COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</u></a> ", May 29 ("The CRA stated that all T2 corporate income tax returns "otherwise due" in June, July or August 2020, are now due on September 1, 2020. The extension applies to T106 and T1135 forms, as well as any elections, forms and schedules that are filed with corporate returns. This announcement caused uncertainty for returns due on June 1 under the previous extension announced in March. The CRA has now confirmed with us that such returns covered by the previous extension are still due on June 1. The application of the extension for corporations with November 30, 2019 year-ends was also unclear. These returns are due on June 1 because May 31, 2020 falls on a Sunday. The CRA has confirmed with us that these returns are now due on September 1, 2020 since they were otherwise due on June 1") and 51.
<a href="#"><u>Corporate final tax payment due date for current taxation year</u></a>	Deadline is extended to September 1, 2020 in respect of balances and instalments under Part 1 of the ITA otherwise due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020. The extension does not apply to taxes payable under other Parts of the ITA, such as Part IV, Part IV.1, Part VI.1, Part XIII. Furthermore, payroll deductions— except to the extent they relate to the reduction of remittances related to the temporary wage subsidy – must continue to be remitted on time (presumably, ITR 102 and 105 withholdings must be remitted by the normal due date even though such taxes are imposed under Part I of the ITA). It appears withholdings under ITA 116 must be remitted by the normal due date. In the Appendix below, see COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency (see CRA Special Notice 2020-04-17: <i>COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency for businesses</i> ). See also CPA Canada/the CTF, " <a href="#"><u>list of other COVID-19-related tax issues</u></a> ", May 4, Bruce Ball, " <a href="#"><u>COVID-19 tax update: CEWS, employee expenses and benefits, deadline extensions</u></a> ", May 7, 2020 and <a href="#"><u>COVID-19 tax update: CEWS Q&amp;A, other developments and CRA discussions</u></a> , May 14, CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i> .
<a href="#"><u>All taxpayers: Other information returns,</u></a>	The filing-due date is extended to September 1, 2020. Unless otherwise noted, this extension applies to all information returns, elections, designations and information

<p><a href="#"><u><b>elections, designations and information requests</b></u></a></p>	<p>response requests that are otherwise due after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020 (the extension date was extended on May 22, 2020). For 2019 T2 corporate returns, the extension of the filing deadline applies for all purposes, including form T106, T1135, and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the corporate return. This relieving measure does not apply in respect of a prescribed form, receipt or document, or prescribed information, that is required to be filed with the CRA on or after the day specified, in respect of the form, receipt, document or information, in ITA 37(11) or 127(9)“investment tax credits”(m) (i.e. in respect of SR&amp;ED credits – Form T661, T2 sch. 31). However, subsection 7(1) of the <i>Time Limits and Other Periods Act</i> is being added to specifically permit the CRA to extend the deadline in ITA 37(11) and 127(9)“investment tax credit”(m) by up to 6 months during the COVID-19 pandemic. See also <a href="#"><u><b>Bill C-17 (First Reading June 10, 2020), An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures</b></u></a> (Part 2 of Bill proposes to enact the <i>Time Limits and Other Periods Act</i> (COVID-19)), Bruce Ball, “<a href="#"><u><b>COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</b></u></a>”, CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i>, May 29 (“The CRA also extended deadlines for other information returns, elections, designations, and information requests due in June, July and August, to September 1, 2020. Again, this excludes filings and requests due on June 1, 2020 because of the March extension, and the CRA did confirm this with us. Partnership returns normally due on May 31, 2020, which is a Sunday, are otherwise due on June 1 this year. The CRA confirmed with us that these returns are now due by September 1, 2020. Finally, we note that the CRA did not extend filing deadlines for Form T661 forms for Scientific Research and Experimental Development claims. As you may know, the federal government released draft legislation to allow the CRA to accept late-filed Form T661s, but the CRA has not yet communicated how they intend to apply this legislation”) and KPMG, “<a href="#"><u><b>CRA Confirms Tax Due Dates Extended to September 1, 2020</b></u></a>”, <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i>, No. 2020-52, June 2.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><b>Objections</b></u></a></p>	<p>The deadline for filing any objection request due March 18 or later is extended until June 30, 2020 (Finance Backgrounder 2020-03-27). See also <a href="#"><u><b>Collections, audit, objections and appeals: CRA and COVID-19</b></u></a>.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><b>Transfer Pricing</b></u></a></p>	<p>Requests for contemporaneous documentation that were made prior to April 1, 2020 having a deadline of March 18, 2020 or later will be considered cancelled and will be re-issued at a later date, providing the maximum amount of time of 3 months to submit the documentation. See also Kirkey et al., “Transfer pricing &amp; APA considerations during an economic disruption”, Gowling WLG, April 7, 2020 (available on <i>Taxnet Pro</i>), KPMG, “<a href="#"><u><b>COVID-19 — Implications and Considerations for Transfer Pricing</b></u></a>”, <i>Implications and Considerations for Transfer Pricing</i>, April 9, 2020, and Deloitte, “Respond, recover, and thrive: Transfer pricing considerations in the time of COVID-19”, April 30, 2020 (available on <i>Taxnet Pro</i>).</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><b>Trusts</b></u></a>: Filing date for current tax year (including the associated T3 information return)</p>	<p>Filing deadline is extended to May 1, 2020 for trusts with a tax year end date of December 31, 2019. Filing deadline is extended to June 1, 2020 for trusts that would otherwise have a filing due date on March 31, or in April or May 2020. Filing deadline is extended to September 1, 2020 trusts that would otherwise have a filing due date in June, July, or August 2020 (announced on May 22). See also Bruce Ball, “<a href="#"><u><b>COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</b></u></a>”, CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i>, May 29 (“Deadlines for 2020 T3 trust returns are similarly extended: T3 returns otherwise due on March 31, 2020 or during April or May 2020, are due on June 1, 2020, as announced in March. T3 returns otherwise due in June, July or August 2020, are now due on September 1, 2020. Late-filing penalties and interest will be waived for T1135 forms and any other elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the T3 return, as long as they are filed by September 1, 2020”) and KPMG, “<a href="#"><u><b>CRA Confirms Tax Due Dates Extended to September 1, 2020</b></u></a>”, <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i>, No. 2020-52, June 2.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><b>Trusts</b></u></a>: Payment date for current tax year</p>	<p>Deadline extended to September 1, 2020 in respect of income tax balances and instalments due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020. Penalties and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020. See also Bruce Ball, “<a href="#"><u><b>COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</b></u></a>”, CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i>, May 29, and KPMG, “<a href="#"><u><b>CRA Confirms Tax Due Dates Extended to September 1, 2020</b></u></a>”, <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i>, No. 2020-52, June 2.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><b>Partnerships</b></u></a></p>	<p>The filing date for the 2019 T5013 Partnership Information Return is May 1, 2020. See also Bruce Ball, “<a href="#"><u><b>COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</b></u></a>”,</p>

	CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i> , May 29 and KPMG, " <a href="#">CRA Confirms Tax Due Dates Extended to September 1, 2020</a> ", <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i> , No. 2020-52, June 2.
<a href="#">Part XIII Tax</a>	The filing date for the 2019 NR4, <i>Statement of Amounts Paid or Credited to Non-Residents of Canada</i> information return is May 1, 2020. The Part XIII payment date remains the 15th of each month following an amount paid or credited by residents of Canada to non-resident persons.
<a href="#">FATCA and Common Reporting Standard Information Returns</a>	Filing date for information returns under Part XVIII (FATCA) and Part XIX (Common Reporting Standard) of the ITA is extended to September 1, 2020 (announced by the CRA on April 15). See also KPMG, " <a href="#">Fls — CRA Extends Deadlines for FATCA and CRS Returns</a> ", <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i> , No. 2020-40, April 17, 2020.
<b>Taxpayer Requests</b>	The CRA has also stated that during the crisis, it will continue " <a href="#">expediting urgent taxpayer's requests for audit approval for refunds and credits</a> : taxpayer requested reassessments, SR&ED, Waivers, Clearance certificates; Credits on account / refund returns". Recently, the CRA <a href="#">posted</a> the following update regarding SR&ED claims: "We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and we will continue to adapt as new information becomes available. The [SR&ED] Program is doing everything it can to ensure claimants receive the credits to which they are entitled, as soon as possible. For the time being, no new reviews/audits will be started and existing reviews/audits will be completed as soon as possible so that businesses have access to their credits faster. Most refundable claims will be processed as soon as possible with minimal burden on the claimant. Claims accepted at this time may be subject to review/audit at a future date to ensure eligibility. For more information on tax and benefits measures to help support Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic, go to <a href="#">Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19</a> ". See also the Appendix under "c" (May 1).
<a href="#">Rulings</a>	During the pandemic, the CRA will continue to "support time-sensitive income tax ruling requests and technical interpretations".
<b><a href="#">GST: Remittance due date</a></b>	The CRA will extend until June 30, 2020 the time that: 1) Monthly filers have to remit amounts collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods; 2) Quarterly filers have to remit amounts collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period; and 3) Annual filers, whose GST/HST return or instalment are due in March, April or May 2020, have to remit amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year. Thus, taxpayers will have until June 30, 2020 to make the following payments: 1) for monthly filers, remittances collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods, 2) for quarterly filers, remittances collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period, and 3) for annual filers whose GST/HST return or instalment are due in March, April or May 2020, remittances collected and owing for the previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST for the filer's current fiscal year are not due until June 30. Importers may defer certain monthly duty and GST payments normally due on April 1, 2020, May 1, 2020 or June 1, 2020 to June 30. Excise taxes and duties are still required to be remitted by their prescribed due dates, but the CRA has stated it will consider waiving interest charges on a case-by-case basis. Note that paper copies of GST/HST returns will not be processed until normal operations resume, and the CRA is "encouraging" registrants to file electronically (i.e. such that refunds can be processed automatically). See below under "Deferral of GST/HST Tax Remittances (COVID-19 Measures) (CRA FAQ) (April 1, 2020)". Also, see BLG, " <a href="#">GST/HST remittance deferral: Interest-free "loans" may trigger personal liability</a> ", May 5, KPMG, " <a href="#">Canada: Indirect tax liabilities and rent or lease payment deferrals (COVID-19)</a> ", April 23, 2020, Esper, "Beyond the COVID-19 tax measures: Taxpayers may apply for additional waiver of penalties and interest", Thorsteinssons LLP (available on Taxnet Pro), April 13, 2020.
<b><a href="#">GST: Returns</a></b>	Penalties for late-filing of GST/HST returns due before June 30, 2020 <a href="#">will not be imposed</a> provided the returns are filed by June 30. See also CPA Canada/the CTF, " <a href="#">list of other COVID-19-related tax issues</a> ", May 4.
<b><a href="#">Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers</a></b> : Remittance due date – Payments owing for customs	Payment deadlines for statements of accounts for March, April, and May are being deferred to June 30, 2020. Businesses in need of information about their particular accounting and payment obligations on imported goods may contact the Canada Border Services Agency for more details. See also CBSA Memorandum D3-1-5: <a href="#">International Commercial Transportation</a> (update April 9, 2020), PWC <i>Tax Insights Issue 2020-21</i> , Fasken's

duties and the GST on imports	<a href="#">International Trade Law Bulletin</a> , and Bennet Jones, “Trade Implications of COVID-19 from a Canadian Perspective”, April 2, 2020 (available on Taxnet Pro). On May 2, it was announced that: “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CBSA and Statistics Canada have agreed to extend the decommissioning of the Canadian Automated Export Declaration (CAED) system and the onboarding window to register with CERS to September 30, 2020 for exceptional cases where the client cannot meet the original June 30, 2020 timeline. Summary reports however must be submitted via the CERS portal as of June 30, 2020” (see <a href="#">Customs Notice 19-14: Mandatory electronic reporting for exporters</a> ). See also DLA Piper, <a href="#">US takes action to abate tariffs and duties in wake of COVID-19</a> .
<a href="#">Trade Compliance</a>	On March 27, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) <a href="#">announced</a> that it would temporarily suspend trade compliance activity interaction with importers/exporters and their representatives until April 20, 2020 (all deadlines imposed in connection with a customs import verification will be automatically extended by a period of time equivalent to the period of suspension). The CBSA will continue to process duty drawback claims, applications for the duties relief program, and B2 requests for adjustments. Also, per <a href="#">Customs Notice 20-10</a> (updated May 19): “[T]he CBSA has decided to provide for a 53-business days grace period for late accounting penalties. Clients will not have to submit an application to have late accounting penalties waived. This applies to transactions released from March 11, 2020, to May 26, 2020, inclusively”.
<a href="#">Payroll remittances – Due dates</a>	Payment due dates – no extension granted.
<a href="#">Corporate annual return filing deadline</a>	The federal government has announced a suspension of the deadline for federally incorporated companies filing their annual return until September 30, 2020 (by law, every federally incorporated business, NPO and cooperative has to file an annual return with Corporations Canada each year to remain active and comply with corporate statute requirements). See also Blakes, “Canadian Governments Suspend Corporate Deadlines”, April 3, 2020 (available on <i>Taxnet Pro</i> )
<a href="#">Individuals: Filing date for 2019 tax year (see Filing 2019 taxes through the COVID-19 crisis)</a>	An individual will not be charged late-filing penalties or interest if their 2019 individual (T1) income tax return is filed and payments are made prior to September 1, 2020. However, the CRA is preserving the June 1 filing deadline for T1 individuals, and the June 15 filing deadline for T1 self-employed individuals (sole-proprietors), “in order to encourage” filing returns in time to accurately calculate benefits, which rely on 2019 tax returns for entitlement calculation. If the 2019 tax return is not assessed in time, benefits and/or credits for the July to September 2020 payments will be based on information from 2018 tax returns. Once the 2019 return is filed, it is possible that the CRA will make adjustments based on the updated income information. The waiver of penalties and interest for 2019 T1 individual returns and trust returns also applies to form T1135 and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the return, provided that they are filed by September 1, 2020. As a temporary administrative measure, the CRA will recognize <a href="#">electronic signatures</a> as having met the signature requirements in respect of Form T183. Note that all drop boxes not located at the CRA's tax centres have been closed. Also, the CRA has made various requests regarding correspondence, filing and payment procedures due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19; see <a href="#">Tax Services Offices and Tax Centres</a> . For other announcements, see <a href="#">EFILE news and program updates</a> . See also Bruce Ball, “ <a href="#">COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies</a> ”, CPA Canada <i>Taxation Blog</i> , May 29 (“We have asked the CRA to answer these outstanding questions: How would the CRA assess a T1 that is filed by September 1 if the tax is not paid by then? If a return is filed by September 1 but the CRA makes an adjustment to the return after September 1, 2020 resulting in more tax, how would interest and penalties apply to the additional tax assessed? Has the CRA adjusted their IT systems to ensure interest and penalties will not be assessed?”) and KPMG, “ <a href="#">CRA Confirms Tax Due Dates Extended to September 1, 2020</a> ”, <i>TaxNewsFlash-Canada</i> , No. 2020-52, June 2.
<a href="#">Charities: Filing date of Form T3010</a>	Deadline is extended until December 31, 2020 in respect of charities with a Form T3010 due date between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020. See also <a href="#">Charities and Giving – Important Notice</a> (CRA, April 20) and Carters, “ <a href="#">Annual Return Deadline For Federal Corporations Extended Due To COVID-19</a> ”, April 2, 2020 and <a href="#">Carters.ca</a> under “COVID-19 Resources”.

<p><a href="#"><u>Collections on new debts</u></a></p>	<p>Per the CRA: “Collections activities on new debts will be suspended until further notice, and flexible payment arrangements will be available. If you can’t pay your taxes, child and family benefit overpayments, Canada Student Loans, or other government program overpayments in full, <a href="#"><u>payment arrangements</u></a> are available. Collections staff will address pre-existing situations on a case-by-case basis to prevent financial hardship. Our Debt Management Call Centre service is not currently available. If you need to contact a Collections Officer, please call our toll free number at 1-800-675-6184 between 8 am and 4 pm your local time. General information: <a href="#"><u>When you owe money – collections at the CRA.</u></a>” During the crisis, banks and employers do not need to comply or remit on existing <a href="#"><u>Requirements To Pay.</u></a></p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Audits</u></a></p>	<p>“The CRA will generally not contact small or medium (SME) businesses to initiate any post assessment GST/HST or income tax audits until further notice. Interaction with taxpayers will be limited to high risk and exceptional cases, or cases of high risk GST/HST refund claims which require some contact before they can be paid out. Other audits are temporarily suspended. General information: <a href="#"><u>Business audits.</u></a>” The CRA further commented on April 20 that: “<i>Suspending individual (T1) validation and review activities:</i> Some review and verification activities were initiated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and clients may have been contacted to provide supporting information in relation to amounts claimed on their individual tax and benefit returns. If Canadians have received any CRA correspondence that includes dates for response or provision of documents for validation and verification programs, no action is required from them at this time. Please note that due to measures taken surrounding the COVID-19 virus, our telephone services are not available. We apologize for the inconvenience. It is important to note that, although reviews have been postponed, it does not prevent future actions or reviews from being completed. Taxpayers will need to keep their supporting documents, in case they are selected for review in the future. General information: <a href="#"><u>Review of your tax return.</u></a>”</p>
<p><b>Tax Court of Canada</b> (see <a href="#"><u>Amended Practice and Director Order – May 27; Notice to the Public and the Profession - May 27; Notice to the Public and the Profession - May 20; Practice Direction and Order - April 17; Notice to the Public and the Profession - April 17;</u></a> and <a href="http://tcc-cci.gc.ca/tcc-cci_Eng/Index.html">tcc-cci.gc.ca/tcc-cci_Eng/Index.html</a>)</p>	<p>Per a May 27<sup>th</sup> Notice to the Profession: “All Tax Court of Canada sittings and conference calls scheduled between July 6th, 2020 and up to July 17th, 2020, inclusively are cancelled. At this time, sittings that are scheduled beyond August 17th, 2020 will proceed”. The Chief Justice has further cancelled all Tax Court of Canada sittings and conference calls scheduled between July 6th, 2020 and up to July 17th, 2020, inclusively. Should circumstances allow for the resumption of the Court’s operations in the coming weeks, the Court will sit during the 4-week summer recess and appeals will be scheduled between July 20th and August 13th, 2020. Parties whose hearings were interrupted in March by the closure of the Court or whose general appeals were adjourned in March and April can expect to be contacted in priority to schedule the continuation or hearing of their appeal. At this time, the Court is also looking into conducting proceedings related to litigation process, such as Case Management Conferences and Status Hearings, by phone or online before the resumption of in-person Court sittings. The Chief Justice will monitor the situation and reassess before June 16, 2020, whether the judicial sittings schedule will have to be further altered. It was previously announced that all sittings and conferences calls scheduled between March 16, 2020 and July 3rd were cancelled. The period between March 16, 2020 to the day that is 60 days after the Court and its offices reopen will be excluded in computing any timelines under the jurisdiction of the TCC (the Court is providing this additional 60 days after the Court reopens for the transaction of business so that parties have further time to review their files, discuss and prepare the necessary proceedings). However, “[a]s other statutory filing deadlines over which the Tax Court of Canada has no jurisdiction continue to apply, parties faced with a statutory deadline are encouraged to file their documents, including but not limited to any application for an extension of time, before the expiry of the statutory deadline, electronically using the Tax Court of Canada <a href="#"><u>on-line filing system</u></a> or by fax at 613-957-9034, in order to protect their rights”. Furthermore, “[i]n order to avoid numerous unnecessary applications for extension of time to file Notices of Appeal, the Court will treat all Notices of Appeal filed during the period that the Court is closed for the transaction of business and for 60 days thereafter as including an application for an extension of time to appeal brought on the exceptional grounds that the Applicant was prevented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Court closure from filing within the normal statutory Deadlines”. For a limited time, the CTF has posted a video recording from the May 15, 2020 Webinar: “<a href="#"><u>Timelines and Protocols, The Reopening of the Tax Court of Canada – Chief Justice Rossiter</u></a>”. See also Meghji et al., “<a href="#"><u>Litigation in the Tax Court post pandemic</u></a>”,</p>

	Osler, May 19 and Kroft et al., “The Tax Court of Canada Operational Update: Addressing the COVID-19 Shutdown”, April 22, 2020 (Taxnet Pro).
<b>Other Federal Courts</b>	The current suspension of: 1) timelines under the <i>Federal Courts Rules</i> ; 2) timelines pursuant to <i>Orders and Directions of the Court</i> issued before March 16, 2020; and 3) certain other timelines regarding proceedings in the Federal Court has been extended until June 15, 2020. The timeline for filing documents and taking procedural steps will be extended to June 29, 2020 and the Court will not hold in person hearings until July 13, 2020 (see <a href="#">COVID-19 Practice Direction and Order: Update #3</a> , May 29 and <a href="http://fct-cf.gc.ca/en/pages/law-and-practice/notices">fct-cf.gc.ca/en/pages/law-and-practice/notices</a> ). With respect to the FCA, The suspension period first described in a <a href="#">Notice to the Parties and the Profession dated March 19, 2020</a> has been extended until <a href="#">Monday June 15, 2020</a> (see also <a href="http://fca-caf.gc.ca/fca-caf_eng.html">fca-caf.gc.ca/fca-caf_eng.html</a> ). Furthermore, the <a href="#">SCC</a> has modified and/or suspended hearings scheduled to be heard, adjusted filings deadlines and extended or delayed other items during this time. See also Kroft et al., “Modified Deadlines For Federal Tax Litigation Proceedings”, Bennett Jones LLP (available on Taxnet Pro), April 8, 2020.
<b>CPP/EI Appeals</b>	Appeals in respect of decisions made by the CRA on pensionability issues under the CPP, and insurability issues under the EI Act, will only be progressed where such appeals related to cases where EI benefits are pending. Cases will be considered on a priority basis. Other appeals will be continued when normal service resumes but neither the CRA nor the MNR have indicated when this is expected to occur. If additional time to respond to a request is required, the MNR will exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Quebec</b>	See the separate tables below and <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary Tables: Deadlines for Businesses</a> (updated May 25), <a href="#">COVID-19 Summary Table: Deadlines for Individuals, Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses</a> , <a href="#">Information Bulletin 2020-05: Postponement to June 30, 2020 of the deadline for filing QST returns and the attendant payments</a> , <a href="#">Administrative tribunal time limits, mining claims</a> , and KPMG, “ <a href="#">COVID-19 — CRA &amp; Quebec Offer GST/HST and QST Relief</a> ”, <i>TaxNewsFlash Canada</i> , No. 2020-36, April 2, 2020.
<b>Municipalities</b>	See <a href="#">Montreal</a> and <a href="#">Québec City</a> .
<b>Ontario</b>	The province introduced a five-month interest and penalty free period for return filing and payment deadlines for many provincial taxes beginning April 1, 2020, including: EHT; tobacco and beer, wine and spirits taxes; fuel and gas taxes; mining tax; insurance premium tax; retail sales tax on insurance contracts and benefits plans. The EHT exemption has also increased to \$1M (from \$490K) for 2020. Furthermore, the Workplace safety and insurance board (WSIB) will allow employers to defer payments for six months. Sch. 1 employers will be allowed to defer reporting and payments of any premiums owed to the WSIB until August 31, 2020. Sch. 2 employers that pay WSIB for the cost related to their workplace injury and illness claims will also be eligible for the deferral. Interest and penalties will be waived for the six-month period. See <a href="#">Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19</a> (download the Action Plan <a href="#">here</a> ) and <a href="#">Employer Health Tax (EHT) Exemption Increase for 2020 –Tax Bulletin</a> .
<b>Alberta</b>	The filing deadline for an Alberta Corporate Income Tax Return (AT1) has been extended to: 1) June 1, 2020 for an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline after March 18 and before June 1, 2020, and 2) September 1, 2020 for an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline in June, July or August 2020. Alberta will not assess a late-filing penalty with respect to an AT1 otherwise due during these deferral periods if the AT1 is filed on or before the respective extended deadline noted above. Also, Alberta businesses with corporate income tax balances owing or installment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 can defer these payments until August 31, 2020. Penalties and interest will not apply during this period. The deferral does not apply in respect of tax balances or installment payments made prior to March 18, 2020. The filing deadline for a Notice of Objection (Form AT97) that otherwise would have a filing deadline after March 18, 2020 and before June 30, 2020 was extended to June 30, 2020. The TRA also announced that it will modify its corporate income tax audit and collection practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. See Special Notice Vol. 5 No. 57 - <a href="#">Extension to Alberta Corporate Income Tax Return (AT1) Filing Deadline</a> , <a href="#">Special Notice Vol. 5 No. 56 – Deferral of Corporate Income Tax Payments</a> (updated April 30, 2020), and the TRA's <a href="#">Changes due to COVID-19</a> webpage. Also, see <a href="#">COVID-19 support for employers and employees</a> under “Education property tax deferral”, “WCB premium payment deferral”, “Utility payment deferral”, and

	"Tourism levy deferral" (see also Tourism levy special notice Vol. 7 No. 9: <i>deferral of tourism levy remittances</i> (updated April 27, 2020).
<b>British Columbia</b>	Per <a href="#">COVID-19 Action Plan - Provincial Tax Changes</a> : It was first announced on March 23 that "Effective immediately", BC is extending filing and payment deadlines for the following taxes until September 30, 2020: EHT; PST (including municipal and regional district tax); Carbon tax; Motor fuel tax; Tobacco tax (see <a href="#">Notice 2020-002: Covid-19 Sales Tax Changes</a> (Revised April 22)). Also, the following tax changes announced in Budget 2020 will be postponed until further notice: eliminating the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners; expanded registration requirements for Canadian sellers of goods, along with Canadian and foreign sellers of software and telecommunication services. Also, carbon tax rates will remain at their current levels until further notice (the tax measure announced in Budget 2020 aligning the carbon tax rates with the federal carbon pricing backstop is also postponed until further notice). School tax rates for commercial properties (Classes 4, 5 and 6) will be reduced by 50% for the 2020 tax year. BC has also <a href="#">announced</a> that the coming into effect of the transparency register requirements under the <i>BC Business Corporations Act</i> has been postponed from May 1 to October 1, 2020.
<b>Manitoba</b>	In an <a href="#">April 3, 2020 News Release</a> , the province stated that it is "deferring provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to Aug. 31 and has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until Oct. 1, should the federal government agree". Furthermore, government will defer collection of the following payments: penalties and interest on late payments to Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas, and Manitoba Public Insurance; interest on receivables owing from restaurants, bars and stores to Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries; interest on unpaid provincial education taxes, school division fees and other municipal taxes. In Information Notice 20-02: <a href="#">Deadlines to appeal tax assessments suspended</a> (May 26, 2020), the Government announced that the following statutory time periods are suspended until the earlier of September 21, 2020 or the end of the state of emergency: (i) the 90-day period to appeal to the Tax Appeals Commission (TAC) in respect of a Notice of Assessment issued before the start of the provincial state of emergency on March 20, 2020; and (ii) the 90-day period to appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench in respect of a decision rendered by the TAC before the start of the state of emergency. Additionally, if the TAC issues a Notice of Assessment during the state of emergency, the 90-day period to appeal will not start until the earlier of September 21, 2020 or the end of the state of emergency. RST returns for small and medium businesses with monthly RST remittances of no more than \$10K per month that would normally be due on April 20th, May 20th and June 22nd will now be due on July 20, 2020. Businesses that file on a quarterly basis that have a due date of April 20, 2020 will now have the due date extended to July 20, 2020. Businesses that qualify for the above filing extension that were not able to file and remit their February sales tax return by the March 20th due date will not be assessed a late filing penalty and interest will not be applied until after July 20, 2020. Interest will continue to apply on all outstanding tax debts established prior to the March remittance deadlines. Businesses will still receive paper returns in the mail or web notice reminders by email for return periods March, April and May (see <a href="#">RST Notice 20-03</a> ). Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy (also known as HE Levy) returns for small and medium businesses with monthly HE Levy remittances of no more than \$10K per month that would normally be due on April 15th, May 15th and June 15th will now be due on July 15, 2020. Businesses that qualify for the above filing extension that were not able to file and remit their February HE Levy tax return by the March 16th due date will not be assessed a late filing penalty and interest will not be applied until after July 15, 2020. Interest will continue to apply on all outstanding tax debts established prior to the March remittance deadlines. Businesses will still receive paper returns in the mail or web notice reminders by email for return periods March, April and May (see <a href="#">HE Notice 20-01</a> ). See also News Release 2020-05-29: <a href="#">Province Continues Measures for Manitobans Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic</a> , and <a href="#">News Release 2020-03-22: Manitoba government extends tax payment filing deadlines for businesses</a> .
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	Per <a href="#">Information Bulletin 2020-03</a> (revised April 2, 2020): "Effective immediately, the following assistance is provided to Saskatchewan businesses that are unable to submit their PST returns due to cash flow concerns related to impacts of COVID-19: 1) Tax returns must still

	<p>be filed each month/quarter (with or without payment) if you are able to do so; 2) Monthly filers may defer payment of amounts due for February, March and April 2020 reporting periods to July 31, 2020; 3) Quarterly filers may defer payment of amounts due for the January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 reporting period to July 31, 2020; 4) Businesses are not required to submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges for these returns; 5) Full payment or a payment arrangement must be in place by July 31, 2020 in order to qualify for the automatic deferral and waiver of penalty and interest; 6) Payment arrangements may be made by submitting a request electronically through the Saskatchewan eTax Services (SETS) located at sets.saskatchewan.ca, or by contacting us by email at sasktaxinfo@gov.sk.ca or at the address noted below; 7) Relief is not provided in relation to other tax types at this time. Please note the easiest and quickest way to file most provincial tax returns is to use SETS located at sets.saskatchewan.ca and send payment electronically. At this time, audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and minimize the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel. For additional information regarding financial support for businesses (provincial and federal), and for other information related to COVID-19, please visit <a href="http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus">www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus</a>”.</p>
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<p>The Government has deferred payments for all government loans and small business fees (including business renewal fees and workers compensation premiums) until June 30<sup>th</sup>; suspended payments on Nova Scotia student loans for six months (until September 30<sup>th</sup>); and deferred payments for small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums, until June 30<sup>th</sup>. See Nova Scotia’s webpage <a href="#">Support for individuals, families and businesses</a>. Also, small businesses that do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days.</p>
<b>Newfoundland</b> (see “Public Advisory: Changes Made to Tax Return Filing Deadlines and Remission of Interest and Penalties”, April 7, 2020 (Taxnet pro))	<p>International Fuel Tax Agreement returns for the first quarter of 2020 (January 1 to March 31, 2020) due on April 30, 2020 from interjurisdictional carriers, under section 8 of the <i>Revenue Administration Regulations</i>, are now due and payable on June 1, 2020. With the exception of tax returns required from interjurisdictional carriers, all other tax returns falling under the purview of the <i>Revenue Administration Act and Regulations</i>, which would otherwise be due March 20, 2020 to May 31, 2020, are now due June 23, 2020. The tax returns applicable to this extension include: 1) Gasoline Tax, 2) Carbon Tax, 3) Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax, 4) Insurance Companies Tax, 5) Mining and Mineral Rights Tax, 6) Tax on Insurance Premiums, 7) Tobacco Tax. For monthly filers, this means they will have the option to extend the filing and remittance of tax amounts for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods to June 23, 2020. To continue to file during the extension period, taxpayers should submit tax returns via email to <a href="mailto:taxreturn@gov.nl.ca">taxreturn@gov.nl.ca</a> or fax to 709-729-2856. Taxpayers can email <a href="mailto:taxadmin@gov.nl.ca">taxadmin@gov.nl.ca</a> or call 709-729-6297 (toll free 1-877-729-6376) to set up electronic funds transfer, wire payment, or e-file payment options. If online options are not possible, taxpayers are asked to submit returns via mail or by utilizing the drop-off box located in the East Block, Confederation Building in St. John’s. If a taxpayer is prevented from making a payment when due, filing a return on time, or otherwise complying with a tax obligation, they can submit a written request to the Department of Finance, Tax Administration Division, to seek a remission of interest and penalties. Requests should validate how the taxpayer was prevented from complying with these requirements as a result of COVID-19 circumstances. These requests should be submitted by e-mailing to <a href="mailto:taxadmin@gov.nl.ca">taxadmin@gov.nl.ca</a>. Include “Remission Request (COVID-19)” as the subject line of the e-mail to help facilitate timely processing. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. See also <a href="http://gov.nl.ca/covid-19">gov.nl.ca/covid-19</a>.</p>

**[Income tax filing and payment dates: CRA and COVID-19](#)** (updated June 1)

- [Extended filing and payment deadlines](#)
- [Penalties and interest relief for extended deadlines](#)
- [Processing delays for T1 paper returns - file online instead](#)

### ***Extended filing and payment deadlines***

You will not be charged late-filing penalties or interest if your 2019 individual (T1) income tax returns are filed and payments are made prior to September 1, 2020. However, we are preserving the June 1 filing deadline for T1 individuals, and the June 15 filing deadline for T1 self-employed individuals (sole-proprietors), in order to encourage filing returns in time to accurately calculate benefits, which rely on 2019 tax returns for entitlement calculation.

The extensions to the filing due date for income tax returns provided below also apply to form T106, T1135, and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the return.

If the 2019 tax return is not assessed in time, benefits and/or credits for the July to September 2020 payments will be based on information from 2018 tax returns. Once the 2019 return is filed, it is possible that the CRA will make adjustments based on the updated income information.

#### **Notes**

- There have been equivalent extensions to filing deadlines for certain corporations and trusts as of May 22, 2020. These extensions generally align with the September 1, 2020 payment deadline previously established.
- For calendar year 2020, May 31 falls on a Sunday. As such, any filing or payment deadline that would normally fall on May 31 will be treated instead as a Monday, June 1 deadline. Furthermore, any extension that applies to a June deadline will also apply to an original May 31 deadline. In the tables of deadlines below, we have applied these considerations so that any extensions applicable to an original May 31 deadline are clearly stated.
- Some taxpayers may have received a Notice of Assessment that says the deadline for payment is April 30, 2020, which is incorrect.
- On May 15, it was [announced](#) that eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit and/or Canada child benefit (CCB) payments will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020. Benefit payments starting in July 2020 and those scheduled for August and September won't be interrupted.
- Due to the change in the tax deadline from April 30 to June 1, 2020, we expect many will need to take advantage of the extended deadline. Therefore, if the 2019 tax return is not assessed, and to allow time to calculate benefits and/or credits for the July to September 2020 payments, payment amounts will be based on information from 2018 tax returns.
- If you receive an estimated benefit and/or credit payment based on your 2018 tax return(s), you're still required to file your 2019 income tax return.
- If we're unable to assess your return by early September 2020, your estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and you'll have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued to you starting in July 2020.

#### **Individuals – Deadlines**

<b>Filing date for 2019 tax year</b>	<p><b>June 1, 2020</b> <b>Extended date</b></p> <p>The CRA is seeking T1 returns from individuals by June 1, 2020 in order to ensure accurate federal and provincial benefits payments.</p> <p>This extension also applies to form T106, T1135, and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the return.</p>
<b>Payment date for 2019 tax year</b>	<p><b>September 1, 2020</b> <b>Extended date</b></p> <p>Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020. Includes the June 15, 2020, instalment payment for those who have to pay by instalments.</p>

#### **Deceased individuals – Deadlines**

**For an individual who dies between January 1 and October 31, 2019, inclusive:**

<b>Filing date for 2019 tax year</b>	<p><b>June 1, 2020</b> <b>Extended date</b></p>
<b>Payment date for 2019 tax year</b>	<p><b>September 1, 2020</b> <b>Extended date</b></p>

Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

**For an individual who dies after October 2019 and before June 1, 2020:**

<b>Filing date for current tax year</b>
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The later between June 1, 2020 or six months after their day of death

<b>Payment date for current tax year</b>
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The later between September 1, 2020 or six months after their day of death.  
Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

### Self-employed and their spouse or common law partner – Deadlines

<b>Filing date for current tax year</b>
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**June 15, 2020** **Unchanged**

The CRA is seeking T1 returns by June 15, 2020 for sole proprietors in order to ensure accurate federal and provincial benefits payments.

<b>Payment date for current tax year</b>
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**September 1, 2020** **Extended date**

Applies to balances and instalments under Part 1 of the Income Tax Act due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020. Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

### Deceased self-employed individuals – Deadlines

**For a self-employed individual who dies between January 1 and October 31, 2019, inclusive:**

<b>Filing date for 2019 tax year</b>
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**June 15, 2020** **Unchanged**

<b>Payment date for 2019 tax year</b>
---------------------------------------

**September 1, 2020** **Extended date**

Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

**For a self-employed individual who dies after October 2019 and before June 15:**

<b>Filing date for current tax year</b>
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The later between June 15, 2020 or six months after their day of death

<b>payment date for current tax year</b>
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The later between September 1, 2020 or six months after their day of death  
Penalties (including late-filing penalties) and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

### Corporations – Deadlines

<b>Filing date for 2019 tax year</b>
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**June 1, 2020** **Extended date**

Applies to corporations that would otherwise have a filing deadline after March 18 and before May 31, 2020.

**September 1, 2020** **Extended date**

Applies to corporations that would otherwise have a filing deadline on May 31, or in June, July, or August 2020.

This extension also applies to form T106, T1135, and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the return.

**Payment date for 2019 tax year****September 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to balances and instalments under Part I of the Income Tax Act due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020.

**Trusts – Deadlines****Filing date for current tax year (including the associated T3 information return)****May 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to trusts with a tax year end date of December 31, 2019

**June 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to trusts that would otherwise have a filing due date after March 30 and before May 31, 2020.

**September 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to trusts that would otherwise have a filing due date on May 31, or in June, July, or August 2020.

This extension also applies to form T106, T1135, and any elections, forms and schedules that must be filed with the return.

**Payment date for current tax year****September 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to income tax balances and instalments due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020

Penalties and interest will not be applied if returns are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.

**Charities – Deadlines****Filing date****December 31, 2020** Extended date

Applies to charities with Form T3010 due between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020

**Payment date**

Not Applicable

**Part XIII non-resident tax – Deadlines****Filing date for the 2019 NR4 information return****May 1, 2020** Extended date**Payment date**

The 15th of each month following an amount paid or credited by residents of Canada to non-resident persons. **Unchanged**

**Payroll remittances – Deadlines****Payment date**

See [Payroll page](#) for filing deadlines. **Unchanged**

**Information returns, elections, designations and information requests – Deadlines****Filing date for 2019 information returns under Part XVIII and Part XIX of the Income Tax Act****September 1, 2020** Extended date**Filing date for the 2019 T5013 Partnership Information Return****May 1, 2020** Extended date

Applies to partnerships that would normally have a March 31 filing deadline.

	<p><b>June 1, 2020 <u>Extended date</u></b> Applies to partnerships that would normally have a filing deadline after March 31 and before May 31, 2020.</p> <p><b>September 1, 2020 <u>Extended date</u></b> Applies to partnerships that normally have a filing deadline on May 31, or in June, July, or August 2020.</p>
<p><b>Filing date for the 2019 NR4, Statement of Amounts Paid or Credited to Non-Residents of Canada information return</b></p>	<p><b>May 1, 2020 <u>Extended date</u></b></p>
<p><b>Other information returns, elections, designations and information requests</b></p>	<p><b>June 1, 2020 <u>Extended date</u></b> Unless otherwise noted, applies to other information returns, elections, designations and information requests that would have been due after March 18 and before May 31, 2020.</p> <p><b>September 1, 2020 <u>Extended date</u></b> Unless otherwise noted, applies to other information returns, elections, designations and information requests that would have been due on May 31, or in June, July, or August 2020.</p> <p>Penalties and interest will not be applied if information returns, elections, designations, and information requests are filed and payments are made by September 1, 2020.</p>

#### ***Penalties and interest relief for extended deadlines***

Penalties and interest will not be charged if payments are made by the extended deadlines of September 1, 2020. This includes the late-filing penalty as long as the return is filed by September 1, 2020. Penalties and interest relief will be considered on a case-by-case basis for income tax balances that are not listed above.

#### ***Processing delays for T1 paper returns – file online instead***

##### **Temporary measures for T1 paper returns and adjustment requests – file online instead**

CRA is experiencing significant delays in processing paper income tax and benefit returns.

File your 2019 taxes online by June 1, 2020 and register for direct deposit to get refunds faster and avoid interruptions to benefit and credit payments.

Submit your requests for changes electronically, using Change My Return in [My Account](#) or [ReFILE](#). If you have already submitted a request to change your return by mail that has not been processed yet, you may be able to submit it again electronically.

##### **Temporary measure for paper returns**

If you already filed a 2019 paper return that has not been processed yet, you can file it again online using [NETFILE certified tax software](#). This does not include returns that the software says must be paper-filed or returns that are [excluded from electronic filing](#).

#### **Notes:**

See also Esper, “Beyond the COVID-19 tax measures: Taxpayers may apply for additional waiver of penalties and interest”, Thorsteinssons LLP (available on Taxnet Pro), April 13, 2020, and Finance Backgrounder 2020-03-27: [Additional Support for Canadian Businesses from the Economic Impact of COVID-19](#). Also, with respect to individual T1 returns, under [“EFILE news and program updates”](#), the CRA states (June 1):

*Annual Processing Review Program*

There will be a delayed start to our annual post-assessment review of individual income tax and benefit returns this year. Verification work is currently on hold and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will resume sending letters once the current COVID-19 measures are lifted.

If your client's tax return has been selected for review, we will send our letters to your office if:

- You have been designated as your client's representative; **and**
- You have indicated that our Processing Review Program letters should be sent to you.

EFILE representatives, who are authorized to receive CRA letters for a taxpayer, can sign up for online mail to receive Processing Review letters in Represent a Client. The electronic delivery of letters in Represent a Client gives representatives quick and convenient online access to these letters.

When our validation activities resume, you may receive letters from tax centres and National Verification and Collections Centres other than those you have dealt with in the past; please submit the requested information to the centre that sent the request.

### COVID-19 Summary Tables: Deadlines for Businesses

The following tables summarize **important deadlines** businesses need to meet to fulfill their tax obligations during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see [COVID-19: FAQ for Businesses](#) and [Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#).

Income tax (income tax returns, instalment payments and information returns)		
Obligation	Filing deadline	Payment deadline
<b>Corporation income tax return</b>	Extended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from March 17 to May 31, 2020</li> <li>• <b>September 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from June 1 to August 31, 2020</li> </ul>	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> , for balance payments that would normally be made in the period from March 17 to August 31, 2020
<b>Corporation instalment payments</b>	N/A	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> , for payments that would normally be made in the period from March 17 to August 31, 2020
<b>Trust income tax or information return</b>	Extended to <b>May 1, 2020</b> , for returns that would normally be filed for the 2019 taxation year by March 30, 2020	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> , for payments related to the income tax return filed for the 2019 taxation year
	Extended to <b>June 1, 2020</b> , for returns that would normally be filed between March 31 and May 31, 2020	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> , for payments related to the income tax return filed for the 2020 taxation year
	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> , for returns that would normally be filed between June 1 and August 31, 2020	
<b>Trust instalment payments</b>	N/A	Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b> for the June 15, 2020, instalment

<b>Information and income tax return for non-profit corporations</b>	<p>Extended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from March 17 to May 31, 2020</li> <li>• <b>September 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from June 1 to August 31, 2020</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Information return for registered charities and other donees</b>	Extended to <b>December 31, 2020</b> , for returns that would normally be filed in the period from March 17 to December 30, 2020	N/A
<b>Partnership information return</b>	<p>Extended to <b>May 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from March 17 to March 31, 2020</p> <p>Extended to <b>June 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from April 1 to May 30, 2020</p> <p>Extended to <b>September 1, 2020</b>, for returns that would normally be filed in the period from May 31 to August 31, 2020</p>	N/A
<b>GST/HST, QST and other taxes</b>		
<b>Obligation</b>	<b>Filing deadline</b>	<b>Payment deadline</b>
<b>GST/HST and QST return</b>	<p>The <b>usual deadlines</b> apply.</p> <p>However, you will not be charged a late-filing penalty for a return that should have been filed in the period from March 27 to June 1, 2020, provided the return is filed no later than June 30, 2020.</p>	Extended to <b>June 30, 2020</b> , for net tax payments that would normally be made in the period from March 27 to June 1, 2020
<b>GST/HST and QST instalments</b>	N/A	Extended to <b>June 30, 2020</b> , for instalments that would normally be made in the period from March 27 to June 1, 2020
<b>Return respecting the tax on lodging</b>	Extended to <b>July 31, 2020</b> , for the first calendar quarter of 2020	Extended to <b>July 31, 2020</b> , for the first calendar quarter of 2020
<p><b>Other taxes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tax on alcoholic beverages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax on insurance premiums</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Specific duty on new tires</b></li> <li>• <b>Municipal tax for 9-1-1 service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel tax</li> <li>• Tobacco tax</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The <b>usual deadlines</b> apply.	The <b>usual deadlines</b> apply.

Source deductions and employer contributions		
Obligation	Filing deadline	Payment deadline
Payment of source deductions and employer contributions	The usual deadlines apply.	The usual deadlines apply.

### [COVID-19 Summary Table: Deadlines for Individuals](#)

The following table summarizes important deadlines individuals need to meet to fulfill their tax obligations during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see [COVID-19: FAQ for Individuals](#) and [Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#).

#### Income tax return deadlines

Obligation	Deadline
<a href="#">Personal income tax return for 2019</a>	Extended to June 1, 2020
Personal income tax return for 2019 (individuals in business and their spouses)	Remains June 15, 2020
Principal income tax return of a person who died in 2019 (before December 1)	Extended to June 1, 2020
Payment of any balance due for 2019	Extended to September 1, 2020
Instalment payment due June 15, 2020	Extended to September 1, 2020

See also News Release 2020-05-29: [The government is extending a support measure for businesses and modifying certain tax deadlines affecting trusts and corporations](#) and [Information Bulletin 2020-08: Extension of the credit on employers contribution to the health services fund in respect of employees on paid leave and other measures relating to various fiscal time limits](#).

### [News Release 2020-05-19: Government of Canada shares legislative proposals to address issues relating to legislative time limits and deadlines](#)

#### From: [Department of Justice Canada](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges on many fronts, both for individual Canadians and businesses. Access to justice and effective functioning of our justice and court system is fundamental to a just and fair Canadian society.

The Government recognizes that many Canadians and Canadian businesses could be impacted and face possible legal repercussions if, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they fail to meet deadlines and time periods set by law with respect to legal proceedings and some key regulatory matters.

For this reason, today, the Government of Canada published [draft legislative proposals](#), which outline potential solutions that the Government could implement to address these important issues. The draft legislative proposals will be available online for 10 days. Interested stakeholders are welcome to share their comments.

The draft legislative proposals would suspend certain time limits and enable federal ministers to extend or suspend other time limits included in federal legislation to:

- ensure that Canadians and Canadian businesses are able to meet regulatory time limits and deadlines found in federal legislation, such as some key deadlines found in the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* and in regulations made under the *Canada Labour Code*, during these exceptional times
- protect Canadians' rights and access to justice in the context of civil legal proceedings before the courts, by ensuring that individuals are not prevented from asserting their rights for having missed a time limit or deadline during the COVID-19 pandemic

The draft legislative proposals also include provisions to ensure that temporary extensions or suspensions cannot be made after September 30, 2020, and could be retroactive to March 13, 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic officially began.

#### Quotes

“A fair and accessible justice system is a fundamental pillar of our democratic society. There are unprecedented times, and we are committed to ensuring that the decisions the Government takes protect Canadians’ rights and access to justice.”

*The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.*  
*Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada*

Associated links

- [Draft Legislative Proposals Regarding Time Limits and Other Periods in Circumstances Due to COVID-19 and Explanatory Notes](#)
- [See also [Bill C-17 \(First Reading June 10, 2020\)](#), *An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures* – Part 2 of the Bill proposes to enact the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*.]

Explanatory Note relating to Draft Legislative Proposals Regarding Time Limits and Other Periods in Circumstances Due to COVID-19

Published by

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Explanation:

Many provisions in federal legislation set time limits to accomplish certain things, like payment of fees or filing reports. Federal legislation also sets out periods during which certain things can be done, for example, periods of validity for licences, permits or other authorizations allowing the holder to perform specified things. With respect to civil proceedings before the courts, at the federal level alone, there are hundreds of deadlines that are fixed by statute.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is a risk that many will be unable to meet the numerous time limits set out in Canadian federal legislation through no fault of their own. If there is no discretion in a given statute to extend time periods, then Canadians may begin to experience serious negative circumstances.

In order to respond to this problematic situation, the proposal would provide for measures to extend limitation periods in civil proceedings before courts as well as measures to address pressing regulatory time limits.

Description:

Purpose

The legislative proposals would aim to address the need for flexibility in time limits and other periods under federal legislation because of exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19.

Their purpose would therefore be to temporarily suspend some time limits and allow others to be suspended or extended where these circumstances may make compliance difficult or impossible, and to extend other periods so that their expiration does not produce unfair or undesirable effects.

The legislative proposals would indicate that they should be interpreted in a manner that would bring certainty to proceedings and respects both the rule of law and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Sections 6 and 7

In particular, the legislative proposals would:

- suspend, as of March 13, 2020 and until September 13, 2020 or an earlier date set by the Governor in Council, certain time limits concerning proceedings, other than proceedings concerning offences, before the courts;
- allow courts to vary the suspension within certain limits and take measures regarding the effects of a failure to meet a suspended time limit;
- allow the Governor in Council to lift such suspensions in certain circumstances;
- allow ministers, in respect of specified legislation, to suspend or extend time limits and extend other periods for no more than six months, and to give such suspensions or extensions retroactive effect to March 13, 2020; and

- allow ministers in the case described in the previous point to give specified persons, bodies or tribunals some flexibility in applying these suspensions or extensions.

The proposals would allow the Governor in Council to restrict or impose conditions on the powers granted to ministers.

#### Sections 8 and 9

Orders made under subsection 6(1), (3) or (4) or 7(1) or (2) would be exempted from the application of the *Statutory Instruments Act*.

The legislative proposals would also state that these powers cannot be exercised after September 30, 2020.

#### Sections 10 and 11

The proposals would require that orders, along with a statement explaining the reason for their making, be published on a Government of Canada website no later than five days after they are made, for a period of at least six months, followed by publication in the *Canada Gazette*.

The proposals would also provide that orders would be tabled before each House of Parliament within three days of their being made or, if a House is not sitting, as soon as possible, and that such orders would be referred to a committee of each House.

#### Schedule

List of acts, regulations and provisions for which Ministers can make orders suspending or extending time limits.

[Regarding the income tax matters, the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act* (TLOPA) effectively provides for the following extensions:

- TLOPA 7(1) permits the CRA to extend the deadline in ITA 37(11) and 127(9) “investment tax credit”(m) (i.e. Form T661 SR&ED claim) by up to 6 months during the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. thereby overriding 220(2.2));
- TLOPA 7(1) permits the CRA to extend the ITA 152(3.1) (definition of “normal reassessment period”) deadline and the ITA 152(4) (assessment limitation period) deadline by up to 6 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic (in the case of reassessments made after the normal reassessment period, it appears that the amendments may effectively give the CRA a full year reassessment deadline extension);
- TLOPA 6(1) effectively extends the following deadlines by up to 6 months during the COVID-19 pandemic: the ITA 166.2(1) (filing an application in the Tax Court for extension of time to object) 90-day deadline, the ITA 167(5)(a) (application in the Tax Court for extension of time to appeal) one-year deadline, the ITA 169(1) (filing a Tax Court Notice of Appeal) 90-day period, the ITA 171(1) (Federal Court judicial-review application) 30-day period, and the ITA 180(1) (filing an appeal to the FCA) 30-day period;
- TLOPA 6(1) effectively extends all deadlines in the *Tax Court of Canada Act* for 6 months during the COVID-19 pandemic (the court may vary the suspension of a time limit as long as the commencement date of the suspension remains the same and the duration of the suspension does not exceed six months, and the court may also make orders respecting the effects of a failure to meet a suspended time limit, including orders that cancel or vary those effects);

See also KPMG, “[COVID-19 — Canada Looking to Postpone Tax & Legal Deadlines](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-49, May 25, 2020.]

**Draft Legislative Proposals Regarding Time Limits and Other Periods in Circumstances Due to COVID-19 [(See now [Bill C-17 \(First Reading June 10, 2020\)](#), [An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures](#) (Part 2) – certain revisions were made to the draft legislation, such as including a reference to ITA 166.1(7) and 166.2(5) in the Schedule.)]**

Short Title

Marginal note: Short title

**1** This Act may be cited as the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*.

Interpretation and Application

Marginal note: Definition of *period*

**2** In this Act, *period* includes the time during which a licence, permit or other authorization is valid.

Marginal note: Effect of suspension or extension

**3** If a time limit is suspended or extended or a period is extended under this Act, then, during the period that the suspension or extension is in effect, every reference in any Act of Parliament or its regulations to that time limit or period is to be read as a reference to the time limit or period as it is suspended or extended.

Marginal note: Non-application — offences

**4** This Act does not apply in respect of a time limit or any other period related to the investigation of an offence or a proceeding respecting an offence.

**5 (1)** The purpose of this Act is

- (a) to temporarily suspend certain time limits and to temporarily authorize, in a flexible manner, the suspension or extension of other time limits in order to prevent any exceptional circumstances that may be produced by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from making it difficult or impossible to meet those time limits; and
- (b) to temporarily authorize, in a flexible manner, the extension of other periods in order to prevent any unfair or undesirable effects that may result from the expiry of those periods due to those exceptional circumstances.

(2) For greater certainty, this Act is to be interpreted in a manner that provides certainty in relation to proceedings and that respects the rule of law and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

**6 (1)** The following time limits are, if established by or under an Act of Parliament, suspended for the period that starts on March 13, 2020 and that ends on September 13, 2020 or on any earlier day fixed by order of the Governor in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice:

- (a) any limitation or prescription period for commencing a proceeding before a court;
- (b) any time limit in relation to something that is to be done in a proceeding before a court; and
- (c) any time limit within which an application for leave to commence a proceeding or to do something in relation to a proceeding is to be made to a court.

(2) The court may vary the suspension of a time limit as long as the commencement date of the suspension remains the same and the duration of the suspension does not exceed six months.

(3) The court may make orders respecting the effects of a failure to meet a suspended time limit, including orders that cancel or vary those effects.

(4) The Governor in Council may, by order made on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, lift a suspension in circumstances specified in the order.

**7 (1)** The minister who is responsible for an Act of Parliament set out in column 1 of the schedule or a relevant portion of the Act may make an order

- (a) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under any provision of the Act that is set out in column 2;
- (b) extending any other period that is established by or under any provision of the Act that is set out in column 2;
- (c) if a regulation is set out in column 2 in respect of the Act,
  - (i) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under that regulation, or
  - (ii) extending any other period that is established by or under that regulation; or
- (d) extending a suspension or extension.

(2) The minister who is responsible for a regulation set out in column 1 of the schedule or a relevant portion of the regulation may make an order

- (a) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under any provision of the regulation that is set out in column 2;
- (b) extending any other period that is established by or under any provision of the regulation that is set out in column 2; or
- (c) extending a suspension or extension.

(3) A time limit may be suspended or extended and a period may be extended for a total maximum duration of six months. [This provision has been revised in Bill C-17 – see below. The revised proposals provide that the government cannot extend or suspend a time limit or other period in certain federal legislation that ends on or after December 31, 2020.]

(4) An order under subsection (1) or (2) may, if it so provides, have retroactive effect, but not before March 13, 2020, and it may also include provisions respecting the effects of a failure to meet the time limit or of the expiry of the period before the day on which the order was made, including provisions that cancel or vary those effects. [This provision has been revised in Bill C-17 – see below. The revised proposals state that the government cannot suspend or extend a covered time limit or period past December 31, 2020. Thus, under the revised proposals, any extended time limit or period must end on or before December 31, 2020, regardless of the rule that a suspension or extension may be granted up to six months.]

(5) An order under subsection (1) or (2) may provide that

- (a) a suspension or extension does not apply in respect of any circumstance specified in the order without the consent of a person, court or body specified in the order;
- (b) a suspension or extension applies in respect of any circumstance specified in the order unless a person, court or body specified in the order decides otherwise; or
- (c) a person, court or body specified in the order may vary the effects of the order in relation to any circumstance specified in the order.

(6) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, make regulations restricting, or imposing conditions on, a power to make an order under subsection (1) or (2).

**8** The *Statutory Instruments Act* does not apply to an order made under subsection 6(1), (3) or (4) or 7(1) or (2). [This provision has been revised in Bill C-17]

**9** A power conferred on the Governor in Council or a minister under this Act is not to be exercised after September 30, 2020.

**10** (1) An order made under subsection 6(1) or (4) or 7(1) or (2), together with the reasons for making it, must be published, as soon as feasible after the day on which it is made but no later than five days after the day on which it is made, on a Government of Canada website for a period of at least six months.

(2) An order referred to in subsection (1) must be published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* within 14 days after the day on which it is made.

**11** (1) An order made under subsection 6(1) or (4) or 7(1) or (2) must be tabled in each House of Parliament within three days after the day on which it is made, unless a House is not sitting within those three days, in which case the order is to be tabled in that House at the earliest opportunity.

(2) An order that is tabled in a House of Parliament must be referred to a committee of that House.

## SCHEDULE

(Subsections 7(1) and (2))

Acts	Provisions and Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act Loi sur la faillite et l'insolvabilité</li> </ul>	subsections 50.4(2), (6), (8) and (9) and 66.31(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards of Trade Act Loi sur les chambres de commerce</li> </ul>	subsections 17(1) and 42(1) and (2) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act Loi de mise en oeuvre de l'Accord atlantique Canada — Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador</li> </ul>	subsections 31(2), 35(3), 39(1), 69(2) and 188(1) and (2), section 202.1, paragraphs 205.013(q) and 205.019(1)(p) and subsections 205.04(1), 205.041(3), 205.042(1) and (2), 205.044(3), 205.046(4), 205.059(5), 205.06(2) and (9), 205.063(2), 205.071(1), 205.098(3) and 205.1(2) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada Business Corporations Act Loi canadienne sur les sociétés par actions</li> </ul>	subsections 133(1), 135(1), 155(1), 159(1) and 160(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada Cooperatives Act Loi canadienne sur les coopératives</li> </ul>	subsections 50(1), 52(1) and 247(1), section 251 and subsection 252(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act Loi canadienne sur les organisations à but non lucratif</li> </ul>	subsections 160(1), 162(1), 172(1), 175(1) and 176(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Forces Superannuation Act Loi sur la pension de retraite des Forces canadiennes</li> </ul>	paragraph 6(b), subsections 6.1(1), 8(1), 23(1) and (2), 29(1) and (5), 41(1), (3) and (4), 42(1) and (1.2) and 43(1), sections 46, 57, 59.6 and 59.7, subsections 62(1) and (2) and 69(2), sections 71, 72 and 92 and subsection 93(1) of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Forces Superannuation Regulations Règlement sur la pension de retraite des Forces canadiennes</li> <li>Reserve Force Pension Plan Regulations Règlement sur le régime de pension de la force de réserve</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act Loi sur les arrangements avec les créanciers des compagnies</li> </ul>	section 11.001 and subsections 11.02(1) and 11.2(5) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diplomatic Service (Special) Superannuation Act Loi sur la pension spéciale du service diplomatique</li> </ul>	section 7 and subsection 11(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excise Tax Act</li> </ul>	subsections 298(1) and (2) of the Act [This provision has been revised in Bill C-17 – see below. The revised proposals allow the government to extend or suspend the deadline for taxpayers]

Acts	Provisions and Regulations
Loi sur la taxe d'accise	applications to extend the time to file a notice objection that normally must be made within one year after the deadline to file a notice of objection for income tax and GST/HST purposes. The revised proposals further allow the government to extend or suspend the deadline for taxpayers' applications to extend the time to make requests for adjustments to GAAR assessments for both income tax and GST/HST purposes.]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Firearms Act</li> </ul> Loi sur les armes à feu	section 64 of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act</li> </ul> Loi sur la saisie-arrêt et la distraction de pensions	subsection 39(2) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Tax Act</li> </ul> Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu	subsection 37(11), paragraph (m) of the definition <i>investment tax credit</i> in subsection 127(9) and subsections 152(3.1) and (4) of the Act [As mentioned above, this provision has been revised in Bill C-17.]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment Canada Act</li> </ul> Loi sur Investissement Canada	sections 25.2 and 25.3 of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Security Review of Investments Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur les investissements susceptibles de porter atteinte à la sécurité nationale (examen)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lieutenant Governors Superannuation Act</li> </ul> Loi sur la pension de retraite des lieutenants-gouverneurs	subsections 3(3) and 5(1) of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lieutenant Governors Superannuation Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur la pension de retraite des lieutenants-gouverneurs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act</li> </ul> Loi sur les allocations de retraite des parlementaires	subsections 10(1) and 32(1) of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Members of Parliament Elections for Joint and Survivor Benefits Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur les choix relatifs à la pension de réversion des anciens parlementaires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovery of Overpayments Made to Former Members of Parliament Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur le recouvrement des versements payés en trop aux anciens parlementaires
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore Health and Safety Act</li> </ul> Loi sur la santé et la sécurité dans la zone extracôtière	subsections 53(5) and 92(5) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pension Benefits Division Act</li> </ul> Loi sur le partage des prestations de retraite	subsection 6(1) of the Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Service Superannuation Act</li> </ul> Loi sur la pension de la fonction publique	sections 6 and 9, subsections 10(4) and (5) and 25(7), section 39, subsection 40(11), section 51 and subsection 57(2) of the Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counting of Service by Former Members of the Senate or House of Commons Regulations</li> </ul>

Acts	Provisions and Regulations	
	<p>Règlement du calcul du service des anciens membres du Sénat ou de la Chambre des communes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portions of the Public Service General Divestiture Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement général sur la cession de secteurs de la fonction publique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Service Superannuation Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur la pension de la fonction publique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Service Superannuation Special Election Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur l'exercice d'un choix spécial aux fins de la pension de la fonction publique</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplementary Death Benefit Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur les prestations supplémentaires de décès</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act</li> </ul> <p>Loi sur la pension de retraite la Gendarmerie royale du Canada</p>	<p>sections 6, 6.1 and 8, subsections 9(4) and 18(4) and section 24 of the Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Members of Parliament Counting of Service Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur l'inclusion du service des anciens parlementaires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur la pension de retraite de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Import Measures Act</li> </ul> <p>Loi sur les mesures spéciales d'importation</p>	<p>subsections 31(1) and (6), section 32, paragraph 34(1)(b), subsection 34(2), sections 37 and 37.1, subsection 38(1), section 39, subsections 41(1) and 41.1(3), paragraph 41.1(4)(d), subsections 42(1) and 43(1) and (2) and sections 55, 55.1, 56, 57, 59, 66, 76.01, 76.02 and 76.03 of the Act</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wage Earner Protection Program Act</li> </ul> <p>Loi sur le Programme de protection des salariés</p>	<p>subparagraph (a)(i) of the definition <i>eligible wages</i> in subsection 2(1) of the Act</p>	
Regulations		Provisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aviation Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité au travail (aéronefs)</p>		<p>section 9.1 and subsection 9.5(5) of the Regulations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada Labour Standards Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement du Canada sur les normes du travail</p>		<p>section 30 of the Regulations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement canadien sur la santé et la sécurité au travail</p>		<p>subsection 16.12(5) of the Regulations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food and Drug Regulations</li> </ul> <p>Règlement sur les aliments et drogues</p>		<p>paragraphs C.05.006(1)(b) and C.05.008(1)(b) of the Regulations</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maritime Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</li> </ul>		<p>paragraph 111(1)(b) of the Regulations</p>

Regulations	Provisions
Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité au travail en milieu maritime	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nunavut Mining Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur l'exploitation minière au Nunavut	section 60 of the Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Board Trains Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité au travail (trains)	subsection 12.7(3) of the Regulations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Regulations</li> </ul> Règlement sur la continuation des pensions de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada	paragraph 9(b), subsection 10(2), sections 13 and 16 and subsection 21(3) of the Regulations

## Revised Draft Legislation Contained in Bill C-17

### *Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*

#### Enactment of Act

4 *The Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*, whose text is as follows and whose schedule is set out in the schedule to this Act, is enacted:

An Act respecting the suspension or extension of time limits and the extension of other periods as part of the response to the coronavirus disease 2019

#### Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*.

#### Interpretation and Application

##### Definition of period

2 In this Act, period includes the time during which a licence, permit or other authorization is valid.

##### Effect of suspension or extension

3 If a time limit is suspended or extended or a period is extended under this Act, then, during the period that the suspension or extension is in effect, every reference in any Act of Parliament or its regulations to that time limit or period is to be read as a reference to the time limit or period as it is suspended or extended.

##### Non-application — offences

4 (1) This Act does not apply in respect of the investigation of an offence or in respect of a proceeding respecting an offence.

##### Non-application — Corrections and Conditional Release Act

(2) This Act does not apply in respect of a time limit or other period that is established by or under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act.

#### Purpose

##### Purpose

5 (1) The purpose of this Act is

- (a) to temporarily suspend certain time limits and to temporarily authorize, in a flexible manner, the suspension or extension of other time limits in order to prevent any exceptional circumstances that may be produced by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) from making it difficult or impossible to meet those time limits; and
- (b) to temporarily authorize, in a flexible manner, the extension of other periods in order to prevent any unfair or undesirable effects that may result from the expiry of those periods due to those exceptional circumstances.

##### For greater certainty

(2) For greater certainty, this Act is to be interpreted in a manner that provides certainty in relation to proceedings and that respects the rule of law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

#### Time Limits Related to Proceedings

#### Suspensions

6 (1) The following time limits are, if established by or under an Act of Parliament, suspended for the period that starts on March 13, 2020 and that ends on September 13, 2020 or on any earlier day fixed by order of the Governor in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice:

- (a) any limitation or prescription period for commencing a proceeding before a court;
- (b) any time limit in relation to something that is to be done in a proceeding before a court; and
- (c) any time limit within which an application for leave to commence a proceeding or to do something in relation to a proceeding is to be made to a court.

#### Court orders — variation

(2) The court may, by order, vary the suspension of a time limit as long as the commencement date of the suspension remains the same and the duration of the suspension does not exceed six months.

#### Court orders — effects

(3) The court may make orders respecting the effects of a failure to meet a suspended time limit, including orders that cancel or vary those effects.

#### Orders in council

(4) The Governor in Council may, by order made on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, lift a suspension in circumstances specified in the order.

#### Other Time Limits and Periods

##### Ministerial orders — Acts and regulations

7 (1) The minister who is responsible for an Act of Parliament set out in column 1 of the schedule or a relevant portion of the Act may make an order

- (a) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under any provision of the Act that is set out in column 2;
- (b) extending any other period that is established by or under any provision of the Act that is set out in column 2;
- (c) if a regulation is set out in column 2 in respect of the Act,
  - (i) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under that regulation, or
  - (ii) extending any other period that is established by or under that regulation; or
- (d) extending a suspension or extension.

##### Ministerial orders — regulations

(2) The minister who is responsible for a regulation set out in column 1 of the schedule or a relevant portion of the regulation may make an order

- (a) suspending or extending a time limit that is established by or under any provision of the regulation that is set out in column 2;
- (b) extending any other period that is established by or under any provision of the regulation that is set out in column 2; or
- (c) extending a suspension or extension.

#### Non-application

(3) An order under subsection (1) or (2) does not apply in respect of a time limit or other period that ends on or after December 31, 2020.

#### Duration

(4) The total duration of a suspension or extension must not exceed six months. However, a suspension must not have the effect of allowing a time limit to continue after December 31, 2020 and an extended time limit or period must end on or before that day.

#### Retroactivity

.....

(5) An order under subsection (1) or (2) may, if it so provides, have retroactive effect, but not before March 13, 2020, and it may also include provisions respecting the effects of a failure to meet the time limit or of the expiry of the period before the day on which the order was made, including provisions that cancel or vary those effects.

#### Additional content

(6) An order under subsection (1) or (2) may provide that

- (a) a suspension or extension does not apply in respect of any circumstance specified in the order without the consent of a person, court or body specified in the order;
- (b) a suspension or extension applies in respect of any circumstance specified in the order unless a person, court or body specified in the order decides otherwise; or
- (c) a person, court or body specified in the order may vary the effects of the order in relation to any circumstance specified in the order.

#### Regulations

(7) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, make regulations restricting, or imposing conditions on, a power to make an order under subsection (1) or (2).

#### General

##### Statutory Instruments Act

8 The Statutory Instruments Act does not apply to an order made under subsection 6(1), (2), (3) or (4) or 7(1) or (2).

##### Sunset provision

9 A power conferred on the Governor in Council or a minister under this Act is not to be exercised after September 30, 2020.

##### Transparency and Parliamentary Oversight

##### Publication on website

10 (1) An order made under subsection 6(1) or (4) or 7(1) or (2), together with the reasons for making it, must be published, as soon as feasible after the day on which it is made but no later than five days after the day on which it is made, on a Government of Canada website for a period of at least six months.

##### Publication in Canada Gazette

(2) An order referred to in subsection (1) must be published in Part I of the Canada Gazette within 14 days after the day on which it is made.

##### Tabling in Parliament

11 (1) An order made under subsection 6(1) or (4) or 7(1) or (2) must be tabled in each House of Parliament within three days after the day on which it is made, unless a House is not sitting within those three days, in which case the order is to be tabled in that House at the earliest opportunity.

##### Referral to committee

(2) An order that is tabled in a House of Parliament must be referred to a committee of that House.

[See also the Schedule (Section 4) in [Bill C-17 \(First Reading June 10, 2020\), An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures](#) (Part 2). With respect to the *Income Tax Act*, the Schedule now refers to: "subsection 37(11), paragraph (m) of the definition *investment tax credit* in subsection 127(9) and subsections 152(3.1) and (4), 166.1(7) and 166.2(5) of the Act". With respect to the *Excise Tax Act*, the Schedule now refers to "subsections 298(1) and (2), 303(7) and 304(5) of the Act". Thus, as mentioned above, the revised proposals allow the government to extend or suspend the deadline for

taxpayers' applications to extend the time to file a notice objection that normally must be made within one year after the deadline to file a notice of objection for income tax and GST purposes. The revised proposals further allow the government to extend or suspend the deadline for taxpayers' applications to extend the time to make requests for adjustments to GAAR assessments for income tax and GST purposes]

See also CBA/CPA Joint Committee on Taxation Submission 2020-06-01: *Subject: COVID-19 Measures* (available on Taxnet Pro). Reproduced below are excerpts from the Joint Submission:

We note that it is not clear from the Proposals and the Explanatory Note whether these measures are intended only to be relieving to taxpayers *versus* also to permit extensions of the powers of governmental authorities. If the latter is intended, we recommend that it be more clearly stated in the Explanatory Note, which can be read to suggest that the Proposals are intended only to be relieving – where the circumstances of COVID19 make “compliance” difficult or impossible...

With reference to subsections 152(3.1) and (4) of the ITA, and based on informal discussions with CRA officials, we understand that the current expectation is that the Minister would likely exercise the authorities provided under section 7 of the Proposals in a manner that would not displace acquired rights by reopening administrative proceedings which had achieved finality before the announcement of the Proposals, nor in a manner that could be duplicative or inordinately disruptive of certainty in proceedings and the rule of law, or not justified by the need to avoid unfair or undesirable effects of the COVID-19 crisis. We understand that this should also be the case for subsections 298(1) and (2) of the ETA. More specifically, to give some shape to these important principles, we offer the following observations reflecting our understanding of the current expectation as to how the Minister would likely exercise these authorities: 1) Where the normal reassessment period contemplated by subsection 152(3.1) of the ITA and any reassessment period contemplated under subsection 152(4) of the ITA, and subsections 298(1) and (2) of the ETA, have expired before the announcement of the Proposals, any order issued by the Minister would not have the effect of permitting an assessment or reassessment to be made without the consent of the affected taxpayer, nor would an order include a provision, pursuant to subsection 7(4) of the Proposals, that would cancel or vary the effect of the Minister's failure to assess or reassess prior to the expiry of a normal reassessment period that ended prior to the announcement of the Proposals. 2) In cases where the COVID-19 crisis has not materially disrupted the CRA's audit activity with reference to a particular taxpayer (i.e., the CRA has in fact continued to undertake audit activity with reference to the particular taxpayer), an order issued by the Minister would not have the effect of suspending or extending the normal reassessment period contemplated by subsection 152(3.1) of the ITA or any assessment or reassessment period contemplated under subsection 152(4) of the ITA, or subsections 298(1) and (2) of the ETA, with reference to the particular taxpayer, without that taxpayer's consent. To avoid uncertainty, parameters regarding the interpretation of “materially disrupted” should be provided. 3) Any order issued by the Minister would not have the effect of resulting in any duplication of a suspension or extension of the normal reassessment period contemplated by subsection 152(3.1) of the ITA and any assessment or reassessment period contemplated under subsection 152(4) of the ITA, or subsections 298(1) and (2) of the ETA; that is, any order(s) would not result in a total prolongation exceeding six months. 4) Any order issued by the Minister would not have the effect of suspending or extending the normal reassessment period contemplated by subsection 152(3.1) of the ITA or any assessment or reassessment period contemplated under subsection 152(4) of the ITA, or subsections 298(1) and (2) of the ETA, which would otherwise expire within a reasonable amount of time after September 13, 2020.

The [above] observations are guided by our understanding of the policy objectives and principles underlying the Proposals – to permit flexibility which may be required by the CRA in the administration of the ITA without displacing acquired rights or being inordinately disruptive of certainty in proceedings and the rule of law or permitting suspensions or extensions not justified by the need to avoid unfair or undesirable effects of the COVID-19 crisis. We recommend that the Proposals and Explanatory Note be clarified in order to provide certainty along the lines more specifically set out above... We acknowledge that many normal functions of the CRA have been disrupted by the onset of the COVID-19 crisis – and that many of the CRA's resources have been diverted to the objective of delivering a broad range of benefits to millions of Canadians, in many cases under unprecedented programs developed and implemented within unprecedented timelines, which to date the CRA has accomplished (in coordination with the Department of Finance and many other stakeholders) in a manner of which all Canadians should be very proud. Nevertheless, it would not be consistent with the policy objectives and principles underlying the Proposals to permit suspensions or extensions with reference to time limits and periods in particular cases where audit activities have not in fact been disrupted, or where the normal time limits or periods are far enough beyond

September 13, 2020, such that the effects of any actual disruptions can reasonably be expected to be overcome without any suspensions or extensions...

Our reading of the effect of section 6 of the Proposals... is that, in counting the 90 days from the day notice has been sent to the taxpayer under section 165 of the ITA, days would not be counted if they are between March 13, 2020, and September 13, 2020, or on any earlier day fixed by order of the Governor in Council made on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice. Thus, for example, for any such notice sent to the taxpayer on March 13, 2020, the taxpayer would have until the expiration of 90 days from September 13, 2020, within which to appeal to the Tax Court of Canada. A similar effect would arise with reference to appeals to the Federal Court of Appeal regarding the status or registration of certain organizations or plans, as contemplated by section 172 of the ITA, as well as any other provision of the ITA, or of any other federal statute, that provides for any limitation or prescription period for commencing a proceeding before a court, including an application for leave to appeal a decision of the Federal Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. However, one important difference is that, while only a taxpayer can appeal to the Tax Court of Canada or the Federal Court of Appeal under sections 169 and 172 of the ITA, either the taxpayer or the Crown can appeal a decision of the Tax Court of Canada to the Federal Court of Appeal or seek leave to appeal a decision of the Federal Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Thus, in this respect, the effect of section 6 of the Proposals would not necessarily be limited to providing relief to taxpayers, and could have the effect of extending the powers of the Crown in a way that displaces acquired rights and legitimate expectations. For example, there may be cases in which the Crown failed to appeal a decision of the Tax Court of Canada to the Federal Court of Appeal within a period that ended on or after March 13, 2020, such that the decision of the Tax Court of Canada would have become final. If section 6 of the Proposals would now resurrect the Crown's expired rights of appeal, this would displace the taxpayer's legitimate expectation of acquired rights of finality, and would be inconsistent with our understanding of the manner in which the Minister may exercise the powers to be granted under section 7 of the Proposals, as discussed below, in order to balance the interests of avoiding unfair or undesirable effects and preserving certainty in proceedings and the rule of law. We recommend that, with reference to any proceedings involving the ITA, the Proposals and Explanatory Note be modified in order to provide certainty that, without the consent of the affected taxpayer(s), their effect would not include displacing acquired rights and reopening proceedings which have achieved finality before the announcement of the Proposals. Such certainty would be important in many ways – including with regard to allowing taxpayers to plan their financial affairs and to make appropriate and reliable arrangements with their employees, their creditors and other stakeholders during these difficult times. A lack of certainty could also impact financial statement disclosure. Our comments regarding section 6 of the Proposals apply equally to the corresponding provisions under the ETA, namely sections 301 and 306 of the ETA. We also note the need for relieving measures with respect to the one-year limitation period in subsections 303(7), 304(5) and 305(5) of the ETA...

[W]e recommend [replacing] the reference in column 2 to “subsection 37(11), paragraph (m) of the definition investment tax credit in subsection 127(9)” with a reference to “any provision of the Act or the Income Tax Regulations that requires or permits a taxpayer or a partnership to do something by a particular time or date or within or during a particular period, or that provides for consequences arising if something is not done by a particular time or date or within or during a particular period”. This would permit the Minister to make orders from time to time with reference to any relevant time limit or period as requirements for relief may be identified and prioritized in consultation with stakeholders. We have put together a preliminary illustrative list of various time limits and periods that have been identified to date, which we will forward to the Minister under separate cover. We also note that the relationship between subsections 7(1) and (2) of the Proposals is not entirely clear, given that subsection 7(1) refers to both Acts and regulations, whereas subsection 7(2) only refers to regulations. Thus, it is not clear whether the Regulations must also be set out in column 1, although that does not appear to us to be necessary – in light of paragraph 7(1)(c) of the Proposals. Finally, we note that subsection 7(4) of the Proposals might be read as allowing the Minister to order that the normal effect of “a failure to meet the time limit or the expiry of the period” that occurred before the order (for example, the failure to assess prior to the end of a normal reassessment period that ended March 31, 2020) is simply “cancelled”, which might suggest that the Minister then has unlimited time in which to issue a reassessment. This is another point on which clarification would be welcomed.

## ***Index of Selected Federal New Releases / Third-Party Commentary***

### ***Income Tax Filing Deadlines/Administrative Relief***

- [Income tax filing and payment deadlines: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated regularly);
- [Collections, audit, objections and appeals: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated regularly);
- [CRA National COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan](#) (updated regularly);
- 2020-05-19: [Government of Canada shares legislative proposals to address issues relating to legislative time limits and deadlines \(Draft Legislative Proposals Regarding Time Limits and Other Periods in Circumstances Due to COVID-19 and Explanatory Notes\)](#);
- 2020-05-25: [The CRA has extended filing deadlines for corporations and trusts](#);
- 2020-05-22: [Filing 2019 taxes through the COVID-19 crisis \(News Release\)](#);
- 2020-05-12: [Free tax clinics go virtual](#);
- 2020-05-07: [Important information related to the Film and Media Tax Credits Program during the COVID-19 crisis](#);
- 2020-05-01: [Important information related to SR&ED tax incentives during the COVID-19 crisis](#);
- 2020-04-17: [COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency for businesses](#);
- 2020-03-27: [Additional Support for Canadian Businesses from the Economic Impact of COVID-19](#);
- KPMG, [“COVID-19 — Canada Seeks Changes to Relief Measures”](#), *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-54, June 11).]
- KPMG, [“COVID-19 — Canada Looking to Postpone Tax & Legal Deadlines”](#), *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-49, May 25;
- Bruce Ball, [“COVID-19 updates: Amending CEWS claims, CEWS and corporate groups, DSLPs and time limits”](#), CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, June 8 (“We continue to work with the government to resolve items on our [summary of outstanding COVID-19 tax issues](#) (beyond those related to CEWS). We invite you to review the latest updates to this list. As our work proceeds, we’ll keep you posted on important updates through our [tax blog](#) and our [COVID-19 Tax Resources page](#)”);
- Bruce Ball, [“COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies”](#), CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, May 29
- Bruce Ball, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS Q&A, other developments and CRA discussions](#), CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, May 14;
- Bruce Ball, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS, employee expenses and benefits, deadline extensions](#) (May 7);
- CPA Canada and the CTF collaboration, [Summary of identified COVID-19 tax issues](#) (updated May 4);
- Esper, “Beyond the COVID-19 tax measures: Taxpayers may apply for additional waiver of penalties and interest”, Thorsteinssons LLP (available on Taxnet Pro), April 13;

### **GST Filing Deadlines/Administrative Relief**

- [FAQ - Deferral of GST/HST Tax Remittances: CRA and COVID-19](#);
- [Additional Support for Canadian Businesses from the Economic Impact of COVID-19](#);
- BLG, [“GST/HST remittance deferral: Interest-free “loans” may trigger personal liability”](#), May 5;
- CPA Canada/the CTF, [“list of other COVID-19-related tax issues”](#), May 4;
- KPMG, [“Canada: Indirect tax liabilities and rent or lease payment deferrals \(COVID-19\)”](#), April 23;
- KPMG, [“COVID-19 — CRA & Quebec Offer GST/HST and QST Relief”](#), *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-36, April 2;

### **International Tax Issues**

- [Income tax filing and payment deadlines: CRA and COVID-19](#);
- 2020-05-27: [International waivers and notifications for certificates of compliance](#);
- 2020-05-29: [Guidance on international income tax issues raised by the COVID-19 crisis](#);
- Bruce Ball, [“COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies”](#), CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, May 29
- Osler, [CRA releases guidance on residency, permanent establishment and other international issues arising during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), May 21;
- KPMG, [“COVID-19 — New CRA Relief Addresses Travel Restrictions”](#), *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-50, May 25;
- Nijhawan et al., [“Managing the Tax Residency of Foreign Affiliates in the Face of the COVID-19 Restrictions”](#), Bennett Jones, May 25;

- Ranger, “COVID-19: Administrative Accommodations by the Canada Revenue Agency (“CRA”) with respect to International Tax Matters”, *Tax Law Bulletin* (Fasken), June 2, 2020;
- Steeves et al., “Implications of COVID-19 for Corporate Residency”, Fasken (available on Taxnet Pro), June 1;
- [mccarthy.ca/en/insights/blogs/mccarthy-tetrault-tax-perspectives/canadian-government-issues-guidance-international-income-tax-issues-raised-covid-19-crisis](https://mccarthy.ca/en/insights/blogs/mccarthy-tetrault-tax-perspectives/canadian-government-issues-guidance-international-income-tax-issues-raised-covid-19-crisis);
- [EY COVID-19 Response Tracker | Transfer Pricing](#);
- Kirkey et al., “Transfer pricing & APA considerations during an economic disruption”, Gowling WLG, April 7;
- KPMG, “[COVID-19 — Implications and Considerations for Transfer Pricing](#)”, *Implications and Considerations for Transfer Pricing*, April 9;
- Deloitte, “Respond, recover, and thrive: Transfer pricing considerations in the time of COVID-19”, April 30;
- KPMG, “[FIs — CRA Extends Deadlines for FATCA and CRS Returns](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-40, April 17;
- [CRA’s position on transfer pricing deadlines](#);

### **Tax Court Schedules**

- TCC: [Amended Practice and Director Order](#) – May 27;
- TCC: [Notice to the Public and the Profession - May 27](#);
- TCC: [Notice to the Public and the Profession - May 20](#);
- TCC: [Practice Direction and Order - April 17](#);
- TCC: [Notice to the Public and the Profession - April 17](#);
- TCC: [tcc-cci.gc.ca/tcc-cci\\_Eng/Index.html](https://tcc-cci.gc.ca/tcc-cci_Eng/Index.html) (updated regularly);
- [FCA: COVID-19 Practice Direction and Order: Update #2 - April 29](#), <https://www.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/pages/law-and-practice/notices>, [Further extension of the COVID-19 Suspension Period and Remote Commissioning of Affidavits](#) (May 12);
- [FC](#): modified and/or suspended hearings scheduled;
- [SCC](#): modified and/or suspended hearings scheduled
- Meghji et al., “[Litigation in the Tax Court post pandemic](#)”, Osler, May 19;
- Kroft et al., “The Tax Court of Canada Operational Update: Addressing the COVID-19 Shutdown”, Bennett Jones, April 22 (available on Taxnet Pro);

### **Charities/NPOs**

- [Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan under “Non-profit and charitable”](#);
- [Income tax filing and payment deadlines: CRA and COVID-19](#);
- [Emergency Community Support Fund](#);
- Carters, [COVID-19 Resources for Charities and NFPs](#), [COVID-19 Resources](#), [COVID-19 Federal Government Support for Charities and NFPs](#) (April 30 Newsletter), [Annual Return Deadline For Federal Corporations Extended Due To COVID-19](#) (April 2);

### **Pension Plan Relief**

- 2020-05-29: [Government announces coming into force of regulations providing relief to federally regulated pension plan sponsors](#) (see also related Backgrounder – [Coming into force of regulations providing relief to federally regulated private pension plan sponsors](#));
- [2020-05-05](#): Registered Pension Plans (RPPs) – Temporary Covid-19 relief measure for money purchase (defined contribution) pension plans;
- 2020-04-15: [Government announces relief for federally regulated pension plan sponsors](#);
- RRIFs – [COVID-19: Minimum withdrawals amounts reduced by 25%](#);
- Kim Ozubko, “Pension plan regulatory relief and COVID-19”, Miller Thomson (available on Taxnet Pro), April 7;
- BLG, “Pensions: Your essential guide to dealing with unprecedented challenges” (April 9);

### **Customs and Trade Relief**

- [COVID-19 and Canada's international trade](#);
- [Canada Border Services Agency](#) – COVID-19 updates;
- Canadian Society of Customs Brokers (CSCB) – [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - The latest](#);
- [Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments](#) (Canada.ca);
- News Release 2020-05-06: [Government provides tariff relief to importers of certain medical goods](#);
- [Customs Notice 20-19](#): Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19) (May 6);
- [Customs Notice 20-12: COVID-19: Tariff Classification and Other Information to Import Medical Supplies \(April 16\)](#);
- 2020-04-22: [Statement on joint WTO efforts to ensure open and predictable trade for food and agricultural products amid COVID-19](#);
- [Customs Notice 2011](#): Extension of Timeframes for Payment of Customs Duties and GST (COVID-19) (March 27);
- [Customs Notice 20-10](#): Waiver of Late Accounting Penalties (COVID-19) (updated May 19);
- [Customs Notice 19-14](#): *Mandatory electronic reporting for exporters*;
- Bronwyn Lincoln, "The role of the WTO in international trade post COVID-19", Corrs Chambers Westgarth, June 4 (available on Taxnet Pro);
- Fasken, "Canadian Trade Controls Compliance – COVID-19 Considerations", *International Trade & Customs Law Bulletin*, April 20;
- CBSA Memorandum D3-1-5: [International Commercial Transportation](#) (update April 9);
- PWC *Tax Insights Issue 2020-21*, "Canada Border Services Agency announces deferral of all payments owed on imports, in response to COVID-19";
- Bennet Jones, "Trade Implications of COVID-19 from a Canadian Perspective", April 2, article available on Taxnet Pro;
- DLA Piper, [US takes action to abate tariffs and duties in wake of COVID-19](#), May 8;

### Corporate Securities/Regulatory Filings

- [Corporations Canada extends annual return deadlines to September 30 for federal corporations during the COVID-19 outbreak](#);
- 2020-05-19: [Temporary relief from certain regulatory filings available to investment funds and non-investment fund issuers due to COVID-19 – Canadian Securities Administrators](#);
- Bennett Jones "[Additional Relief Measures Available to Canadian Public Companies Delaying Annual Meetings Due to COVID-19](#)", May 4;
- BLG, "[Share buybacks during COVID-19: Considerations for public companies](#)" (April 7);
- Blakes, "Canadian Governments Suspend Corporate Deadlines", April 3 (available on *Taxnet Pro*);

### Support for Businesses

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under "Support for businesses";
- [Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy](#);
- [FAQs for temporary wage subsidy for employers \(updated regularly\)](#);
- [The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(updated regularly\)](#);
- [COVID-19 Spring 2020 notices](#) (Passport services – COVID-19, [Canada Student Loans – COVID-19](#), [Employment Insurance – COVID-19](#), [Labour Program and federally regulated workplaces – COVID-19](#), [Public pensions – COVID-19](#), [Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy – Covid-19](#), [Record of Employment – COVID-19](#), [Service Canada Centres – COVID-19](#), [Temporary Foreign Worker Program – COVID-19](#), [Work-Sharing Program – COVID-19](#), [Letter from Ministers to employers – Temporary Foreign Workers – COVID-19](#));
- 2020-06-10: [Minister Fortier highlights Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan at OECD roundtable](#);
- 2020-05-07: [Prime Minister announces agreements to boost wages for essential workers](#);
- [2020-04-20: Backgrounder - Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: New Support to Protect Canadian Jobs](#);
- 2020-04-17: [Prime Minister announces new support to protect Canadian jobs](#);
- 2020-04-15: [Prime Minister announces expanded access to Canada Emergency Response Benefit and support for essential workers](#) (see also the related [Backgrounder](#));
- [Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program: Step 1. What this program offers](#);

### Financing Relief

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Support for businesses” – see under “Access to credit” and “Supporting financial stability”;
- [COVID-19: Actions to Support the Economy and Financial System](#);
- [Canada Emergency Business Account](#);
- [Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility](#);
- [Loan Guarantee for SMEs](#);
- [Learn more about the Co-Lending Program for SMEs](#);
- [Regional Development Agencies](#);
- [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(RRRF\) through your Regional Development Agency \(RDA\)](#);
- [Northern Business Relief Fund](#);
- 2020-05-25: [Minister Ng announces hotline to provide small businesses in need with financial planning advice amid COVID-19](#);
- 2020-05-19: [Prime Minister announces expansion of support for workers and small businesses](#);
- 2020-05-20: [Government announces support program for large employers is open for applications](#);
- 2020-05-13: [COVID-19: \\$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic](#) ([Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency \(ACOA\)](#), [Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions \(CED\)](#), [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency \(CanNor\)](#), [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario \(FedDev Ontario\)](#), [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario \(FedNor\)](#), [Western Economic Diversification Canada \(WD\)](#));
- 2020-05-11: [Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs](#) (Establish a Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF), expanding the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs);
- [2020-03-20: Government of Canada Announces Additional Measures to Support Continued Lending to Canadian Consumers and Businesses](#);
- [OSFI announces measures to support the resilience of financial institutions](#);
- BLG, [COVID-19 Emergency Financing - An overview of CEBA and LEEFF](#), May 22;

### **Rent Relief**

- [Apply to CECRA](#) (updated regularly);
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Financial support, loans and access to credit”;
- 2020-06-01: [The Government of Canada will provide rent relief for eligible business tenants in all national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas](#);
- 2020-05-25: [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance now open for applications](#);
- 2020-05-20: [Prime Minister announces opening of program to protect jobs and help businesses](#);
- 2020-05-01: [COVID-19: CECRA for Small Businesses](#);
- 2020-04-16: [Prime Minister announces additional support for small businesses](#) (including rent relief);
- RSM, [“GST/HST under Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program”](#), *Tax Alert*, June 10;

### **Farming Relief**

- [COVID-19 Support Program](#);
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Agriculture, agri-food, aquaculture, fisheries”;
- [Information for industry and partners \(Fisheries and Oceans Canada\)](#)
- [Information for industry \(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada\)](#)
- [Information for industry \(Canadian Food Inspection Agency\)](#)
- 2020-05-15: [Agri-Food Pilot begins accepting applications May 15](#);
- 2020-05-14: [Farm Credit Canada-backed fund offers innovative and flexible solutions for uncertain times](#);
- 2020-05-14: [Prime Minister announces new support for Canada's fish harvesters](#);
- 2020-05-05: [Supporting Canada's farmers, food businesses, and food supply](#);
- 2020-04-17: [Canada and Ontario Supporting Agri-food Sector Supply Chain During COVID-19](#) (see also <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html> and Part 14 of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act)

## Resource Industry Relief

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Energy”;
- [Resources for Canada's natural resources sectors](#);
- Schneider et al., “[Aid Package to the Canadian Oil and Gas Industry in Response to COVID-19](#)”, Fasken, April 17;
- Osler, [Fighting on two fronts: Arrival of Canadian energy sector relief](#), April 21;
- Osler, [COVID-19's impact on mining](#), April 24;

## Indigenous Business Relief

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Indigenous businesses”;
- [Government of Canada announces additional support for Indigenous businesses and the Indigenous tourism industry \(June 11, 2020\)](#);
- [Relief measures for Indigenous businesses](#);
- [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#);
- [COVID-19: First Nations community guide on accessing additional supports](#);
- 2020-04-18: [Prime Minister announces support for Indigenous businesses](#).

## Industry Relief/Considerations (General)

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) under “Culture, heritage and sport sectors”, “Tourism”, “Academic and research”, and “Air transportation”;
- [COVID-19 Small Business Help Centre](#);
- 2020-06-01: [Prime Minister announces support to help communities create jobs and restart the economy](#);
- 2020-05-31: [Western Economic Diversification Canada working with tourism businesses to bolster the industry's recovery efforts in western Canada](#);
- 2020-05-16: [Helping the dairy sector mitigate the impact of COVID-19](#);
- 2020-05-16: [Minister Ng announces more support for women entrepreneurs amid COVID-19](#);
- 2020-05-15: [Prime Minister announces support for research staff in Canada](#) (\$450 million in funding to help Canada's academic research community);
- 2020-05-07: [Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations: next steps to support the industry impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic](#), [Backgrounder: Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations](#);
- 2020-04-29: [First Ministers' statement on shared public health approach to support restarting the economy](#);
- 2020-04-28: [Measures, updates, and guidance \(Transport Canada\)](#);
- 2020-04-27: [Canadian manufacturers needed to help combat COVID-19](#);
- 2020-04-23: [Prime Minister announces new support for COVID-19 medical research and vaccine development](#);
- 2020-04-20: [Calling all suppliers – Help Canada combat Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#);
- 2020-04-08: [Competition Bureau statement on competitor collaborations during the COVID-19 pandemic](#);
- [2020-04-02: Government announces support for air transportation sector during COVID-19 pandemic](#);
- [2020-03-16: Canada outlines measures to support the economy and the financial sector](#);
- KPMG, “[The business implications of coronavirus COVID-19 resource centre](#)”, “Innovative Businesses — Apply Now for COVID-19 Relief”, *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-42, April 23;

## M&A Considerations

- Raman et al., “Terminations of M&A Transactions: Lessons Learned from American Express Global Business Travel” Fasken (available on Taxnet Pro), June 2;
- Halwagi et al., “Investment Opportunities in the Midst of a Pandemic: Q & A on Distressed and Opportunistic Funds”, *Private Equity & Venture Capital Bulletin* (Fasken), available on Taxnet Pro, June 1;
- Norton Rose Fulbright, “[Timely, or too soon? Competition Bureau releases guidance on “failing firm” claims in merger reviews](#)”, May 14;
- Blakes, “Navigating an M&A Deal Amid Covid-19”, *Mergers & Acquisitions Newsletter* (Taxnet Pro), March 23,

- Torys, “COVID-19: M&A considerations”, and “COVID-19: U.S. considerations for Canadian public companies”, March 19;
- Fasken, “COVID-19 and Material Adverse Change Provisions in M&A Agreements”, April 9;

### **Financial Reporting/Corporate Governance**

- Grant Thornton, “[Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on your 2020 deferred tax provision](#)”, May 2020,
- KPMG, [COVID-19 | Financial reporting](#) (Resource centre on the financial reporting impacts of coronavirus), “[COVID-19 — CRA & Quebec Offer GST/HST and QST Relief](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-36, April 2,
- KPMG, [COVID-19 Financial Reporting Podcast](#) (April 15);
- BLG, “[COVID-19 and corporate governance: leading proxy advisors weigh in](#)” (April 7)
- Grant Thornton, [Proposed amendments provide relief for rent concessions directly related to COVID-19](#) (IFRS);

### **General Discussion of Common Tax Issues During Economic Downturns**

- [Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy](#) – see [Messages to debtors](#), [Messages to Licensed Insolvency Trustees](#);
- Abrahamson et al., “Tax Issues for Distressed Corporations”, Davies (available on Taxnet Pro), April;
- Suarez, “Tax Topics for Tough Times” (identifies important issues businesses face under the ITA in the context of a challenging economic environment, such as opportunities from reduced valuations, optimizing the use of tax attributes, using losses within a corporate group, purchase and sale of loss companies, debt forgiveness, transfer pricing, etc.), May, available on Taxnet Pro;
- Virji et al., “Tax Disputes in Past Economic Downturns: Will History Repeat Itself”, *Bennett Jones on Tax Disputes* (Taxnet Pro), May;
- Summerhill, “Avoiding a COVID-19 Income Tax Distortion”, C.D. Howe Institute, Taxnet Pro, May 4;

### **Individuals – Benefits, Credits and Support Payments**

- [Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan under “Support for individuals”](#) (updated regularly);
- [Benefits, credits and financial support: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated regularly);
- [Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated regularly);
- [COVID-19 - Frequently asked questions: Increase to the GST/HST credit amount](#) (updated regularly);
- [COVID-19: Canada Child Benefit \(CCB\) payment increase](#);
- [Questions and Answers on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) (updated regularly), [Who can apply](#), [Backgrounder](#), News Release 2020-04-01: [Prime Minister’s remarks updating Canadians on the rollout of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#); News Release 2020-03-25: [Government introduces \[CERB\] to help workers and businesses](#), and [What to do if the Canada Revenue Agency reviews your benefits](#));
- [EI regular benefits: Apply](#) (see also [SOR/2020-44](#), [SOR/2020-88](#), [SOR/2020-89](#), [SOR/2020-95](#));
- [New Horizons for Seniors Program \(One-time tax-free payment for seniors\)](#);
- The Canadian Press, [No apparent opposition support for feds’ latest pandemic emergency bill](#), June 10;
- 2020-06-04: [Canadian seniors to receive special payment in early July](#);
- [2020-05-15: Benefits payments for eligible Canadians to continue until Fall 2020](#);
- [2020-05-12: Prime Minister announces additional support for Canadian seniors](#);
- [Report a lead on suspected tax or benefit cheating in Canada – What you need to know](#);
- [COVID-19: Understanding Mortgage Payment Deferral](#);
- Bruce Ball, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS Q&A, other developments and CRA discussions](#), May 14, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS, employee expenses and benefits, deadline extensions](#), May 7, CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*;
- KPMG, “[Employers — No SUB “Top Up” for CERB Relief Payments](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash-Canda*, May 15, No. 2020-46;
- BLG, “[Virtual witnessing of wills and powers of attorney](#)”, April 14;
- Jennifer Robson (associate professor in the Master of Political Management program), University of Carleton, “[Professor Creates Plain Language Guide to Obtaining Government Aid](#)” (updated regularly);

### **Student Support**

- [Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan under “Support for individuals”](#):

- [Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#) (updated regularly);
- [Student Aid \(Due to the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak, there are changes to this program\)](#);
- [Moratorium on Loan Payments](#) (Changes to Canada Student Grants and Loans have been introduced so students facing financial challenges from COVID-19 can access and afford post-secondary education);
- 2020-05-15: [Canada Summer Jobs start rolling out to keep young people working during COVID-19](#);
- 2020-05-13: [Canada Emergency Student Benefit application period to launch on May 15](#) (see also [Backgrounder: The \[CESB\]](#), [Backgrounder: Support for Students and Recent Graduates Impacted by COVID-19](#), [Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act](#), [Canada Emergency Student Benefit Regulations](#));
- 2020-04-22: [Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#);

### Additional Sources

- [CPA Canada COVID-19 Federal Tax Updates](#);
- McCarthy Tétrault [COVID-19: Economic relief measures announced to date](#) (lawyers from across the firm break down the economic relief measures put in place by the federal and provincial governments to date – the article is regularly updated with new measures as they are announced), [COVID-19 Hub: Latest Updates and Legal Considerations for Your Business](#), [Tax Measures Under Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#);
- [PWC Canada's COVID-19 web hub](#) (“COVID-19: What Canadian business leaders should know”);
- Deloitte, [“Combating COVID-19 with resilience”](#);
- Miller Thomson, [COVID-19 resources](#);
- Fasken, [“Government response plan for Canada, Québec, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta”](#);
- [Osler web page focused on COVID-19 business and legal issues](#);
- BLG, [“COVID-19: Breaking developments and essential resources”](#), updated daily (provides an extensive summary of announcements, programs & resources, and emergency legislation, including at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels);
- Baxter, “COVID-19 Brings the Opportunity to Enhance Estate Planning with a Current “Freeze” or “Refreeze” Transaction”, *Tax Hyperion* (Taxnet Pro), Vol. 17–2, March-April 2020;
- [OECD Covid-19 tax policy tracker](#) (global);
- BDO US, “International Tax Considerations Relating to Repatriation in Light of COVID-19”, April 2020, “How COVID-19 Is Impacting Canada-U.S. Border Crossings”, Taxnet Pro, March 24.

### **News Release 2020-05-11: COVID-19 Update: National COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan**

Good afternoon,

It's been over two months since COVID-19 changed our lives, and you keep giving it your all, providing exceptional service to Canadians in these difficult times. We will keep saying it: we are very grateful for you and the exceptional work that you do every day.

Our last update to the National COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was on April 27, and since the situation is constantly evolving, we have new changes to share with you. Although there is some movement towards normalcy, many of you are still called on to do things outside your normal work. Starting Monday, May 11, new critical services will be added to the [CRA National COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan](#). If you have any questions, please speak with your manager.

If your work, while important, is not considered a critical service, please make sure it does not impact taxpayers in a negative way. Also, please don't create additional work for colleagues who are carrying out critical services.

In most provinces and territories, public health authorities' direction is to continue to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are discouraged or worn out, or if you feel overwhelmed, we encourage you to reach out to the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). They are there to help you and your family members.

To keep up to date on developments, please visit the [COVID-19: Information for Canada Revenue Agency Employees](#) page or follow our social media networks [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [RSS feed](#).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Canada Revenue Agency has become a lifeline for Canadians who are experiencing difficult circumstances. Whether they are individuals, businesses or students, they count on you to help them, and you have all come through. We see every day the results of your hard work and dedication, and we are very privileged to work with all of you. Thank you.

### **Purpose**

The Agency's National COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan has been created to provide National direction for coordinated implementation at the local level. The Plan outlines the Agency's prioritization of services. Collaboration at the national and regional level is paramount for success of the Plan.

It will ensure that the Agency can continue to support Canadians with delivery of critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Critical services are defined as services whose compromise in terms of availability or integrity, would result in a high degree of injury to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of Canadians, or to the effective functioning of the Government of Canada.

The Plan is reviewed on a regular basis and incrementally adjusted with time to ensure the Agency carries out priority activities in support of the economic well-being of Canadians while safeguarding the health, safety and security of our employees.

As the external landscape evolves and new programs and changes are announced, priorities will be reassessed and some activities currently not deemed critical may become critical.

### **Agency strategic response objectives**

To ensure the continuity of:

- Activities associated with the CRA's internal management of the organization's response to the pandemic as it relates to the **health, safety, and security of our workforce**;
- **Benefits payments** to recipients, and associated functions, including, processing of returns and responding to calls received in CRA's call centres in the hope of facilitating greater financial relief to Canadians;
- Activities associated with the CRA's contribution to the **Government of Canada's response** to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as it relates to supporting Canada's economic resilience during the pandemic; and
- **Agency leadership** through the mobilization of our key teams and stakeholders to oversee, manage and deliver the Agency's critical services and to support the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Critical services to Canadians and to the government of Canada – program branches** <sup>Footnote 1</sup>

#### **Assessment, Benefit, and Service Branch**

- Respond to calls placed to the Agency's call centres (agents, traffic control, quality monitoring and support)
- Provide support on the Agency's ABSB e-Services Helpdesk lines and online portals
- Review, assess and process benefit applications, including the Disability Tax Credit, to determine eligibility and entitlement
- Ensure the issuance/re-issuance of benefit payments
- Mobilization of resources throughout **all T1, T2, T3, pension, Tax Free Savings Account, and information return processes, including associated accounting enquiries activities**
- Processing of T2 returns, including Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED), other levies and other specialized workloads
- Processing of paper and electronic GST/HST returns and rebates
- Processing of payments and related financial transactions, including direct and financial institution (FI) remitted payments; updating of accounts; uncashed cheques; corporate suspense, interdepartmental settlements
- Process requests normally stemming from collections, problem resolution, audit, appeals (and other requests) to transfer/disburse credits
- IDENT updates and related activities

- Provide virtual support to the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) and assist organizations with virtual outreach activities (relating to benefits)
- Operate the National Targeting Centre and the Customs Business Number Registration (in support of CBSA)
- Critical information return activities to support ESDC
- Information sharing (via data transfer) in support of socio-economic benefits to Provincial and Territorial governments and other federal departments
- Development and delivery of the new Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the new COVID-19 GSTC Supplement, and the Enhanced Canada Child Benefit
- Testing associated with critical system changes, as well as the continued development of both the T3 and BSRP solutions
- Correspondence:
  - Waivers
  - Certification of Residency
  - Letters of Good Standing (Comfort Letters)
- GST/HST Non-Resident Registrations
- Business Number Services / **Authorizations**

### Collections and Verification Branch

- Provide dedicated remote call centre agents (VOCALLS) to address financial hardship cases for tax and government program files due to previous collection actions **and respond to requests from taxpayers for payment arrangements**
- Benefit Validation work to action inventories and ensure that benefit recipients receive timely benefit payments
- Service Acceleration Officers to resolve financial hardship cases and taxpayer complaints
- Centre of expertise to address suspicious and fraudulent refunds, unauthorized benefit payments, as well as cases of identity theft
- CVB Individual (T1) validation programs, including Confidence Validities (CV), Pre-Match, Special Assessing, and Request Verification (RV)
- GST/HST Enhanced Registration Review (GERR)
- Planning, development and delivery of Government of Canada priorities including wage subsidy initiatives, Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and other Covid-19 measures
- Individual (T1) post-assessment review programs:
  - T1 Processing Review (T1PR)
  - T1 Matching
  - Supplementary Examination (SE)
- Part XIII Non-Resident Withholding
  - NR7-R Applications for Refund of Part XIII Tax Withheld
  - **Services, Assessments, and Account Maintenance**
- Employer Accounts and Services – amendments
- Program areas within the Business Compliance Directorate, with a focus on Employer Examination, GST Examination, Employer Compliance Audit, and Trust Compliance National Inventory (TCNI) to support activities of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- Collections: Insolvency
- Debt Management Call Centres in support of the CERB
- Collection Contact Officers (Accounts Receivable National Inventory and Government Programs) in support of emergency measures and call centres
- Exceptional Aggressive Tax Planning and High-Risk Collections
- Non-Filer Program, in part to support Agency's COVID-19 measures and respond to requests from taxpayers that are beneficial to the client
- Matching - Beneficial Client Adjustments
- Employer Accounts and Services Programs (EASS)
  - Control functions
  - Taxpayer Relief
  - Phoenix amendment processing
  - Refund Requests (Phase I)

- Responses to Employer generated requests

### Compliance Programs Branch

- GST/HST Refund Integrity program
- Expediting urgent taxpayer's requests for audit approval for refunds and credits relating to:
  - Taxpayer requested reassessments
  - Waivers of regulations 102 and 105 withholding and s. 116 certificates of compliance
  - Clearance certificates
  - Credits on account / refund returns
- Exceptional Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR & ED), including the Film & Media Tax Credit program
- Liaison Officer (LO) program
- Exceptional High risk audits and investigations
- Planning work in support of GC priorities and CRA resumption
- Advance Pricing Agreement (APA), Mutual Agreement Procedures (MAP) and Country-by-Country Reporting (CbCR)
- Tax Shelter Application Review Program
- T1134 Form
- Support activities to Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
- Common Reporting Standard (CRS) (Phase 1, Phase 2, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA))
- Local Audit Support Officers (LASO)
- NR7R- Application for Refund of Part XIII Tax referrals from CVB
- Voluntary Disclosures Program (VDP)
- Provincial Income Allocation (PIA)

### Appeals Branch

- Prioritize objections inventory related to benefits, Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR & ED) claims and GST/HST refund claims
- Prioritize CPP/EI appeals to the Minister/appeals to the court (only where benefits are pending)
- Conduct intake functions to identify all priority workflows
- With respect to the objections intake functions, properly code accounts to inhibit reassessments and prevent refund set-offs, ensure identification of all open objections and properly allocate and monitor inventories
- Key tax litigation files, with HQ providing support to the Department of Justice
- Core capability in taxpayer relief program
- Expert Witness Program
- Litigation program

### Service, Innovation, and Integration Branch

- Ensure that required data files are created, reviewed for quality, and supplied to our partners, such as Provinces and Territories, Statistics Canada and Department of Finance, in support of socio-economic initiatives
- The Ombudsman Liaison Office will address urgent requests for action received from the Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman
- SIIB plays a critical role in supporting internal management of the Agency through governance, analysis, interdepartmental and inter-jurisdictional relationships
- Problem Resolution Program – ensure continuity of operations by addressing issues impacting Canadians' benefits and tax situations
- Monitoring and Reporting activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)
- Strategic policy and analysis
- Corporate planning and reporting
- COVID-19 analytical support

## Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman

- Receive complaints from taxpayers relating to the services provided by the CRA
- Assess complaints and escalate when the complainant's personal or financial circumstances require that their file be actioned on an urgent basis and send Urgent Requests for Action (URFA) to the CRA-Ombudsman Liaison Office (OLO) to action
- Systemic Examination Team
- Individual Examination Team
- Corporate Services

## Legislative Policy and Regulatory Affairs Branch

- Provide input to government economic and fiscal priorities
- Operate call centres in the areas of GST/HST rulings, registered plans, and registered charities
- Support time-sensitive income tax ruling requests and technical interpretations
- Operate the Dedicated Telephone Service
- Handle Stamping/Licensing for Cannabis enquiries and other excise licensees
- Conduct verification activities in the Excise program
- Issue GST/HST municipal, charity, and hospital designations and determinations letters
- Process applications for Qualified Canadian Journalism Organization (QCJO)
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Employment Insurance (EI)
  - Work on CPP/EI pending claims
  - Provide support to Canadians working abroad on Social Security
  - CPP/EI ruling requests that support the payment of benefits
  - Correspondence - Certification of Residency and/or Tax Exempt Status
- Registered Plans
  - Support ESDC to ensure continuity of Supplementary Unemployment Benefit Plans (SUBPs)
  - Process waiver and administrative relief submissions for Deferred Income and Savings Plans (DISP)
  - Register new Registered Pension Plans (RPP) and Deferred Profit Sharing Plans (DPSP)
- Registered Charities
  - Respond to registered charity inquiries received by mail and fax that are Covid-19 related
  - Review and respond to organizations seeking charitable status
  - Support the delivery of the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy by ensuring that adequate resources are available to screen applications from the charitable sector
  - Ongoing analysis of existing files and monitoring of new leads for possible terrorist funding through registered charities

## *Critical services – business enabling functions*

### Information Technology Branch

- IT Support
  - National IT Service Desk
  - Enterprise Service Management
  - Production Assurance support
  - Redeployment of laptops and desk side support
- PKI Support
- Cyber Security
- IT development, maintenance and operational support for all IT systems required to support the agency critical services and related programs

### Human Resources Branch

- Labour relations
- Occupational health and safety

- Compensation
  - The NES lines have been disabled, but the CCSC mailbox remains a critical service
  - Activities related to situations of no pay or underpay, emergency advances, new hires, final pay and record of employment for terminations and leave without pay, restarting pay for return from leave, processing maternity and parental allowances and disability insurance activities required to ensure benefits are received from the carrier as required.
  - Existing overpayment recoveries will continue, but no new overpayments will be collected
  - Term extensions, and new terms for which documentation has been received at the CCSC will be processed, this includes students
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Early Intervention and Return to Work (EIRTW) services

### Public Affairs Branch

- Parliamentary and Cabinet Affairs
- Media Relations and Issues Management
- Language Services
- Strategic Communications and Advisory Services
- Social Media, Marketing, Advertising & Multimedia
- Web (Intranet and Public) & Print Productions
- User-Centric Content Design
- Ministerial Events and Speech Writing
- Privacy Management
- ATIP files - Analysis and processing of existing files
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Executive Correspondence
- Public Opinion Research and Public Environment Analysis

### Finance and Administration Branch

- Business Continuity functional guidance
- Security Operations, particularly:
  - Agency Operations Centre
  - COMSEC
  - Physical Security – access control
  - Providing functional guidance related to waivers to security CPIs, security awareness; and identity and access management
  - Personnel Security Screening
- Logistics and Administrative Services, particularly:
  - Mail Operations, Records Management and coordinating forms and publications storage and distribution, including Print to Mail supplies, in both the National Forms Distribution Centre (NFDC) in Winnipeg and the Summerside sites
  - Knowledge and Research Programs
  - Materiel management
- Contracting services
- Real Property Facilities and Project Management Delivery
- Financial Administration and Management, particularly:
  - payment authorization and processing
  - financial reporting for Agency activities
  - policy and technical advice and guidance for Help desks (Corporate Administration System (CAS), Revenue Ledger (RL) & Integrated Staffing System (ISS)) in support of critical activities and year-end
  - year-end activities including internal support and functional guidance, external reporting (Financial Statements and Public Accounts) and preparation for audit
  - revenue accounting and reporting of administered activities and COVID-19 measures
  - resource management, including budget allocations, framework maintenance and support for incremental funding requests and major project resumption plans

## Legal Services Branch

- Legal advice, administrative and litigation support services

## Audit, Evaluation and Risk Branch

- Internal Disclosure
- Risk and Advisory services

## *Continuity of leadership*

## All Branches & Regions

- CO/MO Business Continuity Plan
- Mobilize all Assistant Commissioners and their key support staff
- Ensure horizontal coordination of the Agency's activities to support CRA's critical services and to support the Government of Canada's response during the crisis
- Ensure horizontal prioritization and coordination of the Agency's resumption activities

## *Monitoring and reporting*

- As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the plan will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.
- Guidance from lead government partners and authorities will be monitored during the crisis.
- A national After Action Report (AAR) will be completed following the event to address gaps and lessons learned.
- Ongoing meetings will take place with the following groups: Core Incident Management Committee, Agency Management Committee, the Agency COVID-19 Task force and the Board of Management.
- Stakeholders such as national UTE - PSAC and AFS - PIPSC unions, other federal government departments, and Provincial/Territorial partners, will be briefed regularly.
- Ongoing tracking and reporting of employees, who have been deemed to be providing a critical service, who have a presumptive case of COVID-19 (as confirmed by their health authority), or confirmed case of COVID-19 (as confirmed by their health authority); and work refusals.

## *Response by phases of pandemic*

As we progress through phases of the pandemic, critical service priorities and associated strategies will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

## *Footnotes*

### Footnote 1

Changes from May 11, 2020 are highlighted in bold characters.

## **Tax Services Offices and Tax Centres (Sending Returns, Correspondence and Payments to the CRA)**

Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, all drop boxes not located at the Canada Revenue Agency's tax centres have been closed. Please don't leave mail at these locations. Drop boxes at the tax centres in Jonquière, Sudbury, and Winnipeg will be monitored regularly and remain open. If you leave your documents at any other location, we can't guarantee your documents will be safe and that we'll get them. To protect your sensitive information and make sure your tax return gets to the CRA quickly and securely, you're strongly encouraged to: file your tax return online using NETFILE, mail your paper returns to the appropriate tax centre.

You're also strongly encouraged to make a payment to the CRA in one of the following ways: pay electronically through your financial institution's Internet or telephone banking service or by setting up pre-authorized debit; take your remittance voucher and pay directly at a financial institution; make an electronic payment.

You may be able to pay in person at any Canada Post outlet using cash or debit card.

If you need help filing your income tax and benefit return, our get ready page has everything you need.

Note: The decision to close the drop boxes also considered the safety of employees responsible for collecting the mail. The main safety consideration is that many drop boxes are located outside CRA buildings that have been vacated or have very minimal capacity. From a health and safety perspective as well as a capacity perspective, it was decided that the best approach was to seal drop boxes in these locations. Because this is not an issue in Tax Centres who are maintaining a higher level of staff, including in the mailrooms, it was decided to maintain the drop boxes.

Tax services offices (TSO) are located throughout Canada. Find the one serving your area in the table below. To find the tax centre for your area, select your TSO from the table below or see Tax centres. The tax centre assigned to each TSO is listed at the bottom of the linked page. If you are a Territorial resident and are looking for information about a Northern Service Centre, go to Northern Service Centres.

Please note that there is no walk-in counter service offered in any CRA locations.

If you are a non-resident and need to contact us about an international-related issue, go to International tax and non-resident enquiries.

[Collections, audit, objections and appeals: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated June 9)

On this page

- [Collection on new debts](#)
- [Audits](#)
- [Objections, appeals and taxpayer relief](#)
- [Suspending individual \(T1\) validation and review activities](#)

## **Collections**

Collections activities on new debts will be suspended until further notice, and flexible payment arrangements will be available.

If you can't pay your taxes, child and family benefit overpayments, Canada Student Loans, or other government program overpayments in full, [payment arrangements](#) are available.

Collections staff will address pre-existing situations on a case-by-case basis to prevent financial hardship.

Our Debt Management Call Centre service is not currently available.

If you need to contact a Collections Officer, please call our toll free number at **1-800-675-6184** between 8 am and 4 pm your local time.

Banks, and employers and other third parties do not need to comply or remit on existing Requirements to pay (RTP) during this time.

**General information:** [When you owe money – collections at the CRA](#)

## **Audits**

The CRA is resuming a full range of audit work and adapting our practices to reflect the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. We are prioritizing actions that are beneficial to the taxpayer or where taxpayers have indicated there is an urgency to advancing their audit. In prioritizing our resumption, we are also focusing on higher dollar audits first, audits

close to completion, and those with a strategic importance to the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, or our tax treaty partners. In addition, efforts to combat suspected fraud and other criminal activity are advancing.

New methods of taxpayer and registrant interaction will be required, and the CRA is working to develop procedures and protocols to adapt these to the current reality. For example, we are providing taxpayers with the option to send us information via e-mail. Some key changes will relate to offering additional time and upfront consultation on requests to provide the CRA with information and access. Public Health directives will be respected, and additional reasonable measures will be extended both in terms of timing or another other aspect of a CRA request.

In addition, Requirements for Information (RFIs) issued prior to March 16 and due after that date will be reviewed and taxpayers and third parties, including financial institutions, will be contacted where the CRA continues to require the information in the RFI.

**General information:** [Business audits](#)

### ***Objections, appeals and taxpayer relief***

Objections related to Canadians' entitlement to benefits and credits have been identified as a critical service and will continue to be delivered during COVID-19. There should not be any delays with the processing of these objections.

For objections related to other tax matters filed by individuals and businesses, the CRA is currently holding these accounts in abeyance. No collection action will be taken with respect to these accounts at this time.

For objections that are due between March 18, 2020 and June 30, 2020, we are effectively extending the deadline to June 30, 2020.

The Tax Court of Canada is currently closed. For more information, go to the [Tax Court of Canada](#).

Taxpayers who are unable to file a return or make a payment by the tax-filing and payment deadlines because of COVID-19 can request the cancellation of penalty and interest charged to their account. Penalties and interest will not be charged if the new deadlines that the government has announced to tax-filing and payments are met.

Once business operations resume, the Taxpayer Relief Program will review requests related to COVID-19 on a priority basis.

**General information:**

- [Service feedback, objections, appeals, disputes, and relief measures](#)
- [Taxpayer relief provisions](#)

### ***Suspending individual (T1) validation and review activities***

Some review and verification activities were initiated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and clients may have been contacted to provide supporting information in relation to amounts claimed on their individual tax and benefit returns. If Canadians have received any CRA correspondence that includes dates for response or provision of documents for validation and verification programs, no action is required from them at this time.

Please note that due to measures taken surrounding the COVID-19 virus, our telephone services are not available. We apologize for the inconvenience.

It is important to note that, although reviews have been postponed, it does not prevent future actions or reviews from being completed. Taxpayers will need to keep their supporting documents, in case they are selected for review in the future.

**General information:** [Review of your tax return](#)

**CRA Special Release 2020-05-29: [Guidance on international income tax issues raised by the COVID-19 crisis](#)**

- [Income Tax Residency](#)
- [Carrying on business in Canada/permanent establishment](#)
- [Cross-border employment income](#)
- [Waiver Requests – Payments to non-residents for services provided in Canada](#)
- [Disposition of taxable Canadian property by non-residents of Canada](#)

The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in the imposition of safety measures by governments around the world, including the Canadian government, to protect the health of their citizens. Similarly, businesses have imposed safety measures to protect their employees. These measures include restrictions on travel (the "Travel Restrictions"). The Travel Restrictions have resulted in certain taxpayers and their representatives expressing concerns regarding a number of potential Canadian income tax issues. This document describes each potential issue considered by the Canada Revenue Agency (the "Agency") thus far, and outlines the Agency's approach to address it.

It is possible that some of these income tax issues will arise from the Travel Restrictions instituted by another country independent of those instituted by Canada. As well, it is understood that, in some situations, particular Travel Restrictions could have effect past the date on which they are officially lifted. Therefore, the Agency will consider whether a particular tax issue has arisen as the result of the Travel Restrictions on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, at the present time, it is uncertain how long it will be necessary for the Travel Restrictions to remain in place. Accordingly, the guidance described below will apply from March 16 until June 29, 2020, at which time the Agency may extend them if necessary, or rescind them if no longer required.

The administrative approach taken by the Agency in addressing these issues is intended to assist taxpayers during this time of crisis. It does not represent any interpretive position or intention to establish any broader policy by the Agency. Nor does it represent any change in Canada's ongoing commitment to combat international tax evasion and avoidance. In this regard, any taxpayer that engages in tax evasion or avoidance schemes that attempt to exploit the crisis or the temporary relieving Agency positions discussed below can expect that the Agency will pursue all compliance tools at its disposal to protect the integrity of Canada's tax system.

## ***I. Income Tax Residency***

### **1. Individuals**

In general, an individual's residence for Canadian tax purposes is a common-law factual determination based on the individual's residential ties with Canada. In addition, an individual who sojourns (e.g., is physically present) in Canada for a period of, or periods the total of which is, 183 days or more in a tax year will be deemed to be resident in Canada throughout the year.

#### **Potential Issue**

Individuals visiting Canada at the time the Travel Restrictions were imposed may not have been able to return to their country of tax residence as they had intended and instead have been required to remain in Canada. Could this extended stay in Canada result in the individual being resident in Canada for Canadian tax purposes?

#### **Agency position**

Where the individual has remained in Canada solely because of the Travel Restrictions, that factor alone will not cause the Agency to consider the common-law factual test of residency to be met. In addition, as an administrative matter and in light of these extraordinary circumstances, the Agency will not consider the days during which an individual is present in Canada and is unable to return to their country of residence solely as a result of the Travel Restrictions to count towards the 183-day limit for deemed residency. This will be the Agency position where, among other things, the individual is usually a resident of another country and intends to return, and does in fact return, to his or her country of residence as soon as he or she is able to do so.

### **2. Corporations**

Under the Canadian income tax system, corporations that have been established under foreign law will nevertheless be considered resident in Canada if their "central management and control" is located in Canada.

One of the key factors typically considered in applying this common-law concept is the jurisdiction in which the meetings of the board of directors take place.

#### Potential Issue

A corporation that, prior to the implementation of the Travel Restrictions, was tax resident in a foreign jurisdiction may have one or more directors present in Canada. The Travel Restrictions might have resulted in these directors being unable to travel to the foreign jurisdiction to attend board meetings. If directors of such a corporation participate in board meetings while physically present in Canada, will the Agency consider the corporation's central management and control to be in Canada, such that it is resident in Canada for Canadian tax purposes and therefore a dual resident (i.e., a resident of Canada and a resident of the foreign jurisdiction)?

#### Agency Position

Some of Canada's income tax treaties will address the situation of the dual residency of a corporation by determining the corporation to be resident in the country under whose laws it was created. For example, where the corporation is an entity created under the laws of the United States as a "C-corporation" or "S-corporation", the Agency expects that the corporate residency tie-breaker rule contained in Article IV of the Canada - United States income tax treaty will address this issue.

Other tax treaties contain a residency tie-breaker rule that looks to the corporation's place of effective management, among other factors. For corporations covered by such income tax treaties, in light of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the Travel Restrictions, as an administrative matter, where a director of a corporation must participate in a board meeting from Canada because of the Travel Restrictions, the Agency will not consider the corporation to become resident in Canada solely for that reason.

Determinations of corporate residency involving potential dual residency with non-treaty countries will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This administrative approach will also be followed in respect of other entities established in foreign jurisdictions that are considered corporations under Canadian income tax law, such as limited liability companies. In addition, where appropriate, the Agency will consider adopting a similar approach in determining the residency of a commercial trust.

It is important to note that, notwithstanding that our comments above concentrate on the location of board meetings, there is more to where central management and control of a corporation, or where place of effective management (for income tax treaty purposes) is located than the location of board meetings. The determination of the central management and control of a corporation is based on a number of factors, of which the location of board meetings is only one element. Similarly, the location of board meetings is also only one element in determining the location of a corporation's place of effective management. The Agency may still conclude that a corporation is resident in Canada where the actual management and control of the corporation takes place in Canada even though the board meetings have taken place elsewhere.

## ***II. Carrying on business in Canada/permanent establishment***

Under the Canadian income tax system, non-residents of Canada are liable to pay tax on their income from "carrying on business in Canada." In general, where Canada has entered into an income tax treaty with another country, a resident of that country will only be required to pay tax in Canada on that income if their activities in Canada meet the threshold of a "permanent establishment" under the relevant income tax treaty.

#### Potential Issue

A non-resident entity may employ individuals to work outside of Canada. As a result of the Travel Restrictions, the only way for some of these individuals to fulfil their employment duties might be by performing them in Canada. Will employees who regularly work outside of Canada but, due to the Travel Restrictions, exercise their employment duties in Canada result in the non-resident entity carrying on business in Canada or create a permanent establishment in Canada for the non-resident entity?

#### Agency Position

Non-resident entities that are resident in a jurisdiction with which Canada has an income tax treaty and that are carrying on business in Canada but whose activities in Canada do not meet the threshold of permanent establishment are required to file a return for that year in order to claim an exemption from Canadian income tax. This filing obligation continues to apply in respect of tax years of non-resident entities that overlap with the period while the Travel Restrictions are in place. However, as an administrative matter and in light of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the Travel Restrictions, the Agency will not consider a non-resident entity to have a permanent establishment in Canada solely because its employees perform their employment duties in Canada

solely as a result of the Travel Restrictions being in force. Similarly, the Agency will not consider an "agency" permanent establishment to have been created for the non-resident entity solely due to a dependent agent concluding contracts in Canada on behalf of the non-resident entity while the Travel Restrictions are in force, provided that such activities are limited to that period and would not have been performed in Canada but for the Travel Restrictions. Where Canada has not entered into an income tax treaty with the country in which the non-resident entity is resident, if the non-resident entity carries on business in Canada, it is required to file a return for that year, and if it can be demonstrated to the Agency that the non-resident entity has satisfied the Canadian income tax threshold of "carrying on business in Canada" only because of the Travel Restrictions, the Agency will consider whether administrative relief is appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, the Agency will exclude, in determining whether an individual meets the 183-day presence test in a "services permanent establishment" provision of Canada's tax treaties (such as Article V(9)(a) of the Canada-United States income tax treaty), any days of physical presence in Canada due solely to Travel Restrictions.

### **III. Cross-border employment income**

Many individuals residing on either side of the Canada-US border may be employed and perform their employment duties in the other country.

#### **1. US Resident Employees**

Under the Canada-United States income tax treaty, Canada is permitted to tax salary, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of the United States in respect of employment services provided in Canada, where the employment is exercised in Canada. Notwithstanding the above rule, such remuneration is not taxable in Canada if:

- it does not exceed CAD\$10,000; or
- the person is present in Canada for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned and the remuneration is not borne by:
  - an employer who is a resident of Canada, or
  - a permanent establishment, which the employer has in Canada.

A reciprocal rule applies in respect of residents of Canada exercising their employment in the United States.

#### **Potential Issue**

Some US residents who regularly exercise their employment in Canada and who are normally not present in Canada in excess of 183 days (and, for that reason alone, are not taxable in Canada on their employment income) may now be exercising their duties in Canada for an extended period of time as a result of the Travel Restrictions. In these situations, will the employees' taxation in Canada be changed?

#### **Agency Position**

Where such individuals are present in Canada, and are exercising their employment duties in Canada, solely as a result of the Travel Restrictions, those days will not be counted toward the 183 day test in the Canada-United States income tax treaty. As such, these individuals will continue to benefit from the treaty relief provided under the Canada-United States income tax treaty.

#### **2. Other resident employees**

The Agency will also take this same approach in applying the days of presence test in Canada's other tax treaties.

#### **3. Canadian Resident Employees**

Under Canadian rules, a non-resident employer is required to deduct withholdings at source from the salary that it pays to an employee who is a resident of Canada, regardless where the services are rendered. Where appropriate, the Agency will issue a "letter of authority" to the employee authorizing the non-resident employer to reduce the Canadian deductions at source to take into account the foreign tax credit available to the employee in respect of their foreign tax liability.

### Potential Issue

A non-resident entity may employ Canadian residents to work outside of Canada. As a result of the Travel Restrictions, the only way for some of these Canadian resident employees to fulfil their duties might be by performing them in Canada on an exceptional and temporary basis. Will the performance of employment duties from Canada affect the withholding obligations of the non-resident entity?

### Agency Position

If a Canadian resident employee of a non-resident entity is forced to perform their employment duties in Canada on an exceptional and temporary basis as a result of the Travel Restrictions and that employee has been issued a letter of authority applicable to the tax year including that period, the letter of authority will continue to apply and the withholding obligations of the non-resident entity will not change in Canada as long as there are no changes to the withholding obligations of the non-resident entity in the other jurisdiction.

## **IV. Waiver Requests – Payments to non-residents for services provided in Canada**

Canadian income tax rules require that amounts must be deducted or withheld and remitted in respect of:

- payments for services rendered in Canada by non-residents, other than those paid in respect of an office or employment ("Regulation 105"), and
- remuneration paid to a non-resident officer or employee in respect of an office, or employment services, provided in Canada ("Regulation 102").

In certain circumstances, an application to the Agency may be made for a waiver of the withholding requirement in respect of Regulation 105 or Regulation 102 (a "Waiver Request"). Most often, this will be the case where the recipient is exempt from Canadian income tax in respect of the payment because of an income tax treaty that Canada has with the recipient's country of residence.

### Potential Issue

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the processing of Waiver Requests was temporarily interrupted (the "Interruption"). Consequently, while we have continued to accept Waiver Requests during the Interruption and processing has resumed in a limited capacity, processing times have been longer than usual. How should a payor proceed?

### Agency Position

As a result of the Interruption and the Travel Restrictions, urgent [Waiver Requests](#) may be submitted electronically on a temporary basis.

Additionally, where a Waiver Request in respect of Regulation 105 and/or Regulation 102 has been submitted to the Agency and, due to the Interruption, the Agency was unable to process the request within 30 days, the Agency will not assess a person who fails to deduct, withhold or remit any amount as required by Regulations 102 and 105, in respect of an amount paid to a non-resident person covered by the particular Waiver Request.

This relief will be available where the sole reason a non-resident person could not obtain a waiver of Regulation 102 or 105 withholdings from the Agency was due to the Interruption, and the person paying the amount can demonstrate they have taken reasonable steps to ascertain that the non-resident person was entitled to a reduction or elimination of Canadian withholding tax by virtue of an income tax treaty with Canada. Both the non-resident and the person paying the amount must otherwise fulfil their Canadian reporting and remitting obligations in respect of the waiver application.

Other situations may arise where a Waiver Request could not be submitted to the Agency due to the Travel Restrictions, or other consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, and yet no amounts were withheld pursuant to Regulations 102 and 105. The Agency will review these situations on a case-by-case basis to determine if the non-compliance can be directly attributable to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. In those cases, the Agency will not assess a person who fails to deduct, or withhold or remit any amount as required by Regulations 102 and 105, in respect of an amount paid to the non-resident person.

## **V. Disposition of taxable Canadian property by non-residents of Canada**

Under Canadian income tax rules, a non-resident vendor who disposes of certain taxable Canadian property must notify the Agency about the disposition either before they dispose of the property or within ten days after the disposition. When the Agency has received either an amount to cover the tax on any gain the vendor may realize upon the disposition of

property, or appropriate security for the tax, the Agency will issue a certificate of compliance to the vendor (a "Section 116 Certificate"). A copy of the certificate is also sent to the purchaser.

If the purchaser does not receive a Section 116 Certificate, the purchaser is required to remit a specified amount to the Receiver General for Canada and is entitled to deduct the amount from the purchase price. Any payments or security provided by the vendor and/or purchaser will be credited to the vendor's account. A final settlement of tax will be made when the vendor's income tax return for the year is assessed.

#### Potential Issue

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the processing of requests for a Section 116 Certificate was temporarily interrupted (the "Interruption"). While the Agency has continued to accept requests for a Section 116 Certificate during the Interruption and processing has resumed in a limited capacity, processing times have been longer than usual. How should a vendor and purchaser proceed?

#### Agency Position

Where a vendor has submitted a request for a Section 116 Certificate and the certificate has not been issued by the time a purchaser's remittance is due (i.e., within 30 days after the end of the month in which the property was acquired), the purchaser or vendor may request that the Agency provide a comfort letter.

The comfort letter advises the purchaser/vendor/representative to retain the funds they have withheld (even though technically, the amounts are due) until the Agency's review is complete and the Agency requests the purchaser to remit the required tax. As long as the tax is remitted when requested, the Agency will not assess penalty and interest on the amount.

As a result of the Interruption, urgent [requests for comfort letters](#) may be submitted by email on a temporary basis. A comfort letter may also be requested by contacting the CRA's Individual tax enquiries line at 1-800-959-8281.

#### **Further information**

If a taxpayer has specific questions regarding how the above guidance will apply or have a situation that is not addressed above, please contact [\[PERESCOVIDG@cra-arc.gc.ca\]](mailto:PERESCOVIDG@cra-arc.gc.ca).

#### Footnote 1

Use of this mailbox is to allow the CRA to receive residency and permanent establishment questions related to the COVID-19 travel restrictions which may include information up to Protected B. Please include a phone number that you would like to be reached at. The CRA will contact you at either the number you provided should the request include protected or personal information, or via the email you provided should the request be generic in nature. The CRA will not respond to any other enquiries that are not related to residency and permanent establishment questions related to the COVID-19 travel restrictions submitted through this mailbox.

The CRA does not provide assurance with respect to the protection, confidentiality, or security of unsecured emails. Using this mailbox, you accept the risks inherent in sending information by unsecured email and understand all such email messages may be considered as being accessed and disclosed to unknown third parties somewhere in the world. You agree not to hold the CRA or its employees liable for any damage or loss arising from the communication of personal information by this unsecured email.

On June 11 the Committee on Taxation of the Canadian Bar Association and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada ("Joint Committee") submitted the following comments with respect to the CRA Guidance on International Income Tax Issues raised by the COVID-19 crisis (the "Guidance") (Joint Committee Submission 2020-06-11 is also available on Taxnet Pro):

Although the guidance has been published and a request for general feedback was not specifically made, we trust that the Canada Revenue Agency (the "Agency") is open to additional feedback and suggestions, which are included in the accompanying summary. We note that most of our observations deal with situations that were not specifically addressed, and that feedback on such situations was encouraged...

#### *Corporate Residency for Purposes of Exempt Surplus Regime*

One of the key concerns that emerged due to the pandemic is the impact of Travel Restrictions (as defined in the Guidance) on the residency of corporations. As the Guidance points out, corporations that have been formed under foreign law will nevertheless be considered resident in Canada if their "central management and control" is located in

Canada. Specifically, one of the key factors typically considered in applying this common-law concept is the jurisdiction in which the meetings of the board of directors take place.

In the discussion of income tax residency for corporations, the Guidance sets out two main conclusions. First, for corporations in jurisdictions covered by income tax treaties, in light of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the Travel Restrictions, where a director of a corporation must participate in a board meeting from Canada due to Travel Restrictions, the Agency will not consider the corporation to become resident in Canada solely for that reason. Second, for corporations in non-treaty countries, determinations of residency will be made on a case-by-case basis. Although we would have preferred that more certainty could be provided where non-treaty countries are involved, the Guidance more generally is helpful. The focus of the Guidance, however, is on the effect of the Travel Restrictions on whether a foreign corporation will be considered to be resident in Canada. We would recommend that the same approach be taken whenever the common law corporate residency concept is relevant for Canadian income tax purposes. This would include the determination of whether a foreign affiliate (a FA) is resident in a “designated treaty country” (“DTC”) as defined in subsection 5907(11) of the Regulations to the Income Tax Act which concept is relevant for determining a foreign affiliate’s surplus pools. A FA’s net earnings from an active business are added to exempt surplus only if, among other things, the FA is resident in a designated treaty country (a tax treaty country or a jurisdiction with which Canada has entered into a tax information exchange agreement (TIEA)). For this purpose, residency may be determined partly or entirely under common-law principles. A treaty tie-breaker rule can have the effect of ensuring a FA is not resident in Canada (in conjunction with subsection 250(5)) but cannot locate the common law residence of the FA in any particular jurisdiction, and there are no tie-breaker rules under a TIEA. It appears to follow from the CRA guidance that this would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Canadian multinationals would benefit from further guidance on this issue. For example, where one or more directors cannot attend a board meeting in person solely because of Travel Restrictions, it would be helpful for the Agency to confirm that this will not, in and of itself, negatively impact the treatment of active income earned in foreign jurisdictions as exempt surplus.

#### *Carrying on Business in a Jurisdiction for Purposes of the Foreign Affiliate Regime*

The Guidance addresses whether Travel Restrictions could result in a non-resident entity being considered to carry on business in Canada or have a Canadian permanent establishment. The Guidance does not, however, address these issues in the context of foreign affiliates and the determination of foreign accrual property income (FAPI).

Income earned by a foreign affiliate through a permanent establishment in a “non-qualifying country” that would otherwise be active business income is income from a “non-qualifying business” and included in FAPI. A “non-qualifying business” is defined in subsection 95(1) of the Income Tax Act as a business that is carried on through a permanent establishment in a “non-qualifying country” (a country that has neither a tax treaty nor a TIEA with Canada and with which Canada initiated TIEA discussions more than 60 months before that time). Further, even with reference to surplus pools, the determination of whether income from an active business carried on by a foreign affiliate that is resident in a DTC is included in its exempt earnings or taxable earnings will often depend on whether the income is attributable to business activities carried on in a DTC. Thus, there can be an impact if employees are stranded in a non-DTC. Similarly, income earned by a FA from an “investment business” is included in FAPI, subject to the deemed active business income rules. One of the exceptions from the “investment business” definition looks, amongst other things, to whether the activities of the FA are regulated under the laws of “each country in which the business is carried on through a permanent establishment in that country”. Similar issues may arise under other provisions of the FAPI rules.

It would be helpful if the CRA could confirm that the administrative approach in the Guidelines would also be applied in the context of the foreign affiliate rules. This would include determining whether a FA is earning non-qualifying business income, whether a FA is carrying on business in a DTC, and whether a FA is carrying on an investment business.

#### *Permanent Establishment in Canada – Building sites, Installation or Drilling Rigs etc.*

The Guidance speaks to the impact of a non-resident entity having employees or dependent agents in Canada and how the 183-day test in the services permanent establishment provisions will be interpreted. In particular, the Agency

discusses whether employees who regularly work outside of Canada but, due to Travel Restrictions, exercise their employment duties in Canada, will result in the non-resident entity carrying on business in Canada or create a permanent establishment in Canada for the non-resident entity. Generally speaking, the conclusion in the Guidance is that the Agency will not consider a non-resident entity to have a permanent establishment in Canada solely because its employees perform their employment duties in Canada solely as a result of Travel Restrictions, assuming the entity is resident in a treaty country. For entities resident in a non-treaty country, the determination of whether administrative relief is available is made on a case-by-case basis.

There are other provisions of certain tax treaties, such as the 12-month period referenced in the building site and installation or drilling rig provisions, that could result in similar permanent establishment issues, if the project is delayed due to the Travel Restrictions. As such, would the Agency be willing to provide similar administrative relief in these situations?

#### *Cross-border Employment Income – “Qualifying Non-Resident Employee”*

In the Guidance, the Agency addresses situations where U.S. residents regularly exercise their employment in Canada but are normally not taxable on employment income in Canada because the employees meet the conditions set out in the Canada-United States income tax treaty. Concerns have been raised for those employees who will not meet the 183-day test solely because of Travel Restrictions. The Agency states that where such individuals are present in Canada, and are exercising their employment duties in Canada, solely as a result of the Travel Restrictions, those days will not be counted toward the 183-day test in the Canada-United States income tax treaty, and therefore, these individuals will continue to benefit from the treaty relief. There are other situations where an individual's status may depend on the number of days an individual spends in Canada, such as the 45-day and 90-day periods applicable in determining whether an individual resident in a treaty country is a "qualifying non-resident employee" under subsection 153(6) of the Income Tax Act. Will the Agency similarly not count days spent in Canada due to the Travel Restrictions for the purposes of these rules?

#### *Carrying on Business for GST/HST Purposes*

Although we recognize that the Guidance was designed to deal with income tax issues, it would be useful if the CRA could comment on similar concerns for GST/HST issues. In particular, the determination as to whether a non-resident is required to register for GST/HST purposes is set out in the CRA's Policy P-051R, which looks at a number of factors, including the place where agents or employees of the non-resident are located and the place where the business contracts are made. In general, a non-resident person must have a significant presence in Canada to be considered to be carrying on business in Canada. Accordingly, it would be helpful if the Agency could address whether the determination as to whether a non-resident person has a significant presence in Canada should be made without considering the activities that the non-resident is required to perform in Canada as a result of the Travel Restrictions.

#### *Non-Resident GST Registration*

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the processing of non-resident GST registrations was temporarily interrupted. In addition, many organizations may have had similar challenges in their own staffing making it difficult to make the registration request on a timely basis. For income tax issues, such as waiver requests and section 116 clearance certificate requests, the Guidance provides temporary measures and email addresses to allow for electronic submission of such requests. Could the CRA consider similar measures for non-resident GST registrations?

[See also Osler, [CRA releases guidance on residency, permanent establishment and other international issues arising during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), May 21, KPMG, "[COVID-19 — New CRA Relief Addresses Travel Restrictions](#)", *TaxNewsFlash-Canada*, No. 2020-50, May 25, 2020, and Nijhawan et al., "[Managing the Tax Residency of Foreign Affiliates in the Face of the COVID-19 Restrictions](#)", Bennett Jones, May 25, 2020).]

## **Federal Tax Measures**

### **CRA Release 2020-05-26: International waivers and notifications for certificates of compliance**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuing to review international waivers (Regulation 102, Regulation 105, and RC473 Non-Resident Employer Certification), and requests for a certificate of compliance under section 116 (T2062 series of forms). However, processing times may be longer than usual.

### Requests for Individual Tax Numbers (ITNs)

At this time, we cannot process applications for ITNs alongside your waiver application or request for certificate of compliance. Please apply for the ITN separately by completing Form T1261, Application for a Canada Revenue Agency Individual Tax Number (ITN) for Non-Residents and following the mailing instructions on the form. Please ensure to check the box indicating the reason you are submitting the request for an ITN as that will expedite the process.

### If you have a new request or submission

Due to restrictions on mail operations, and until operations resume in full, we may not be able to access any documents sent by mail or fax after March 12, 2020. You can still submit your request and information by mail or fax, but there may be delays in processing. If your situation is, or becomes, urgent, please call 1-800-959-8281 or follow the instructions below to contact us by email.

### If you have already sent us your documents

We are continuing to process these requests, but there may be delays. If your situation is urgent, send an email to the CRA at:

- [NRDISPOG@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:NRDISPOG@cra-arc.gc.ca) - for requests for certificates of compliance
- [NRWAIVERSG@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:NRWAIVERSG@cra-arc.gc.ca) - for international waivers

Do **not** include any sensitive information or attachments in the email.

### Submit your documents electronically

The CRA has created a temporary procedure allowing taxpayers and their representatives to electronically submit the following urgent requests:

- international waivers (Regulation 102, Regulation 105, and RC473 waiver requests)
- requests for a certificate of compliance under section 116 (T2062, T2062A, T2062B, T2062C forms)
- supporting information, as applicable

### How to send us your documents

1. Send an email, stating that you want to correspond by email with the CRA to submit a request or enquiry to:
  - [NRDISPOG@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:NRDISPOG@cra-arc.gc.ca) - for requests for certificates of compliance, comfort letters, and enquiries on previously submitted requests
  - [NRWAIVERSG@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:NRWAIVERSG@cra-arc.gc.ca) - for international waivers and enquiries on previously submitted requests

Do **not** include any sensitive information or attachments in the email.

2. Wait for a CRA officer to respond to your email. The CRA officer will send you the requirements to authorize communication by email, and tell you when/if you are permitted to submit your application or request by email.

NOTE: Please be advised that there are risks involved in sending sensitive and/or personal information over email. The CRA is temporarily allowing applications to be submitted via email as an emergency measure to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

3. For resubmissions, please include the date you originally submitted your application.

NOTE: Incomplete applications **will** cause delays in processing.

### Clearance certificates: CRA and COVID-19

Clearance certificates (Forms TX19 and GST352) continue to be processed. However, as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) employees are working under certain restrictions for their health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, processing times may be increased.

Employees have limited access to the office and are currently receiving minimal submissions sent by mail or fax. As a result, any documentation or new clearance request applications sent to the CRA after March 12, 2020, may not have been included in the inventory for processing.

Legal representatives who submitted a clearance request after March 12, 2020, are encouraged to resubmit the request and supporting documents electronically, either through Represent a Client or by email.

As part of the response to COVID-19, the CRA has created a temporary procedure allowing taxpayers and their representatives to submit clearance certificate requests and supporting information via email.

To submit the request via email, the legal representative must contact the CRA by sending an email, without confidential information, to CCTX19G@cra-arc.gc.ca and include, in the subject line, the province where the executor lives.

Example: Sample email from a legal representative

Joe is a legal representative living in the province of Ontario. Joe can submit a request to the CRA via email.

To: CCTX19G@cra-arc.gc.ca  
Subject: Clearance certificate (Ontario)

Body: I am the legal representative and need to file a clearance certificate request. Please send instructions.

A CRA officer will reply by email, outlining the potential security risks of using email to transmit confidential information. If you reply by email accepting the risks, the CRA will allow you to submit the clearance application and supporting information.

### ***CRA Special Notice 2020-05-7: Important information related to the Film and Media Tax Credits Program during the COVID-19 crisis***

The Canadian film industry is an important contributor to the economic and cultural well-being of Canada. We recognize the vital role that the Film and Media Tax Credits (FMTC) Program plays in supporting a vibrant film industry and we are doing everything we can to ensure that businesses receive their credits as soon as possible during these difficult times.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is adjusting its priority activities to support the economic well-being of Canadians and Canadian businesses. This includes programs like FMTC.

Given the exceptional situation that is currently affecting us all, we are doing everything we can to ensure that claimants receive the credits they are entitled to as quickly as possible, and that the auditors of the FMTC Program receive the support and guidance necessary to prioritize the processing of claims. Here are some measures the CRA is implementing:

- Most claims will be processed as soon as possible with minimal burden on the claimants, injecting funding into businesses that need it now to help manage the adverse financial implications of the pandemic. Please note that claims accepted at this time could be subject to audit at a future date.

- Currently, the CRA will generally not contact businesses to initiate audits until further notice. This pause is reflective of the CRA's efforts to mitigate health risks and minimize the burden on businesses, while concentrating on prioritizing the delivery of benefits to Canadians during this challenging time.
- Any taxpayer who's claim is under audit who wishes or needs their audit to proceed may contact their auditor by telephone or through [My Business Account](#) to advance the file as much as possible under the current circumstances.
- If you have questions about the status of your FMTC claim, we continue to be available to help. Please contact the [film services unit](#) in your area.
- Should you have questions on other topics such as filing and payment deadlines and proactive relief measures, the CRA's liaison officers will be available exclusively by phone to provide the key information that small businesses and self-employed individuals need most urgently. Business owners and self-employed individuals can fill out the [Liaison Officer Service request form](#) to have a liaison officer contact them by phone.

*For more information*

We thank you all for your patience as we navigate through this situation together. To learn more about how the CRA is helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, go to [Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19](#).

For general information on the FMTC Program, go to [canada.ca/taxes-film](https://canada.ca/taxes-film).

***CRA Special Notice 2020-05-01: Important information related to SR&ED tax incentives during the COVID-19 crisis***

We recognize the vital role that the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program plays in supporting Canadian businesses. We are doing everything we can to ensure that businesses receive their credits as soon as possible during these difficult times, and that innovation and creativity are fully supported when they are most needed. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)'s Business Continuity Plan has been adjusted to include priority activities that support the economic well-being of Canadians. This includes programs like SR&ED.

Here are some measure the CRA is implementing:

- Most refundable claims will be processed as soon as possible with minimal burden on the claimants, injecting funding into businesses that need it now to help manage the adverse financial implications of the pandemic. Claims accepted at this time may be subject to review/audit at a future date to ensure eligibility.
- The CRA is prioritizing objections inventory related to critical programs, including SR&ED claims.
- We will generally not contact small or medium businesses to initiate any SR&ED claim reviews. This pause is reflective of the CRA's efforts to mitigate health risks and minimize the burden on businesses, while concentrating on prioritizing the delivery of benefits to Canadians during this challenging time.
- Any taxpayer under audit who wishes or needs their SR&ED claim review to proceed may work with their auditor remotely by telephone and through My Business Account to advance the file as much as possible under the current circumstances.
- If you have questions about the status of your SR&ED claim, we continue to be available to help and answer questions; please contact the SR&ED Program in the tax services office that serves your area. For contact information, go to [canada.ca/taxessred](https://canada.ca/taxessred).
- Should you have questions on other topics such as filing and payment deadlines and proactive relief measures, the CRA's liaison officers will be available exclusively by phone to provide the key information that small businesses and

self-employed individuals need most urgently. Business owners and self-employed individuals can fill out the Liaison Officer Service request form to have a liaison officer contact them by phone.

For more information

We thank you all for your patience as we navigate through this situation together. To learn more about how the CRA is helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, go to [Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19](#).

For general information on the SR&ED Program, go to [canada.ca/taxes-sred](https://canada.ca/taxes-sred).

### ***Registered Pension Plan Relief Measures***

#### ***CRA News Release 2020-05-1: Temporary Covid-19 relief measure for money purchase and defined benefit pension plans***

On April 29, 2020, the Department of Finance issued a comfort letter in regards to subsections 8308(4), (5), and (6) of the Income Tax Regulations related to plan members with eligible periods of reduced pay that ended in 2019. In the case of defined benefit plans, subsection 8308(4) allows a member to elect to have the eligible period of reduced pay credited as pensionable service under the plan. The election must occur by April 30th of the year following the year in which an eligible period of reduced pay ends. Similar rules apply under subsections 8308(5) and (6) for eligible periods of reduced pay under money purchase plans. When any of these Regulations apply, plan members can have the period recognized on a current service basis, so that employers can report the period by way of a pension adjustment (PA) rather than a past-service pension adjustment (PSPA). In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Finance is proposing to extend the April 30, 2020 deadline to June 1, 2020, or a later date acceptable to the Minister of National Revenue, for eligible periods of reduced pay that ended in 2019. It is the longstanding practice of the Canada Revenue Agency to allow taxpayers to act on proposed tax measures on the assumption that the legislation for these measures will be enacted. Therefore, plan members can make an election under their plans, subject to any plan restrictions, on or before June 1, 2020. If a later date is required, please write to us at Registered Plans Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency, Ottawa ON K1A 0L5 providing the specific details for the delayed election, for the purpose of being "Acceptable to the Minister".

#### ***CRA News Release 2020-05-05: Temporary Covid-19 relief measure for money purchase (defined contribution) pension plans***

The Registered Plans Directorate's Newsletter 91-4R states that a money purchase (MP) provision must have terms that require employers to contribute at least 1% of the total pensionable earnings of all active members participating under the provision each year. This condition, referred to as the minimum contribution rule, is imposed under the authority of paragraph 8506(2)(a) of the Income Tax Regulations. The minimum contribution rule applies only to an MP provision of a registered pension plan in which members' benefits are provided exclusively on a money purchase basis. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Minister of National Revenue will waive the 1% rule for the remainder of 2020 if the plan is amended to suspend accruals under the plan for the year, meaning that there will be no employer or employee contributions made to the plan or provision following the plan amendment. This measure only applies for the remainder of 2020 for plans that submit an amendment to the Registered Plans Directorate.

#### ***CRA Special Notice [2020-04-17](#): COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency for businesses***

#### **COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency for businesses**

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) understands that businesses might be dealing with difficulties filing their returns, and could experience cash-flow challenges in the coming months. This message provides more information for businesses on COVID-19 measures being implemented by the CRA.

**More time to pay income taxes:** We are allowing all businesses to defer, until September 1, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.

**More time to remit GST/HST payments:** The CRA will allow all businesses to defer, until June 30, 2020, any GST/HST payments or remittances that become owing on or after March 27, 2020, and before June 30, 2020. This means that no interest will apply if your payments or remittances are made by June 30, 2020. The deadline for businesses to file their GST/HST returns is unchanged. Those who are able to, should continue to file their GST/HST returns on time reporting their net tax for the reporting period to help facilitate tax compliance and administration. However, recognizing the difficult circumstances faced by businesses, the CRA won't impose penalties where a return that was due to be filed between March 27, 2020 and June 30, 2020 is filed by June 30th, 2020.

**T2 Corporation Income Tax Returns:** The CRA will allow all businesses to defer T2 corporation income tax returns due after March 18, 2020 and before June 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

**Trusts, Partnerships and NR4 Information Returns:** The deadlines for trusts, partnership and NR4 Information returns are all extended to May 1, 2020. This is in coordination with the administrative extension for filing of the individual income tax and benefit returns by June 1st deadline.

**Part XVIII and XIX Information Returns:** The CRA will allow filers to defer, until September 1, 2020, the filing of information returns under Part XVIII and Part XIX of the *Income Tax Act*. No interest or penalty will be assessed during this period. In addition, no penalty will apply for failure to obtain a self-certification on financial accounts opened before January 1, 2021. The CRA is updating its Guidance on the Canada-U.S. Enhanced Tax Information Exchange Agreement and its Guidance on the Common Reporting Standard to reflect this change and expects to publish the guidance within the coming weeks.

**Other filing deadlines:** In addition to the [income tax filing and payment deadline extensions](#) announced, unless otherwise noted, taxpayers may defer a number of other tax actions required under the *Income Tax Act* (ITA) that are due after March 18, 2020, until June 1, 2020. These include the filing of returns, forms, elections, designations, and responses to information requests. Please note that: 1) This measure does not apply in respect of a prescribed form, receipt or document, or prescribed information, that is required to be filed with the Minister on or after the day specified, in respect of the form, receipt, document or information, in subsection 37(11) or paragraph (m) of the definition *investment tax credit* in subsection 127(9) of the ITA [(however, subsection 7(1) of the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act* specifically permits the CRA to extend the deadline in ITA 37(11) and 127(9) "investment tax credit" (m) by up to 6 months during the COVID-19 pandemic)]; 2) Payroll deductions and all related activities (except to the extent they relate to the reduction of remittances related to the temporary wage subsidy) must continue to be done on time.

**10% Temporary wage subsidy for employers:** The Government announced a 10% temporary wage subsidy for employers for a period of three months. Eligible employers (individuals - excluding trusts, certain partnerships, non-profit organization, registered charity, or certain Canadian-controlled private corporations - including cooperative corporations) who pay salary, wages, or taxable benefits to employees, between March 18, 2020 and June 19, 2020, can reduce payroll remittances of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax by the amount of the subsidy. This measure is only applicable to remittances made to the CRA.

Learn more: [FAQs for temporary wage subsidy for employers](#) [Updated May 26]

**Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy :** The Government announced a new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). This new 75% wage subsidy will soon be available to eligible employers. Please refrain from calling our call centres at this time. Details about the application process, eligibility and other additional information will be made available shortly.

Learn more: [The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#)

**Objections:** Any objections related to Canadians' entitlement to benefits, credits, GST/HST refund claims, and Scientific Research and Experimental Development claims, have been identified as a critical service which will continue to be delivered during COVID-19. As a result, there should not be any delays associated with the processing of these objections. With respect to objections related to other tax matters filed by individuals and businesses, the CRA is currently

holding these accounts in abeyance. No collection action will be taken with respect to these accounts during this period of time.

**Extending the deadline for filing an objection:** for any objection due between March 18, 2020 and June 30, 2020, the deadline is effectively extended until June 30, 2020.

**Appeals:** For appeals before the Tax Court of Canada (TCC), the TCC has ordered the extension of timelines prescribed by the rules of that Court while it is closed for business until May 1st, 2020. More information can be obtained directly from the TCC.

**Taxpayer relief requests:** As part of government actions taken in dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, [tax filing and payment deadlines](#) have been extended. Penalties and interest will not be charged if the new deadlines are met. Taxpayers who are unable to file a return or make a payment by the **new** tax-filing and payment deadlines because of COVID-19 can request the cancellation of penalties and interest if they have been charged to their account. While the CRA continues to accept requests for taxpayer relief during this period, there will be delays in processing requests. Once normal business operations resume, the Taxpayer Relief Program will review requests related to COVID-19 on a priority basis. Our online submission methods remains the best option to submit a request at this time. For more information about how to submit a request to have penalties or interest cancelled, please go to [Submitting your request](#).

**CPP/EI appeals to the Minister:** As part of government action taken in dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently only processing appeals that are related to Employment Insurance benefits pending. These files will be treated on a priority basis. All other appeals will be processed when normal services resume. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience. Online appeal submissions are recommended as the most efficient method to submit your appeal. To submit an appeal online, go to CRA's [electronic services](#) (My Account, My Business Account or Represent a Client) and select Register my formal dispute (appeal).

**Suspending most audit activities:** Generally, the CRA will not start new audits or ask taxpayers currently under audit for information until further notice. Audits will only be finalized and reassessments issued in exceptional circumstances. These could include, for example, cases involving a significant compliance issue, cases approaching a major milestone (such as statute-barred or treaty-barred date) or cases where the taxpayer requests a reassessment. Taxpayer-requested adjustments will be reviewed and processed on a priority basis, and may require interaction with the taxpayer to verify the request. The GST/HST Refund Integrity Program will continue operating to make sure GST/HST credits are not delayed unnecessarily. As noted above, most administrative income tax actions due after March 18, 2020, have been suspended until June 1, 2020, this includes requests for information made during the course of CRA audits. Compliance staff will contact taxpayers with a new due date in cases where the information is still needed.

**Reassessments:** In the very limited situations where the CRA intends to process a reassessment, the taxpayer may sign a [T2029 Waiver](#) in respect of the normal reassessment period or extended reassessment period in order to provide representations, unless the reassessment would be affected by deadlines under a tax treaty.

**Requirements for information (RFI):** Generally, taxpayers who have received a RFI can choose to defer acting on the requirement until further notice.

**Transfer Pricing documentation:** For transfer pricing audits, requests for contemporaneous documentation made prior to April 1, 2020 having a deadline of March 18, 2020 or later will be considered cancelled and will be re-issued at a later date, providing the maximum amount of time of 3 months to submit the documentation.

**Advanced Pricing Arrangements (APA) and Mutual Agreement Procedures (MAP):** Taxpayers with APAs and MAPs may experience delays since the CRA's efforts are focussed on critical workloads. If taxpayers ask for a pre-file APA meeting, the Competent Authority will look to schedule one at a later date.

**Suspending collections on new debt:** Collections activities on new debts will be suspended until further notice, and flexible [payment arrangements](#) will be available. Payment arrangements are also available on a case-by-case basis if you can't pay your taxes, child and family benefit overpayments, Canada Student Loans, or other government program overpayments in full. If you have concerns and require contact with a Collections Officer, please contact our toll free number 1-800-675-6184 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. your local time.

**Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED):** The Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program is doing everything it can to ensure claimants receive the credits to which they are entitled, as soon as possible. For the time being, no new reviews/audits will be started and existing reviews/audits will be completed as soon as possible so that businesses have access to their credits faster. Most refundable claims will be processed as soon as possible with minimal burden on the claimant. Claims accepted at this time may be subject to review/audit at a future date to ensure eligibility.

**Requirements to pay (RTP):** Banks and employers do not need to comply or remit on existing RTPs until further notice.

**Liaison Officer service:** The CRA is adapting its [Liaison Officer service](#) to support small businesses and self-employed individuals during COVID-19. Normally, the CRA offers this service in person to help small business owners understand their tax obligations. To meet critical business needs during this challenging time, the CRA is temporarily suspending the regular in-person service. Liaison Officers will be available exclusively by phone to provide the key information that small businesses and self-employed individuals need most urgently, including filing and payment deadlines and proactive relief measures. Liaison Officers will be reaching out to taxpayers to explain these measures. Business owners and self-employed individuals can also fill out the [Liaison Officer Service request form](#) to have a Liaison Officer contact them by phone.

**Chatbot:** The CRA is piloting new technology in an effort to transform how it interacts with its clients by putting the diverse needs of Canadians first. Charlie, the new [CRA Chatbot](#), can help you find quick answers to your tax related questions. Charlie's knowledge-base also continues to be updated to answer your questions on the latest COVID-19 measures. Get the answers you need, when you need them, with Charlie!

### For more information

We thank you all for your patience as we navigate through this situation together. To learn more about how the CRA is helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, go to Changes to taxes and benefits: [CRA and COVID-19](#). To get the latest information please bookmark this page as we update it often and follow us on our social media channels.

### ***CRA Special Notice 2020-03-27: COVID-19 Update: Additional measures from the Canada Revenue Agency for businesses***

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) understands that individuals and businesses might be dealing with difficulties filing their income and benefit returns, and could experience cash-flow challenges in the coming months. In response, the CRA is applying these additional measures:

**Administrative income tax measures:** In addition to the income tax filing and payment deadline extensions announced as part of the fiscal measures, unless otherwise noted, taxpayers may defer a number of other administrative tax actions required under the Income Tax Act (ITA) that are due after March 18, 2020, until June 1, 2020. These administrative income tax actions include the filing of returns, forms, elections, designations, and responses to information requests. Payment and remitting requirements are not covered by this announcement.

This measure also does not apply in respect of a prescribed form, receipt or document, or prescribed information, that is required to be filed with the Minister on or after the day specified, in respect of the form, receipt, document or information, in subsection 37(11) or paragraph (m) of the definition investment tax credit in subsection 127(9) of the ITA.

Payroll deductions and all related activities (except to the extent they relate to the reduction of remittances related to the temporary wage subsidy) must continue to be done on time.

**Trusts, Partnerships and NR4 Information Returns:** The deadlines for trusts, partnership and NR4 Information returns are all extended to May 1, 2020. This is due to administrative requirements in advance of the June 1st deadline for filing individual income tax and benefit returns.

### For more information

We thank you all for your patience as we navigate through this situation together. To learn more about how the CRA is helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, go to [Helping Canadians with the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). To get the latest information please bookmark this page as we update it often and follow us on our social media channels.

[The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has developed [this page](#) to provide updates on the fiscal measures taken by the Agency to help Canadians manage their tax and benefit affairs as this situation evolves.]

### **CRA FAQ 2020-04-01: Deferral of GST/HST Tax Remittances (COVID-19 Measures)**

Q1- What fiscal measures is the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) taking to help Canadian businesses manage their GST/HST payments and remittances?

A1- The CRA understands that businesses might be dealing with difficulties in making their GST/HST payments or remittances.

The CRA will allow all businesses to defer, until the end of June 2020, any GST/HST payments or remittances that become owing on or after March 27, 2020, and before June 2020. This means that no interest will apply if your payments or remittances are made by the end of June 2020.

The deadline for businesses to file their returns is unchanged. Those who are able to, should continue to file their GST/HST returns on time reporting their net tax for the reporting period to help facilitate tax compliance and administration. However, recognizing the difficult circumstances faced by businesses, the CRA won't impose penalties where a return is filed late provided that it is filed by June 30th.

Q2: I am an annual filer who is required to make quarterly GST/HST instalment payments. Does the announced deferral apply to instalment payments?

A2: Yes, any GST/HST instalment payments due on or after March 27, 2020, and before June 2020 can be deferred until the end of June 2020. No interest will apply if the instalment payment amounts are paid by the end of June 2020.

Q3: I am an individual with a calendar year reporting period who is not required to file my GST/HST return until June 15th. Am I still required to remit the net tax owing for my 2019 reporting period by April 30, 2020.

A3: No, the remittance of your net tax can be deferred until the end of June 2020. No interest will apply if the net tax is remitted by the end of June 2020.

Q4: The Government has now announced temporary payment deferrals for income tax, GST/HST and Customs duties. Will there be a similar deferral for excise taxes and duties?

A4: Excise taxes and duties are still required to be remitted by their prescribed due dates. If you are having difficulty making your payment on time, you can contact the CRA and request that any related interest on outstanding amounts be waived. Decisions to waive interest are made on a case by case basis. [See also Esper, "Beyond the COVID-19 tax

measures: Taxpayers may apply for additional waiver of penalties and interest", Thorsteinssons LLP (available on Taxnet Pro), April 13, 2020.]

Q5: Will my GST/HST return be processed if I file it electronically?

A5: GST/HST returns that are filed electronically will be processed unless they require client contact or additional review. Those returns will not be processed until normal operations resume.

To check on the status of your GST/HST return, please log in to My Business Account where there are many self-service options such as viewing expected and filed returns, viewing the notice of assessment and signing up for direct deposit. More information can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-businesses/business-account.html>

Q6: Will my GST/HST return be processed if I mail in a paper copy?

A6: Paper copies of GST/HST returns will not be processed until normal operations resume. We encourage registrants to file electronically. More information can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-businesses/business-account.html>

Q7: If I am expecting a refund after filing my GST/HST return, will my refund still be processed and issued?

A7: GST/HST returns filed electronically that do not require client contact or additional review will be processed and a refund will be issued if there is no balance owing.

Registrants should sign up for Direct Deposit through My Business Account in order to receive their refunds. More information can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/about-canada-revenue-agency-cra/direct-deposit.html>

Q8: Who can I contact to get more information on my GST/HST account during this pandemic?

A8: We encourage clients to use our self-serve options like My Business Account and our website to find information and to find answers to their questions. Log in to My Business Account to check the status of your GST/HST account. More information can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-businesses/business-account.html>

Q9: Will GST/HST Rebates continue to be processed?

A9: Only the GST/HST rebate applications filed electronically for Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments, Ontario First Nation HST Point-of-Sale and Public service bodies with the CRA can be processed automatically unless they

require client contact or additional review. Electronically filed Housing and General rebate applications are manually assessed and won't be processed until operations resume.

Q10: I filed a GST/HST Rebate. When will my rebate be processed?

A10: For those GST/HST rebates that can be filed electronically, they will be processed as long as no manual intervention is required.

Q11: Will consideration be given to late filed rebates?

A11: GST/HST rebates that are late filed may be considered for processing. They will be reviewed on a case by case basis when operations resume.

[See also see also KPMG, "[COVID-19 — CRA & Quebec Offer GST/HST and QST Relief](#)", *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-36, April 2, 2020.]

### ***TEI Holds Call with Canada Department of Finance on March 30, 2020 Regarding COVID-19 Commodity Tax Issues***

On March 30, 2020, members of the TEI Canadian Tax Committee had a call with the Canada Department of Finance Tax Policy Branch to discuss COVID-19 commodity tax issues and Finance's March 27, 2020 announcement. The following is a brief summary of the discussion.

Note: The discussion with Finance were high-level discussions and focused on the general intent and parameters of the [March 27, 2020, announcement](#).

1. The GST/HST remittance deferral announced last March 27th for Canadian businesses applies to all GST registrants, including but not limited to large corporations, individuals, and non-resident registrants.
2. The decision regarding whether the filing of GST/HST returns will be deferred is a decision to be made by the administrator of the tax, which is CRA. CRA will be issuing guidance on this topic imminently.
3. The deferral of remittances must be handled on a net basis. If a registrant files and wants to claim an ITC, the ITC must be offset by GST/HST collected. Registrants cannot claim an ITC now and defer their remittance of the GST/HST collected during the period.
4. If a registrant is in a net GST/HST receivable position (e.g., exporters), the registrant is entitled to file its return now and obtain its ITC (net of GST/HST collected/collectible).
5. If the registrant is in a net GST/HST payable position, then the registrant can defer payment of the net GST/HST payable.
6. Finance cannot confirm whether a taxpayer will have the ability to claim its ITCs in the reporting period where the statements of accounts are issued and defers the GST payments until June 30th. CRA/CBSA is in discussions on this issue now.
7. Government continues to evaluate tax relief measures. Finance indicated that deferrals apply only to GST/HST and customs import duties at this time.

TEI thanked Finance for joining the call and providing guidance at this difficult time. TEI and its members are available should Finance or CRA need assistance from the business community as things progress.

Finance thanked the TEI representatives for joining the call and appreciated flexibility as these issues continue to evolve.

### ***Customs Relief Measures***

#### **[Customs Notice 2011: Extension of Timeframes for Payment of Customs Duties and GST \(COVID-19\)](#)**

Ottawa, March 27, 2020

1. This notice provides information regarding the extension of timeframes for the payment of customs duties and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
2. Subsection 33.7(1) of the Customs Act ("The Act") provides an authority to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness ("The Minister") or an officer designated by the President of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to, in writing, extend the time prescribed by the regulations for the payment of any amount owing for duties.
3. The timeframes for the payment of duties owing on commercial goods are set out in section 10.1 of the Accounting for Imported Goods and Payment of Duties Regulations ("The Regulations").
4. The World Health Organization characterized the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.
5. Within this extraordinary context and further to the announcement made by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020 the Government of Canada will allow businesses to defer to June some payments of the Goods and Services Tax / Harmonized Sales Tax amounts collected on their sales, as well as customs duties owing on their imports.
6. The Minister has exercised his authority pursuant to subsection 33.7(1) of the Act to extend the time for payment of an amount owing as duties.
7. As such, the timeframe for all payments due to the Agency (customs duties and GST on regular imports, re-assessments, penalties, etc.) are extended to June 30, 2020. This also includes charges on the statement of account of March due on April 1, 2020.
8. Importers should note there is no change to the accounting timeframes prescribed by "The Regulations". Importers are required to submit accounting declarations for imported goods released on minimum documentation within the required timeframes.
9. For any questions, please contact [cbsa-asfc\\_caarm.gcra@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:cbsa-asfc_caarm.gcra@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

[See also:]

- Fasken, "Fasken, "Canadian Trade Controls Compliance – COVID-19 Considerations", *International Trade & Customs Law Bulletin*, April 20, 2020 (available on Taxnet Pro);
- [Customs Notice 20-19](#): Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19) (May 6);
- News Release 2020-05-06: [Government provides tariff relief to importers of certain medical goods](#);
- [Customs Notice 20-12: COVID-19: Tariff Classification and Other Information to Import Medical Supplies \(April 16\)](#);
- [Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments](#) (Canada.ca).

### **Other Administrative Announcements**

#### **Take advantage of the CRA's digital services**

With the outbreak of COVID-19, you can use the CRA's secure [digital services](#) to interact with the CRA and easily manage your tax affairs. These services can help you track your refund, view or change your return, check benefit and credit payments, view RRSP limits, set up or update direct deposit, and receive email notifications. Individuals registered for [My Account](#) can access certified software that has features that make tax-filing even easier: [Auto-fill my return](#) automatically fills in parts of your tax return with information the CRA has on file; [Express NOA](#) gives you your notice of assessment right after the CRA receives and processes your return; [ReFILE](#) allows you to make changes to your return using certified tax software. If you are registered for [My Business Account](#) you can: receive your mail online; submit documents; view and pay balances; transfer payments

#### **Volunteer tax clinics**

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Revenu Québec expect that many community organizations may reduce or cancel services provided under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. If you're planning to go to a free tax clinic, check our tax clinic directory before you go. Due to the extension of the filing season from April 30 to June 1, 2020, there may be opportunities for community organizations that have suspended operations to re-establish their services prior to the June 1 filing deadline. You will need to authorize a volunteer before they can file taxes or discuss matters on your behalf. Learn about the changes to electronic signatures when authorizing a representative.

### Other filing methods

We understand that you may no longer be able to attend our tax clinics due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus. There are several other options for you to file your taxes:

- **NETFILE:** File online using CRA certified tax-filing software (free and paid options available)
- **Paper filing:** You can still file your income tax and benefit return on paper
  - if you filed on paper last year and your address with the CRA is up-to-date, you should have received your paper tax package in the mail by February 17, 2020
  - view or order the Income tax package for 2019, or call the CRA at 1-855-330-3305 to order a copy (make take up to 10 days for delivery)
- **File my Return:** File your income tax and benefit return using our free and secure automated telephone service
  - invitation letters were mailed to eligible individuals with low or fixed incomes whose situations remain unchanged from year to year
  - for residents of Québec, only the federal portion of the income tax and benefit return is completed

For other ways to file your taxes, go to [Doing your taxes](#).

For information on filing a Québec provincial tax return, contact [Revenu Québec](#).

### Outreach activities

The CRA is adapting its Outreach Program to support individuals during COVID-19. Through this service, the CRA can help individuals to better understand their tax obligations and to help them get the benefits and credits they are entitled. Traditionally available in-person, this service is now available over the phone, where possible by completing an online request for an information session. Outreach officers are being asked to maintain contact with partner organizations and associations to discuss the situation and concerns they may have with any planned activities. They will provide information, links, and documents to support partner organizations in helping taxpayers, where possible.

### CRA Special Bulletin: Need help doing your taxes? Get free virtual tax help! (May 20)

We know how important free tax clinics are to you and your families and we're happy to announce that community organizations will be hosting free virtual tax clinics in the coming weeks.

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers can do your taxes for free, by video conference or phone, through the [Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) (CVITP) and the Income Tax Assistance – Volunteer Program in Quebec.

Due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, many community organizations had to close, postpone, or scale back on the free tax clinics they offer. These virtual clinics will be held on an interim basis to help you do your taxes while still following physical distancing guidelines.

The due date for doing your taxes has been extended to June 1, 2020. Doing your taxes can help make sure you get or you keep getting the benefits and credits you're eligible for.

On May 15, it was [announced](#) that eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit and/or Canada child benefit (CCB) payments will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020. Benefit payments starting in July 2020 and those scheduled for August and September won't be interrupted.

[Find a free tax clinic in your area.](#)

If you live in Quebec, you can get help through the [Volunteer Program](#), which is jointly administered by the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Quebec.

### We can help you

Like in-person free tax clinics, virtual tax help is available to anyone with a modest income and a simple tax situation, including:

- Indigenous peoples;
- social assistance recipients;
- newcomers to Canada;
- persons with disabilities;
- homeless persons or housing shelter residents;
- seniors; and
- students.

Volunteers **do not** prepare tax returns for those with complex tax situations, such as:

- returns for deceased persons;
- individuals who file for bankruptcy;
- self-employed individuals;
- individuals who report capital gains or losses;
- individuals who report employment expenses; or
- individuals who report business or rental income and expenses.

### Learn more

To learn more or to contact a free virtual tax clinic, go to [virtual tax clinics](#).

### ***DOJ News Release 2020-05-26: Action Committee on Court Operations in Response to COVID-19 Approves Initial Guidance Documents***

The Action Committee on Court Operations in Response to COVID-19 held its second virtual meeting by teleconference on Friday, May 22.

The focus of this second meeting was to confirm the Action Committee's approach and priorities in offering national guidance to chief justices, judges and courts administration officials as decision are taken around the gradual resumption of court operations across Canada. As part of that process, the Action Committee has approved and released the Committee's terms of reference, core principles and perspectives to be considered for court operations in response to COVID-19 and initial orienting principles on safe and accessible courts. This work was undertaken collaboratively, with input from judicial, government, and public health and workplace safety representatives.

The Action Committee also identified its key priorities going forward, agreeing that the challenges of jury trials and hearings in small court rooms, circuit and remote courts could be areas of immediate focus for forthcoming national guidance.

The Action Committee was established by the Chief Justice of Canada and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to provide national leadership to support the work of provincial and territorial governments, individual courts, and

court administrators in progressively restoring the full operation of Canada's courts while ensuring the safety of court users and staff. Its work will combine input from senior federal and provincial officials in the judiciary, public health and justice with up-to-date information from public health authorities across Canada, with a focus on the unique context of the courts.

## Quotes

"As we all continue to navigate this period of uncertainty, I am proud that the Action Committee is providing guidance regarding court operations in a manner that is respectful of both fundamental judicial principles and health and safety imperatives. One of the most important things we must keep in mind is that the success of our justice system, and indeed the rule of law, depends on public confidence and trust. This means that we cannot simply view our response to COVID-19 as temporary measures to bridge us back to "normal" – they must be seen as opening the door to imagining a new normal."

*The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C.  
Chief Justice of Canada and Chairperson, Canadian Judicial Council*

"The timely, quick and safe restoration of court operations as we emerge from the pandemic is essential to Canadians, and to our social and economic recovery. The challenges on the ground are significant and the Action Committee looks forward to offering support and guidance to local decision-makers.

While the Action committee's national-level guidance will help us navigate our new reality, my hope is that it will also serve as an opportunity to promote reform and renewal in the justice system."

*The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada*

## Quick facts

- The Action Committee is co-chaired by Chief Justice Wagner and Minister Lametti, and includes the following members:
  - Hon. Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice
  - Hon. Mary Moreau, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta
  - Hon. Terry Matchett, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta and Past Chair of the Canadian Council of Chief Judges
  - Hon. David Eby, Attorney General of British Columbia
  - Nathalie G. Drouin, Ad. E., Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada
  - Tina Namiesniowski, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada
  - Renée Thériault, Executive Legal Officer, Supreme Court of Canada (member ex officio)
- Guidelines prepared by the Action Committee will help support appropriate provincial and judicial decision-makers with the best available information that can be adapted to the individual circumstances of their courts.
- The Action Committee's work will respect the responsibility of provinces and territories for the administration of justice in their jurisdictions and uphold the principle of judicial administrative independence, while advancing Canadians' common interest in an accessible and safe justice system.

## Action Committee on Court Operations in Response to COVID-19 (May 27)

### Terms of Reference

#### 1. Overview, Mandate and Key Outcomes

The Action Committee on Court Operations in Response to COVID-19 (“Action Committee”) is a national leadership body co-chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada, the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable David Lametti. It is mandated to ensure that Canada’s chief justices, provincial and territorial ministers of justice, heads of court administration, and other officials responsible for the administration of justice are supported by the best available public health information, practices, and resources as they work to adapt and restore court operations in response to COVID-19.

Recognizing that the provinces and territories have primary responsibility for the administration of justice within their jurisdiction, and that the constitutional principle of judicial independence reserves key elements of courts administration to chief justices and courts themselves, the Action Committee will develop national principles and parameters, facilitate information-sharing and communication across jurisdictions, identify common needs and solutions, and promote a nationally harmonious approach to restoring Canadian court operations that places the health, safety, and the best interests of Canadians at the forefront.

## 2. Context

While courts have remained operative and the open courts principle has been upheld throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, court operations across Canada have been severely curtailed due to physical distancing and other public safety measures adopted by governments. In order to ensure the safety of court users and officials, and to assist local and national efforts to contain the pandemic, court hearings in all jurisdictions have been limited to the most urgent matters; new methods have been employed to facilitate remote hearings and the electronic filing of court documents; and rapid adaptations have been put in place to ensure that essential in-person court services and proceedings can be conducted safely. Owing to the remarkable dedication and resolve of court officials, legal professionals, judges, and members of the public alike, courts have thus remained open and the rule of law maintained. Many Canadians have nonetheless suffered delay, uncertainty, and barriers in accessing justice. The pandemic has exposed and magnified the shortcomings of existing outdated processes and practices, and has introduced new challenges to Canada’s justice system, most notably the creation of significant backlogs.

Canada’s courts are an integral part of our democracy, an essential service, and a critical pillar for economic activity at the local and national levels. As Canada’s economy gradually reopens in the shadow of COVID-19, Canadians will depend on the courts to ensure stable enforcement of their legal rights and relationships. Timely and safe restoration of court operations is thus essential to Canada’s broader recovery plan. This is especially true for vulnerable individuals and communities who rely on the courts to navigate periods of stress and uncertainty.

While regional and jurisdictional variation are integral to Canada’s court system, such that local adaptations to COVID-19 must be led by local authorities, Canadians have a shared interest in accessible and effective justice. This requires close and respectful collaboration amongst federal, provincial and territorial justice ministries and with Canada’s judiciary at all levels, with a view to supporting one another in emerging from the crisis. Effective collaboration will support appropriate local leadership and decision-making in relation to court operations, informed by the best public health information and resources.

## 3. Mandate

1. The Action Committee will adapt public health principles and guidelines identified by First Ministers and health authorities to the unique context of courts, providing **national guidance** to support the restoration and stabilization of court operations in all jurisdictions. This guidance will be of a non-prescriptive nature, enabling chief justices, chief judges, justice ministries, and courts officials to develop protocols suited to the circumstances of individual courts and their communities. Recognizing that community needs and corresponding responses will vary, the Action Committee will support the **alignment of practices** reflecting Canadians’ common needs and interests across the justice system.
2. The Action Committee will **promote coordination and collaboration**, facilitate **information sharing**, and support the identification of **common principles and best practices** in restoring and stabilizing court operations, while ensuring the safety of all court users and officials. Information-sharing will not be limited to guidance developed by the Action Committee itself, but will also apply to the **distribution of documents, guidelines, and updates emanating from individual courts**, as appropriate. The Committee will also encourage and promote effective **communication of information** both to decision-makers and to Canadians.

3. The Action Committee will focus primarily on the **immediate need to restore and stabilize court operations**, including the resumption of in-person judicial processes and hearings. To this end, the Action Committee will consider:
  1. **minimum health and safety thresholds** required for the resumption of in-person judicial hearings and processes; and
  2. **appropriate long-term protocols** to sustain court operations in a manner that protects the health and safety of court users and officials.
4. While focused on immediate and near-term measures, the Action Committee will work to ensure the consistency of its national guidelines with parallel, medium-term planning toward the **modernization of Canada's justice system** and **improvement of access to justice** through sector-wide innovation and reform.

#### 4. Key Principles and Considerations

The Action Committee will be guided by the following principles and considerations:

- The health and safety of court users and staff is paramount.
- Courts exist to serve the public, and planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic must be driven by the needs, perspectives, and best interests of Canadians.
- The open court principle is key to ensuring public confidence in the justice system. As much as possible, court proceedings should be open and accessible to the public and the media, including when hearings are conducted remotely.
- The needs of Canada's most vulnerable people and communities, and of those most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, must be accounted for.
- The operation of an effective court system is a constitutional responsibility jointly shared by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments and a strong and independent judiciary, informed by mutual accountability to Canadians.
- The administration of courts in the provinces and territories falls within provincial and territorial jurisdiction, such that national guidelines cannot supplant the authority and leadership of appropriate provincial officials.
- Judicial independence is a fundamental constitutional principle and includes judicial leadership and control over critical elements of court administration.
- The impacts inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic on the court system and its users provide an opportunity for lasting improvement, resilience to better withstand future challenges, and modernization.

#### 5. Composition

The Action Committee is composed of the following members:

- Right Honourable Richard Wagner, Chief Justice of Canada (Co-Chair)
- Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (Co-Chair)
- Two representatives of the Canadian Judicial Council
  - Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice
  - Honourable Mary Moreau, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta
- Honourable Terry Matchett, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta and Past Chair of the Canadian Council of Chief Judges
- Honourable David Eby, Attorney General of British Columbia
- Nathalie G. Drouin, Ad. E., Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada
- Tina Namiesniowski, President of the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Renée Thériault, Executive Legal Officer, Supreme Court of Canada (member ex officio)

Recognizing the heavy and wide-ranging responsibilities all Committee members carry, members may choose to send alternates to represent them where necessary.

To ensure the most effective use of members' time, the Action Committee may choose to delegate tasks to a sub-committee or working group to advance the work between meetings.

## 6. Meetings and Timelines

The Action Committee will conduct its first meeting on May 8, 2020, and convene on a weekly basis thereafter, or as determined by the co-Chairs. As court operations are progressively restored and stabilized throughout the country, meetings may be reduced and discontinued in the Committee's discretion. The Committee may, however, be reconstituted in response to future outbreaks or other events stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee will meet by teleconference.

## 7. Operational Support

Operational support, including the preparation of national guidelines or other resources under the direction of the Action Committee, will be provided by the Department of Justice Canada, in coordination with other officials or organizations as the Committee may determine.

## Core Principles and Perspectives

### Overview and Context

The courts are a pillar of Canada's democracy, provide an essential service to Canadians, and offer critical support to economic activity and social integration. Canada's courts have continued to operate throughout the pandemic, giving priority to the most urgent cases and adapting electronic and remote methods to deliver justice to Canadians. Nonetheless, court operations have been significantly curtailed in response to physical distancing and other public health and safety requirements.

The overriding focus of the Action Committee is to help restore court operations in a manner that protects the health and safety of Canadians, using public health advice and expertise as a foundation. This involves accounting for the needs of all Canadians who rely on the justice system, including those whose personal circumstances – such as age, underlying health conditions, or living arrangements – place them at higher risk of contracting or suffering severe effects from COVID-19. Restoration of court operations must drive toward a more modern, responsive and resilient court system.

Since courts are places in which many different people come together – including judges, litigants, court personnel, social service providers, police, media, and members of the public – safely restoring court operations requires awareness of social context and of the different roles and responsibilities that combine to make courts function. Decisions related to the restoration of court operations at both the local and national levels must be informed by a shared understanding of public health and legal principles, reflecting the integrated responsibility and collaboration of multiple actors in the public interest. This document identifies those principles as a framework to guide ongoing collaboration and decision-making.

### Principles

The Action Committee has identified the following principles as essential to progressively restoring the operation of Canada's courts while protecting the safety of all people who work in and use the courts. The principles are intended to guide and support, not replace, leadership and decision-making by the judiciary and local officials in response to community needs. The Action Committee is committed to observing these principles as it works to:

- provide national-level guidance based on a common framework of parameters, to enable coordination and consistency in approach;
- facilitate access to essential information, expertise, and health and safety resources for chief justices and courts administration officials as they work to restore and stabilize court operations in their communities;
- highlight best practices and facilitate communication, information-sharing, and collaboration among courts, governments, and communities across Canada, recognizing also that the efforts of individual courts and jurisdictions could yield innovations of national importance;
- ensure that early decisions around resumption of court operations are framed within a wider vision of courts modernization, thus ensuring that measures adopted in response to the pandemic pave the way toward longer term transformation and increased resilience.

The principles draw from the recent statements of Canada's First Ministers, values embodied in Canada's Constitution and the rule of law, and the expertise contributed by key partners in the operation of Canada's courts. They reflect a shared responsibility to place the health and safety of Canadians at the centre of planning, and to ensure that operational decisions are grounded in reliable information, sensitivity to constitutional and social context, and commitment to meeting the needs of all people who rely on the courts.

## Public Health Principles

The Action Committee recognizes that Canada's First Ministers have provided a valuable template for restoring areas of economic and civic activity through their *First Ministers' statement on shared public health approach to support restarting the economy*. While the courts represent an independent and operationally distinct sphere of public life, the principles identified by the First Ministers can be adapted to offer useful guidance in the courts setting:

### Science and evidence-based decision-making

Decisions in relation to restoring court operations should be based on current public health guidance as advised by public health authorities.

### Coordination, collaboration and communication

Continued collaboration and communication are key to ongoing success. Since different jurisdictions may need to move forward at different times and in potentially different ways, it will be important to maintain the coordination and collaboration that has taken place throughout the pandemic. Communication and information-sharing across jurisdictions will allow courts to learn from the experiences and approaches of others.

### Accountability and transparency

Each jurisdiction will continue to be accountable to its residents, and will monitor the impacts of measures to restore court operations. Decisions related to court operations must also adhere to applicable legislative and regulatory occupational health and safety requirements. Furthermore, data sharing is critical to understanding the situation across Canada and is essential to informing efforts to restore court operations.

### Flexibility and proportionality

Operations should be restored based on levels of community risk and in a controlled and phased manner. Approaches may vary within and between jurisdictions to account for community characteristics and needs, and measures may need to be adapted or re-imposed as conditions on the ground change.

## Fundamental Principles of the Justice System

The Action Committee recognizes that fundamental principles arising from the Constitution and from Canada's commitment to the rule of law define an operational landscape unique to the courts, which must be accounted for in developing court-specific protocols for restoration of operations and recovery from the pandemic. These principles include:

### Open courts

Public confidence in the justice system depends on the public's ability to witness the processes and decisions of courts, ensuring their fairness and integrity.

### Access to justice and the rule of law

Accessible courts inspire confidence in the justice system, inviting Canadians to approach courts as trustworthy venues for resolving legal issues and alleviating day-to-day hardship. In order to exercise their rights and to ensure that Canada remains a society governed by law, all Canadians must have meaningful and effective access to the courts. This includes timely justice for all court users, and trial within a reasonable delay for those subject to criminal proceedings. This also includes ensuring that measures to restore court operations take into account the needs of all Canadians, including the most vulnerable and those with limited or no access to technology.

### Judicial independence

A strong and independent judiciary is fundamental to Canada's democracy and essential to public confidence in the courts and justice system. Judicial independence is instrumental to judicial impartiality and to judges' ability to safeguard individual rights and the Constitution itself; it exists for the benefit of Canadians, not for judges themselves. Chief justices have authority over the functioning of their courts overall, including making decisions on when and how to restore court operations, scheduling, and the assignment of cases. Individual judges have authority over the proceedings assigned to them, including the management of their courtrooms (whether physical or virtual) and participants in the process.

## Federalism

The federal division of powers means that both levels of government have key responsibilities in relation to the justice system. Provinces and territories have authority over the administration of justice and the courts in their jurisdictions.

## Nexus to the community

Participation in the justice system as a juror, litigant, victim, witness, or accused person should not impose an undue burden of distance from one's home and community; justice should be rendered close to home, and judges themselves should be connected with the communities they serve.

## Perspectives

The Action Committee affirms the need for restoration of court operations to follow an integrated approach, in which common principles and a shared commitment to Canadians inform close collaboration among key actors in the administration of justice. It also recognizes that decision-makers must remain responsive to community perspectives and needs. As progressive steps are taken to restore and expand court operations, the Committee encourages engagement with court users and community representatives to assess the inclusiveness, accessibility, and effectiveness of different measures.

## Health and Safety Considerations

- Health and safety experts help to define risks, identify appropriate safety measures, and support judges and governments in understanding unique community vulnerabilities or needs, using information about the characteristics of court environments, users, personnel and processes.
- They work to ensure that the expert advice and support they provide is consistent with maintaining the integrity of court processes.
- They base their guidance and advice on the best available scientific knowledge and empirical data, and may adapt guidance and advice as expert knowledge evolves.

## Judiciary Considerations

- Judges exercise independent responsibility and control over the cases assigned to them, and must be equipped with the knowledge and resources necessary to ensure the safe conduct of those proceedings.
- Judges must consider how fundamental principles, public safety, and the rights of individuals are best reconciled in the context of each proceeding. This includes balancing innovations – such as online access to court hearings – against potential risks to vulnerable persons, including children, who may be required to share intimate testimony and personal experiences in court.
- Courts rely on governments to provide adequate resources to ensure effective and efficient operations that guarantee meaningful access to justice for Canadians. This includes the community's interest in the prosecution of criminal cases, where judges must enforce constitutional timelines for the completion of trials while accounting for public safety and other considerations related to the detention or release of accused persons.

## Courts Administration Considerations

- Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for courts administration services. Courts administrators ensure administrative support for court operations, including registry functions, judicial and courtroom support, the maintenance of court records and data, interpreter services, jury management, distribution of court orders, enforcement, collection of fines and fees, and the provision of services to the public. Court security and facility management are also provided through government. To deliver this mandate, courts administration employs non-judicial staff and accounts for their safety and rights under collective agreements.
- Courts administrators ensure that court operations comply with official language and human rights requirements within their jurisdictions, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and implement additional services to suit community needs.
- Court administrators work to ensure equal access to justice in all regions within their jurisdictions, including diverse geographic, physical, and community settings, and assume responsibility for different physical court facilities (dedicated courthouses, leased commercial spaces, temporary community spaces for remote courts, and others).

## Conclusion

The safe and effective restoration of operations in Canada's courts is a shared enterprise. While approaches must be tailored to the circumstances of individual jurisdictions and communities, Canadians share a common interest in access to justice, and the COVID-19 pandemic introduced challenges that are national in scope. The Action Committee seeks to support locally-led decision-making by chief justices, courts administration officials, and individual judges by articulating overarching principles, offering national guidance based on the best available data and expertise, and providing a forum for collaboration and sharing of best practices. This will help ensure a harmonious and integrated approach to the resumption of court operations that honours the trust and confidence of Canadians.

### ***Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy for Employers (ITA 153(1.02), (1.03), and (1.04), ITR 111)***

## Legislation

### *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*

#### PART 1

#### Subsection 6(1)

Section 153 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (1.01):

(1.02) For the purposes of this Act, if an eligible employer pays, at a particular time that is within the eligible period, eligible remuneration in respect of which a particular amount is required to be deducted or withheld under subsection (1), then the eligible employer is deemed to have remitted to the Receiver General at the particular time in respect of the particular amount, an amount equal to the least of

(a) the amount determined by the formula  $A - B$  where

A is the prescribed amount, and

B is the total of all amounts, each of which is an amount deemed to have been remitted by the eligible employer under this subsection prior to the particular time (and, if more than one such payment is made at the particular time, the eligible employer may designate the order in which the amounts are considered to have been paid),

(b) the amount determined by the formula  $C \times D$  where

C is the prescribed percentage, and

D is the amount of the eligible remuneration, and

(c) the amount determined by the formula  $E \times F$  where

E is the prescribed amount, and

F is the total number of eligible employees employed by the eligible employer during the eligible period.

Definitions — subsection (1.02)

(1.03) The following definitions apply for the purposes of this subsection and subsection (1.02).

“eligible employee” means an individual who is employed in Canada.

“eligible employer” means a person or partnership that

(a) employs one or more eligible employees;

(b) has, on March 18, 2020, a business number in respect of which the person or partnership is registered with the Minister to make remittances required under this section; and

(c) is any of

(i) a Canadian-controlled private corporation for the purposes of section 125 that (A) would have a business limit for its last taxation year that ended before the start of the eligible period greater than nil, if the amount determined for paragraph 125(5.1)(b) were deemed to be nil, or (B) if the corporation does not have a taxation year that ended before the start of the eligible period, would meet the condition in clause (A) if its taxation year ended immediately before the start of the eligible period,

(ii) an individual (other than a trust),

(iii) a partnership, all of the members of which are described in subparagraphs (i) to (iii) or (v),

(iv) a person exempt from tax under Part I because of paragraph 149(1)(l), and

(v) a registered charity.

“eligible period” means the period beginning on March 18, 2020 and that ends on June 19, 2020.

“eligible remuneration” means salary, wages or other remuneration paid to an eligible employee during the eligible period.

Deemed remittances under subsection (1.02)

(1.04) For greater certainty, amounts deemed under subsection (1.02) to have been remitted to the Receiver General are deemed to not be held in trust under subsections 227(4) and (4.1).

## **Regulations**

### Deemed Remittance

111 For the purpose of subsection 153(1.02) of the Act (a) \$25,000 is the amount prescribed for the purpose of the description of A in paragraph 153(1.02)(a) of the Act; (b) 10%, or a lower percentage elected by the eligible employer, as defined in subsection 153(1.03), is the percentage prescribed for the purpose of the description of C in paragraph 153(1.02)(b) of the Act; and (c) \$1,375 is the amount prescribed for the purpose of the description of E in paragraph 153(1.02)(c) of the Act.

## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT

### Issues

On March 25, 2020, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*, which included the implementation of a temporary 10 per cent wage subsidy (TWS), received royal assent. This subsidy allows most employers immediate access to funds by reducing the amount of employee payroll deductions that would otherwise be required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). In announcing the TWS, the Government stated that the subsidy is equal to 10 per cent of the remuneration an employer pays from March 18, 2020, to June 19, 2020, up to \$1,375 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer. These amounts are required to be prescribed in the *Income Tax Regulations* (the Regulations).

The *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2* received royal assent on April 11, 2020. This legislation introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), a refundable tax credit provided through the *Income Tax Act* (the Act). This measure provides support to those eligible employers that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a strong incentive for employers to pay employees who have been sent home for health and safety reasons or due to lack of work. It will enable employers to retain employees who are still on the payroll and to rehire workers previously laid off.

The CEWS provides a 75 per cent wage subsidy to the eligible employers currently listed in the Act for up to 12 weeks, starting March 15, 2020. Eligible entities currently defined in the Act include taxable corporations (excluding public institutions), individuals, certain entities exempt from income tax (excluding public institutions and including, for example, registered charities and non-profit organizations). Additional eligible employers can be prescribed in the Regulations.

Since the enactment of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2*, the Government has identified some additional employers that should be eligible for the CEWS. It has also received comments from stakeholders in respect of other employers that do not qualify for the CEWS that should be considered eligible for this subsidy as these have also been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and need this subsidy to help pay their employees. This includes registered journalism organizations, registered amateur athletic associations, private schools and colleges (including institutions that offer specialized services, such as driving schools, language schools or flight schools), and certain tax-exempt corporations that are owned by Indigenous governments. These latter corporations (unlike similar government-funded or government-owned entities) carry on business activities that rely heavily on external revenues as opposed to government funding.

For employers that are eligible for both the CEWS and the TWS, any benefit from the TWS for remuneration paid in a qualifying period, as defined in the Act, would reduce the amount available to be claimed by the employer under the CEWS in that same period. Therefore, in addition to giving legal effect to these amounts (the 10 per cent of the remuneration an employer pays from March 18, 2020, to June 19, 2020, up to \$1,375 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer), it is also necessary that these amounts be prescribed in the Regulations so that the CEWS may be properly calculated.

### Objective

- To provide support to more employers through the CEWS.
- For the TWS, to give legal effect to the amounts that an employer may receive in respect of this subsidy.

### Description

The Regulations are amended to allow additional employers to become eligible for the CEWS. These additional employers include registered journalism organizations, registered amateur athletic associations, private schools and colleges (including institutions that offer specialized services, such as driving schools, language schools or flight schools), and tax-exempt corporations that are owned by Indigenous governments that carry on business activities. The amendments also allow additional partnership structures to qualify for the CEWS if those partnerships have Indigenous governments as members or other ineligible entities as members, and the interest of those ineligible members in the partnership does not exceed 50 per cent.

This is because, even though many of these types of entities typically receive government funding, these particular entities often do not. For example, schools receive government funding; however, private schools rely heavily on revenues from private individuals. Since schools are currently closed, revenues have drastically dropped for these entities and they require funding to help to continue to pay employees. Many Indigenous-government-owned corporations carry on businesses that are funded by business activities and are not funded by the Indigenous governments, so they too require additional funding to help pay employee wages for restaurants, hotels, etc., that are currently closed to the public. Additionally, many partnership structures rely heavily on business revenues, even where governments and other ineligible entities are members of those partnerships.

The addition of these entities as being eligible for the CEWS allows more employers to continue paying employees who are still receiving wages or to rehire employees that these businesses were forced to lay off due to drastic drops in business revenues.

The Regulations have been adopted to provide that the percentage of the remuneration that an employer is deemed to have paid is equal to 10 per cent of remuneration paid to employees during the eligible period (or a lower percentage if so chosen by the employer). The eligible period from March 18, 2020, to June 19, 2020, is already contained in the legislation. The Regulations are also adopted to cap this amount at \$1,375 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer. The regulations allow an employer to keep these amounts in order to have access to money in a timely manner.

## Regulatory development

### *Consultation*

The Government has received feedback from stakeholders, since the enactment of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2* with respect to the CEWS. Comments were received from accounting and law firms representing Canadian employers and businesses, as well as business associations and groups. These comments focused primarily on certain tax-exempt entities that did not qualify for the CEWS, including private schools, certain Indigenous-government-owned corporations and some partnership structures involving ineligible entities.

The amendments incorporate many of those stakeholder views.

## Regulatory analysis

### *Costs and benefits*

The cost to Government of the CEWS measure has been estimated to be approximately \$73 billion. It is expected that the expanded list of eligible employers will not exceed the original anticipated cost of \$73 billion. Any additional cost is equal to the benefits employers will derive from the wage subsidy. Newly prescribed eligible entities which apply for the CEWS will encounter minor administrative costs. However, these costs should not outweigh amounts received as a benefit under the CEWS.

The expected costs of the TWS are not expected to increase with this technical amendment since the prescribed amounts are the same amounts announced as part of the introduction of the TWS measure.

### *Small business lens*

Small businesses are not required to apply for the CEWS benefit. Any small businesses that become newly prescribed eligible entities and apply for the CEWS may encounter minor administrative costs. Nevertheless, these costs should not outweigh amounts received by small businesses as a benefit under the CEWS.

### *One-for-one rule*

The one-for-one rule applies because any entity that becomes a newly prescribed eligible entity and applies for the CEWS will encounter minor administrative costs. The amendments address an emergency circumstance and are exempt from the requirement to offset administrative burden under the one-for-one rule.

### *Regulatory cooperation and alignment*

Due to the urgency and specificity of these measures, there were no requirements, and therefore no steps that were taken to coordinate or to align with other regulatory jurisdictions.

## Implementation, compliance and enforcement, and service standards

### *Implementation*

The CEWS and the TWS are administered by the CRA. The CRA will apply the amendments in respect of a qualifying period, as defined in the Act, for 12 weeks starting on March 15, 2020, with respect to the entities that are prescribed eligible entities for purpose of the CEWS. It is possible that other entities could be prescribed at a later date. The prescribed amounts and percentage for purposes of the TWS will apply in respect of an eligible period, as defined in the Act, i.e. from March 18, 2020, to June 19, 2020.

The amendments to the Regulations are subject to the existing reporting and compliance mechanisms available to the Minister of National Revenue under the Act. These mechanisms allow the Minister of National Revenue to assess and reassess tax payable, conduct audits and seize relevant records and documents.

## Overview

The Government announced a 10% temporary wage subsidy for employers for a period of three months. Eligible employers (individuals - excluding trusts, certain partnerships, non-profit organization, registered charity, or certain Canadian-controlled private corporations - including cooperative corporations) who pay salary, wages, or taxable benefits to employees, between March 18, 2020 and June 19, 2020, can reduce payroll remittances of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax by the amount of the subsidy. This measure is only applicable to remittances made to the CRA. No application is required; however, employers are responsible for calculating and making the appropriate reductions in withholdings.

The subsidy permits employers to reduce income tax remittances by 10% of remuneration paid to employees between March 18 and June 20, 2020 to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer (an employer cannot reduce its required CPP or EI premiums). In certain cases, the 10% subsidy may be available where the *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy* is not available

See also: [FAQs for temporary wage subsidy for employers](#), Ball, "[COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies](#)", May 29, "[Temporary wage subsidy: How it works](#)", CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, April 2, 2020.

## [CRA – Frequently Asked Questions – Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers \(updated May 26\)](#)

### FAQ – Temporary wage subsidy for employers: CRA and COVID-19

#### Overview

#### 1. What is the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers?

The 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers is a three-month measure that will allow eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Note: The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, which provides a 75% wage subsidy to eligible employers, is a separate program. For more information on that program, see *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy*.

#### Eligibility

#### 2. Which employers are eligible?

You are an eligible employer if you:

- are a(n):
  - individual (excluding trusts),
  - partnership\*,
  - non-profit organization,
  - registered charity, or
  - Canadian-controlled private corporation (including a cooperative corporation)\*\*;
- have an existing business number and payroll program account with the CRA on March 18, 2020; and
- pay salary, wages, bonuses, or other remuneration to an eligible employee\*\*\*.

\*Partnerships are only eligible for the subsidy if their members consist exclusively of individuals (excluding trusts), registered charities, other partnerships eligible for the subsidy, or eligible Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs).

\*\*CCPCs are only eligible for the subsidy if they would have had a business limit for their last taxation year that ended before March 18, 2020, greater than nil (determined without reference to the passive income business limit reduction). For more information on whether your CCPC would have a business limit, see Small Business Deduction in the T2 Corporation Income Tax Guide.

For more information on whether your corporation is a CCPC, see Type of Corporation.

\*\*\*An eligible employee is an individual who is employed in Canada.

### 3. What if I pay tax-exempt remuneration?

If you pay tax-exempt salary, wages, bonuses, or other remuneration to an eligible employee, you can still calculate the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers on remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020. At the end of the year, the CRA will pay the amount to you.

### 4. What if my business is closed?

If you did not pay salary, wages, bonuses, or other remuneration to an eligible employee from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020, you cannot receive the subsidy, even if you are an eligible employer.

## Calculating your subsidy

### 5. How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy is equal to 10% of the remuneration you pay from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020, up to \$1,375 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer.

You may elect for the subsidy to be equal to a lower percentage of the remuneration you pay in order to only take advantage of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. For more information, see question 12.

**Note:** Associated CCPCs will not be required to share the maximum subsidy of \$25,000 per employer.

### 6. How do I calculate the subsidy?

The subsidy must be calculated manually, either by you or whoever is responsible for making your payroll remittances. The CRA will not automatically calculate the allowable subsidy.

**Note:** Your subsidy calculation is based on the total number of eligible employees employed at any time during the three-month period. See the examples below for more information.

#### Example 1

You pay 5 eligible employees monthly salaries of \$4,100 for a total monthly payroll of \$20,500. Your wage subsidy for the month will be 10% of \$20,500, or \$2,050.

For the three-month period, if all your payroll information remains the same in each month, you will pay \$61,500 of remuneration. Therefore, 10% of the remuneration you pay in the three-month period is \$6,150.

Since this amount is below the maximum allowable amount of \$6,875 (\$1,375 x 5 employees), your total wage subsidy for the three-month period will be \$6,150.

## Example 2

You pay 8 eligible employees monthly salaries of \$4,750 for a total monthly payroll of \$38,000. Your wage subsidy for the month will be 10% of \$38,000, or \$3,800.

For the three-month period, if all your payroll information remains the same in each month, you will pay \$114,000 of remuneration. Therefore, 10% of the remuneration you pay in the three-month period is \$11,400.

Since this amount is above the maximum allowable amount of \$11,000 ( $\$1,375 \times 8$  employees), your total wage subsidy for the three-month period will be capped at \$11,000.

## Example 3

You pay 5 eligible employees monthly salaries of \$4,100 for a total monthly payroll of \$20,500. Your wage subsidy for the month will be 10% of \$20,500, or \$2,050.

In the second month, you pay 7 eligible employees monthly salaries of \$4,100 for a total monthly payroll of \$28,700. Your wage subsidy for the second month will be 10% of \$28,700, or \$2,870.

In the third month, you also pay 7 eligible employees monthly salaries of \$4,100 for a total monthly payroll of \$28,700. Your wage subsidy for the third month will be 10% of \$28,700, or \$2,870.

For the three-month period, you will pay \$77,900 of remuneration. Therefore, 10% of the remuneration you pay in the three-month period is \$7,790.

Since this amount is below the maximum allowable amount of \$9,625 ( $\$1,375 \times 7$  employees), your total wage subsidy for the three-month period will be \$7,790.

## Reducing your payroll remittances

### 7. How will I receive the subsidy?

You do not need to apply for the subsidy.

You will continue deducting income tax, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions, and Employment Insurance (EI) premiums from salary, wages, bonuses, or other remuneration paid to your employees, as you currently do.

The subsidy is calculated when you remit these amounts to the CRA.

Once you have calculated your subsidy, you can reduce your current payroll remittance of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax that you send to the CRA by the amount of the subsidy.

### Important

You cannot reduce your remittance of CPP contributions or EI premiums. You must continue remitting the CPP contributions and EI premiums that you deducted from your employees, as well as your share of CPP contributions and EI premiums, to the CRA.

### Example

If you deducted \$2,500 of income tax from your employees' pay and calculated a subsidy of \$2,050, you would reduce your current payroll remittance of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax by \$2,050. You would remit \$450 of income tax to the CRA. The remaining \$2,050 that you keep would represent your subsidy.

You could continue reducing the income tax on future payroll remittances, up to \$1,375 for each eligible employee and to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer, for all remuneration paid on or before June 19, 2020.

### **8. When can I start reducing payroll remittances?**

You can start reducing payroll remittances of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax in the first remittance period that includes remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020.

**Note:** Payroll remittances are not subject to deferral as part of the tax measures to help support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. You must continue remitting payroll deductions by your remittance due date.

#### **Example**

If you are a regular remitter, you could have reduced your payroll remittance that was due to the CRA on April 15, 2020.

### **9. Where subsidies exceed payroll remittances**

If the income taxes you deduct are not sufficient to offset the value of the subsidy in a specific period, you can reduce future payroll remittances to benefit from the subsidy. This includes reducing remittances that may fall outside of the application period for the wage subsidy (after June 19, 2020).

#### **Example**

If you calculated a subsidy of \$2,050 on remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020, but only deducted \$1,050 of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax from your employees, you can reduce a future payroll remittance by \$1,000, even if that remittance is in respect to remuneration paid after June 19, 2020.

### **10. What if I don't reduce payroll remittances during the year?**

If you are an eligible employer, but you do not reduce your payroll remittances during the year, you can still calculate the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers on remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020. At the end of the year, the CRA will pay the amount to you or transfer it to your next year's remittance.

### **11. What about payroll remittances made to Revenu Québec**

The 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers allows eligible employers to reduce payroll remittances made to the CRA only.

### **12. How does the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers interact with the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy?**

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) provides a subsidy equal to 75% of the eligible remuneration paid by an eligible employer, up to a maximum of \$847 per week for each eligible employee. For more information on the CEWS, see Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy .

You may be eligible for both the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers and the CEWS. Employers who are eligible for both subsidies can only claim a maximum cumulative subsidy of 75% of the eligible remuneration that they pay. Therefore, if you are eligible for both subsidies, you must reduce your CEWS claim by any amount that you reduce your remittances by, under the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers in the same period.

However, if you only want to claim the CEWS for a specific period, you may elect for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers to be equal to a lower percentage of the remuneration you pay, between 0% and 10%, for that period.

## Example

You are eligible for both subsidies. You paid \$20,500 of remuneration from April 12, 2020 to May 9, 2020, and calculated your 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy to be \$2,050. For simplicity, you would only like to claim the CEWS. You may elect for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers to be equal to 0% of the remuneration you paid from April 12, 2020 to May 9, 2020. When you apply for the CEWS for the same period, you will not have to reduce your claim by the amount you were eligible for under the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers.

**Note:** If you elect for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers to be equal to a lower percentage of the remuneration you pay, you must indicate the election on your self-identification form. For more information, see question 14.

## Keeping Records, Reporting , and Year-end Requirements

### 13. What books and records do I need to support the subsidy?

You will need to keep information to support your subsidy calculation. This includes:

- the total remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020;
- the federal, provincial, or territorial income tax that was deducted from that remuneration; and
- the number of eligible employees employed in that period.

### 14. Do I need to report anything to the CRA?

After the eligibility period ends on June 19, 2020, eligible employers will be required to complete a self-identification form for each payroll program account where remittances were reduced by an amount of the subsidy. The CRA will use this information to reconcile the subsidy with your payroll program account.

Eligible employers who did not reduce their remittances must also complete this form to allow the CRA to credit your payroll program account by the amount of the subsidy that you are eligible for.

If you elected for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers to be equal to a lower percentage of the remuneration you paid, you must indicate on your self-identification form that you reduced your remittances by a lower amount than what you were entitled to. If you fail to do so, you will be credited for the entire 10% subsidy and your CEWS claim may be reduced and recovered if necessary .

If you have a credit in your payroll program account after the subsidy is applied and your account is reconciled, the CRA will pay the amount to you or transfer it to your next year's remittance.

The self-identification form will be posted on this page when it becomes available.

### 15. What if I reduce my remittances but the CRA determines that I'm not eligible for the subsidy?

If you reduced your payroll remittances, but it is later determined that you were not eligible for the subsidy, the CRA will assess you for the income tax that you deducted from your employees' pay but did not remit. This assessment may include penalties and interest.

### 16. Is the subsidy considered taxable income?

Yes. If you receive the subsidy, you have to report the total amount as income in the year in which the subsidy is received.

See also Bruce Ball, "[COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies](#)", May 29 ("STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR WAGE SUBSIDIES: The CRA is streamlining its processes for claims for the Temporary Wage Subsidy (TWS) and [CEWS]. As you may recall, the TWS works by deeming eligible employers to have

over-remitted their employee income tax source deductions for the TWS they are eligible for. Employers claim the TWS by simply reducing their source deductions by the deemed over-remittance. Employers also eligible for the CEWS would then reduce their CEWS claim by the total of all TWS amounts they are eligible for (whether claimed or not). They would report this amount on line F of the CEWS application form. This process created extra work when employers are eligible for both the TWS and the CEWS. We asked the CRA to simplify the process in situations where the TWS claim simply reduces the CEWS amount. We were also concerned that some employers would assume that they could not claim the TWS amount and enter “0” on line F. Two recent announcements ease the process. First, TWS regulations released on May 15 indicate that the TWS is computed at 10 per cent of remuneration paid or at a lower percentage elected by the eligible employer. This allows an employer to essentially choose to not claim the TWS by electing a TWS percentage of 0 per cent. Recent updates to the CRA’s Frequently Asked Questions on CEWS and TWS advise employers how to make the election. The CRA indicates that if an employer completes the CEWS application and does not enter an amount on line F for the TWS, the CEWS will be determined as though the employer had elected a TWS rate of 0 per cent and is thus claiming the maximum CEWS. The CRA’s FAQ also instructs employers to indicate the 0 per cent election on the “self-identification form under the 10% temporary wage subsidy program.” The self-identification form is not yet available. When ready, the CRA will post it on their TWS FAQ page. This relief is welcome but note that only the CEWS and TWS FAQ pages have been updated. The CRA’s instructions on the CEWS application form do not yet reflect this change”).

### **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

#### **Legislation**

[See the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*, Part 2, which enacts the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act*]

The *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* is enacted as follows:

An Act respecting income support payments for workers (coronavirus disease 2019)

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act*.

Definitions

2 The following definitions apply in this Act.

COVID-19 means the coronavirus disease 2019.

Minister means the Minister of Employment and Social Development.

“week” means the period of seven consecutive days beginning on and including Sunday.

“worker” means a person who is at least 15 years of age, who is resident in Canada and who, for 2019 or in the 12-month period preceding the day on which they make an application under section 5, has a total income of at least \$5,000 — or, if another amount is fixed by regulation, of at least that amount — from the following sources:

(a) employment;

(b) self-employment;

(c) benefits paid to the person under any of subsections 22(1), 23(1), 152.04(1) and 152.05(1) of the *Employment Insurance Act*; and

(d) allowances, money or other benefits paid to the person under a provincial plan because of pregnancy or in respect of the care by the person of one or more of their new-born children or one or more children placed with them for the purpose of adoption.

3 With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may, by regulation, fix an amount for the purposes of the definition worker in section 2.

4 The Minister must make an income support payment to a worker who makes an application under section 5 and who is eligible for the payment.

5 (1) A worker may, in the form and manner established by the Minister, apply for an income support payment for any four-week period falling within the period beginning on March 15, 2020 and ending on October 3, 2020.

(2) No worker is permitted to file an application after December 2, 2020.

(3) An applicant must provide the Minister with any information that the Minister may require in respect of the application.

6 (1) A worker is eligible for an income support payment if

(a) the worker, whether employed or self-employed, ceases working for reasons related to COVID-19 for at least 14 consecutive days within the four-week period in respect of which they apply for the payment; and

(b) they do not receive, in respect of the consecutive days on which they have ceased working, (i) subject to the regulations, income from employment or self-employment, (ii) benefits, as defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Employment Insurance Act*, (iii) allowances, money or other benefits paid to the worker under a provincial plan because of pregnancy or in respect of the care by the worker of one or more of their new-born children or one or more children placed with them for the purpose of adoption, or (iv) any other income that is prescribed by regulation.

(2) An employed worker does not cease work for the purpose of paragraph (1)(a) if they quit their employment voluntarily.

(3) The Minister may, by regulation,

(a) exclude a class of income from the application of subparagraph (1)(b)(i); and

(b) prescribe any other income for the purposes of subparagraph (1)(b)(iv).

7 (1) The amount of an income support payment for a week is the amount fixed by regulation for that week.

(2) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may, by regulation, fix the amount of an income support payment for a week specified in the regulation.

(3) Regulations made under subsection (2) may distinguish among different classes of workers.

8 (1) The maximum number of weeks for which income support payments may be made to a worker is 16 weeks or, if another number of weeks is fixed by regulation, that number of weeks.

(2) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may, by regulation, fix a number of weeks for the purpose of subsection (1).

9 The Minister is authorized to collect and use, for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of this Act, the Social Insurance Number of a person who makes an application under this Act.

10 The Minister may, for any purpose related to verifying compliance or preventing non-compliance with this Act, by notice served personally or by confirmed delivery service, require that any person provide any information or document within the reasonable time that is stated in the notice.

11 An income support payment (a) is not subject to the operation of any law relating to bankruptcy or insolvency; (b) cannot be assigned, charged, attached or given as security; (c) cannot be retained by way of deduction, set-off or compensation under any Act of Parliament other than this Act; and (d) is not garnishable moneys for the purposes of the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act.

12 (1) If the Minister determines that a person has received an income support payment to which the person is not entitled, or an amount in excess of the amount of such a payment to which the person is entitled, the person must repay the amount of the payment or the excess amount, as the case may be, as soon as is feasible.

(2) The amount of the erroneous payment or overpayment, as determined by the Minister, constitutes a debt due to Her Majesty in right of Canada, as of the day on which it was paid, that may be recovered by the Minister.

(3) The amount of any debt referred to in subsection (2) may be certified by the Minister, and registration of the certificate in the Federal Court has the same effect as a judgment of that Court for the amount specified in the certificate and all related registration costs.

13 (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (7), no action or proceedings are to be taken to recover money owing under this Act after the expiry of the six-year limitation or prescription period that begins on the day on which the money becomes due and payable.

(2) Money owing by a person under this Act may be recovered at any time by way of deduction from, set-off against or compensation against any sum of money, including an income support payment under this Act, that may be due or payable by Her Majesty in right of Canada to the person, other than an amount payable under section 122.61 of the Income Tax Act.

(3) If a person's liability for money owing under this Act is acknowledged in accordance with subsection (5), the time during which the limitation or prescription period has run before the acknowledgment does not count in the calculation of that period.

(4) If a person's liability for money owing under this Act is acknowledged in accordance with subsection (5) after the expiry of the limitation or prescription period, an action or proceedings to recover the money may, subject to subsections (3) and (6), be brought within six years after the date of the acknowledgment.

(5) An acknowledgment of liability means (a) a promise to pay the money owing, made by the person or their agent, mandatary or other representative; (b) an acknowledgment of the money owing, made by the person or their agent, mandatary or other representative, whether or not a promise to pay can be implied from it and whether or not it contains a refusal to pay; (c) a part payment by the person or their agent, mandatary or other representative of any money owing; or (d) an acknowledgment of the money owing, made in the course of proceedings under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act or any other legislation dealing with the payment of debts by the person, their agent, mandatary or other representative or the trustee or administrator.

(6) The running of a limitation or prescription period in respect of money owing under this Act is suspended during any period in which it is prohibited to commence or continue an action or other proceedings against the person to recover money owing under this Act.

(7) This section does not apply in respect of an action or proceedings relating to the execution, renewal or enforcement of a judgment.

14 No interest is payable on any amount owing to Her Majesty in right of Canada under this Act as a result of an erroneous payment or overpayment.

**SOR/2020-61 April 1, 2020****EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT**

Whereas the Minister of Employment and Social Development may, for the purpose of mitigating the economic effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), pursuant to subsection 153.3(1) of the *Employment Insurance Act*, make interim orders;

Whereas, pursuant to subsection 153.3(3) of that Act, the Minister of Finance consents to the making of the annexed interim Order;

Whereas, pursuant to subsection 153.3(4) of that Act, the President of the Treasury Board consents to the making of the annexed interim Order in respect of Part III of that Act or in respect of a regulation made under that Act for the purposes of that Part;

And whereas, the Minister of Employment and Social Development has consulted with the Canada Employment Insurance Commission before making the annexed Order;

Therefore, the Minister of Employment and Social Development, pursuant to section 153.3 of the *Employment Insurance Act*, makes the annexed Interim Order Amending the *Employment Insurance Act* (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit).

**2020-04-15 Canada Gazette Part II, Vol. 154, No. 8**

Interim Order Amending the *Employment Insurance Act* (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit)

## Amendment

1 The *Employment Insurance Act* is amended by adding the following after section 153.4:

## PART VIII.4

## Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit

## Interpretation

*Definition of COVID-19*

153.5 (1) In this Part, COVID-19 means the coronavirus disease 2019.

*Claimant*

(2) For the purposes of this section and sections 153.6 to 153.13, the definition claimant in subsection 2(1) applies to a person who: (a) ceases working, whether employed or self-employed, for reasons related to COVID-19; or (b) could have, but for the coming into force of this Part, on or after March 15, 2020, had a benefit period established with respect to any of the benefits referred to in subsection (3).

*Benefits referred to in paragraph (2)(b)*

(3) The benefits referred to in paragraph (2)(b) are (a) benefits paid under Part I, with the exception of benefits paid under sections 22 to 25; and (b) benefits paid under section 152.03.

*Application*

.....

## Application of certain provisions

153.6 Subject to any other provision in this Part, only the following provisions of this Act apply to this Part: (a) the definitions benefit period and insurable earnings in subsection 2(1); (b) the definition initial claim for benefits in subsection 6(1); (c) sections 21 and 152.03; and (d) Parts III, IV, VI and Part VII.

## *Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit*

### Payment

153.7(1) An employment insurance emergency response benefit is payable to a claimant who makes a claim under section 153.8 and who is eligible for the benefit.

### *Other benefits*

(2) A claimant who receives, under a provincial Act or any other provincial mechanism, a sum of money or financial aid of any type and in any form, for reasons related to COVID-19, remains eligible to receive the employment insurance emergency response benefit.

### *Claim*

153.8(1) Any claimant may, in the form and manner established by the Minister, make a claim for the employment insurance emergency response benefit for any two-week period starting on a Sunday and falling within the period beginning on March 15, 2020 and ending on October 3, 2020.

### *Limitation*

(2) A claimant is not permitted to make a claim after December 2, 2020.

### *Information*

(3) A claimant must provide the Minister with any information that the Minister may require in respect of the claim.

### *Eligibility*

153.9 (1) A claimant is eligible for the employment insurance emergency response benefit (a) if they (i) reside in Canada, (ii) are at least 15 years of age, (iii) have insurable earnings of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 52 weeks preceding the day on which they make the claim under section 153.8, (iv) whether employed or self-employed, cease working for at least seven consecutive days within the two-week period in respect of which they claimed the benefit, and (v) have no income from employment or self-employment in respect of the consecutive days on which they cease working; or (b) are a claimant referred to in paragraph 153.5(2)(b).

### *Ineligibility*

(2) A claimant is not eligible if, (a) they receive, under this Act, a benefit other than the employment insurance emergency response benefit; (b) they receive allowances, money or other benefits paid under a provincial plan (i) because of pregnancy, or (ii) because the claimant is caring for one or more of their new-born children, or one or more children placed with them for the purpose of adoption; or (c) they receive or did receive an income support payment under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act.

### *Exclusion*

(3) A claimant does not cease working for the purpose of subsection (1) if they leave their employment voluntarily.

*Amount of payment*

153.10 (1) The amount of the employment insurance emergency response benefit for a week is \$500.

*Provincial assistance — COVID-19*

(2) For greater certainty, if a claimant receives, under a provincial Act or any other provincial mechanism, a sum of money or financial aid of any type and in any form, for reasons related to COVID-19, the weekly amount of the employment insurance emergency response benefit will not be reduced or eliminated.

*Maximum number of weeks*

153.11 The maximum number of weeks for which the employment insurance emergency response benefit may be paid to a claimant is 16 weeks.

*Social Insurance Number*

153.12 The Minister is authorized to collect and use, for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of this Part, the Social Insurance Number of a claimant who makes a claim under this Part.

*Benefit Period**No reduction*

153.13 When a benefit period is being established for a claimant who has received an employment insurance emergency response benefit, in establishing the benefit period, the weeks during which the benefit was paid is not to be taken into account.

*Conflict*

2 The provisions of Part VIII.4 of the *Employment Insurance Act* apply despite any other provision of that Act or any of its regulations.

*Coming into Force*

3 This Interim Order is deemed to have come into force on March 15, 2020.

**2020-04-15 Canada Gazette Part II, Vol. 154, No. 8**

**SOR/2020-62 April 1, 2020**

**CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT ACT**

The Minister of Employment and Social Development, with the consent of the Minister of Finance, makes the annexed Income Support Payment Amount Regulations pursuant to subsection 7(2) of the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act*.

Gatineau, March 31, 2020

Carla Qualtrough

Minister of Employment and Social Development

## *Income Support Payment Amount Regulations*

### Income Support Payment

#### Amount of income support payment

1 For the purpose of subsection 7(1) of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act, the amount of an income support payment for any week is \$500.

#### Coming into Force

#### Registration

2 These Regulations come into force on the day on which they are registered.

N.B. The Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement for these Regulations appears at page 627, following SOR/2020-61.

## **REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT**

(This statement is not part of the Regulations or the Interim Order.)

### *Issues*

Parliament has enacted the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* (the Act) to authorize the making of income support payments to workers who cease working for reasons related to the COVID-19 coronavirus disease. As provided in the Act, the amount of the income support payment is to be fixed in regulation by the Minister of Employment and Social Development, with the consent of the Minister of Finance.

### *Background*

The COVID-19 acute respiratory disease is a condition in which affected individuals develop fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing. COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated that it can cause severe, life-threatening respiratory disease. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death. As a result of quarantine and directed self-isolation measures which have been put in place across Canada to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19, Canadians have been urged to remain in their homes and many workplaces have closed temporarily. This has led to many Canadians being unable to work during this period. Many Canadians do not receive Employment Insurance or other income during this time, which may cause serious financial hardship. The new Act establishes a new income support payment for eligible workers who cease working for reasons related to COVID-19 that would be paid in four-week instalments. The amount of the income support payment per week is to be fixed in regulations by the Minister, as per subsection 7(2) of the Act.

### *Objective*

The objective of this regulation is to fix the amount of the income support payment as \$500 per week under the Act.

### *Description*

As per subsection 7(2) of the Act, this regulation is being put in place by the Minister of Employment and Social Development, with the consent of the Minister of Finance, fixing the income support payment amount as \$500 per week. This regulation will allow the income support payment to be made to individuals who cease working due to reasons related to COVID-19 and meet other eligibility requirements.

The regulation comes into force upon registration.

### *Regulatory development*

#### *Consultation*

As this amendment is directly in response to the immediate and extraordinary public health situation posed by the outbreak of COVID-19, measures need to be in place expeditiously to be effective. Consequently, no prepublication was undertaken.

#### *Modern treaty obligations and Indigenous engagement and consultation*

There are no implications for modern treaty obligations or Indigenous engagement in these regulations.

#### *Instrument choice*

The amount is to be fixed in regulations. There is no discretion in the choice of instrument to set the income support payment amount.

#### *Regulatory analysis*

#### *Benefits and costs*

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is part of the Government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which will provide direct support to Canadian workers and businesses to help meet the cash needs of Canadian businesses and households, and to help stabilize the economy. These measures will also help ensure that individuals are able to remain at home as directed, thus reducing the risk of further spread of the disease.

#### *Small business lens*

No small business impacts are expected to result from these amendments.

#### *One-for-one rule*

These amendments have no impact on administrative burden or costs to business or employers.

#### *Regulatory cooperation and alignment*

These amendments are not related to any commitments related to other regulatory jurisdictions.

#### *Strategic environmental assessment*

A preliminary environmental scan revealed no environmental impacts associated with this regulatory amendment.

#### *Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+)*

These regulations do not target persons of any gender or identified group. The changes will benefit eligible workers who have to cease work due to COVID-19, regardless of other characteristics.

#### *Rationale*

These amendments will allow the Government of Canada to implement the Act and provide support to workers affected by COVID-19.

#### *Implementation, compliance and enforcement, and service standards*

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## Implementation

These regulations will be implemented immediately upon coming into force.

## Registration

### [Questions and Answers on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) (Updated June 9)

#### ***What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?***

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides temporary income support to workers who have stopped working related to COVID-19.

Individuals who are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits, or who have recently exhausted Employment Insurance regular or fishing benefits may also be eligible.

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides \$500 per week for a maximum of 16 weeks.

The Benefit is available from March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020. You can apply no later than December 2, 2020 for payments retroactive to within that period.

#### ***Apply***

Where can I apply for the CERB?

You can apply [here](#).

Can I apply for the CERB over the phone, or only online? What if I don't have access to a computer at my house and I must self-isolate?

The best way for you to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit is [online](#). However, if you do not have online access, you can obtain further information on how to apply for the Benefit using the toll free number 1-833-966-2099.

Under what circumstances can I apply for the CERB?

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is available to those who stop working for reasons related to COVID-19, for example:

- You have lost your job;
- You are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19;
- You are taking care of others because they are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19; and/or
- You are taking care of children or other dependents because their care facility is closed due to COVID-19.

There may be other reasons related to COVID-19 beyond these examples why you may have stopped working. However, you cannot voluntarily quit your job.

Alternatively, you can apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if:

- You are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits; or
- You are a former Employment Insurance claimant who used up your entitlement to your Employment Insurance regular or fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020.

To get the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, you may not earn more than \$1,000 for a period of at least 14 consecutive days within the initial four week period of your claim or \$1000 in total for each subsequent claim.

How do I know whether to apply for EI benefits or the CERB?

If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, you should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

A single portal is available to assist you with the application process. You will be asked to answer a few simple questions which will help direct you to complete the application best suited to your situation.

For anyone who became eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, your Employment Insurance claim will be automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

For other Employment Insurance benefits, including maternity, parental, caregiving, fishing and work-sharing, you should continue to [apply](#) as you normally would.

If I am already receiving EI regular benefits, should I reapply for the CERB?

No.

If you are already receiving Employment Insurance regular benefits, you will continue to receive these benefits until the end of your benefit period.

You cannot be paid Employment Insurance benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

I have applied for EI regular or sickness benefits, but my claim hasn't been processed yet, do I need to reapply for the CERB?

No. You should not submit another application for the same benefit period.

Service Canada is processing all of these claims as quickly as possible.

What if I stopped working before March 15th but only applied for EI after March 15th – which benefit will I receive?

If you became eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits before March 15th, your claim will be processed under the pre-existing Employment Insurance rules. You will not receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

How is the maximum of 16 weeks calculated? Is it when I apply or when I receive my first payment? Can I collect the 16 week CERB twice – once through Service Canada and once through the Canada Revenue Agency?

Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency are jointly delivering the Canada Emergency

Response Benefit and an individual may only receive a maximum of 16 weeks in total within the eligibility period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020. You can either apply for the Benefit through Service Canada or the Canada Revenue Agency, **but not both**.

The calculation of the 16 weeks begins with the first week for which you are receiving the Benefit. However, the 16 weeks do not have to be taken consecutively. For example, you could receive the Benefit for 4 weeks beginning March 15th and reapply for your second benefit period a few months later based on your personal situation.

Please note that the 16 week count does not restart when you reapply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit after taking a break because you found employment.

Do I need to provide any documentation when I apply for the CERB?

You will need to provide your personal contact information, your Social Insurance Number and confirm that you meet the eligibility requirements.

You may be asked to provide additional documentation to verify your eligibility at a future date.

Do I need a medical certificate to receive the CERB if I am in quarantine or sick from COVID-19?

No.

Is a Record of Employment required to apply for the CERB?

A Record of Employment is not required to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

However, employers are encouraged to provide a Record of Employment in the event that any employee should subsequently apply for Employment Insurance benefits.

### **Eligibility**

What are the eligibility criteria for the CERB?

The Benefit is available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their Employment Insurance regular or fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020;
- Who had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and,
- Who have not quit their job voluntarily.

When submitting your first claim, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of your claim.

When submitting subsequent claims, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for the entire four-week benefit period of your new claim.

Provided it is allowed in your province or territory, you may also receive provincial or territorial support payments at the same time you receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Do I need to be laid off to access the CERB?

No.

Workers who remain attached to their company can receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Can you receive the CERB if you are not a citizen or permanent resident?

Yes if you meet the eligibility requirements, which includes residing in Canada and having a valid Social Insurance Number.

Am I eligible for the CERB even if my job is still there but I don't feel comfortable going to work as a result of risk associated with COVID-19? For example, what if I have someone at home who has a compromised immune system and I cannot risk infecting them.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is available to those who stop working for reasons related to COVID-19, for example:

- You have lost your job;
- You are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19;
- You are taking care of others because they are in quarantine or sick due to COVID-19; and/or
- You are taking care of children or other dependents because their care facility is closed due to COVID-19.

There may be other reasons related to COVID-19 beyond these examples why you may have stopped working. **However, you cannot voluntarily quit your job.**

If you are concerned about the safety of your working conditions, you should discuss the situation with your employer.

- If you work in a federally-regulated workplace, you may wish to consult your workplace health and safety committee or health and safety representative as well as the document "Right to refuse dangerous work" at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/health-safety/reports/right-refuse.html>
- Otherwise, you may wish to consult the website for the department of labour in your province or territory for further information on your rights and the process you should follow.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (<https://www.ccohs.ca/>) is another possible resource.

Am I eligible to apply for the CERB if I volunteer to be temporarily laid off by my employer to help them manage the pressures on their business?

Yes. You are eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if you are laid off as a result of reasons related to COVID-19, even if you maintain your attachment with your employer.

If I lost my job prior to March 15th for reasons related to COVID-19 will I be able to receive the CERB?

If you became eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits prior to March 15th, your claim will be processed under the pre-existing Employment Insurance rules.

If you are not eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits and lost your job prior to March 15th you may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency. However, the Benefit is only available for periods between March 15 and October 3, 2020.

Am I eligible to apply for the CERB if I have not declared that I earned any money in the last year?

While having filed income tax for 2019 is not an eligibility requirement, you will need to confirm when applying for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit that you had at least \$5000 in employment or self-employment income in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of your application. You will also need to confirm that you have not earned more than \$1000 in employment and/or self-employment income in a period of at least 14 consecutive days within the first benefit period and for the entire four-week benefit period of any subsequent claim. If you are deemed ineligible for the Benefit at a later date, you will be required to pay it back.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from employment and/or self-employment. For those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance you may also include maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan as part of the calculation for income.

Can employers send their employees off on furloughs to help cope with the decline in available work?

Employers can choose to ask their employees to take a furlough to help meet their business requirements.

In this case, the employee would be considered to have stopped working (unpaid leave) and eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit provided they meet the other eligibility criteria.

There is no requirement for the employer-employee relationship to be severed and the employee can continue to receive other benefits such as medical benefits from the employer and still be eligible for the Benefit.

If an employee has stopped working but is still receiving benefits from their employer (e.g. medical) are they eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

Yes.

Stopping work does not mean that the employee has severed all ties with their employer. The employer can continue to provide non-cash benefits to the employee and these will not impact their eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Does being in receipt of severance impact a person's eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

A severance payment does not impact an individual's eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

### ***Income Requirements***

What counts towards the \$1,000 in income I can earn?

The \$1,000 includes employment and/or self-employment income. This includes among others: tips you may earn while working; non-eligible dividends; honoraria (e.g., nominal amounts paid to emergency service volunteers); and royalties (e.g., paid to artists).

However, royalty payments received from work that took place before the period for which a person applies for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit do not count as income during that specific benefit period.

Pensions, student loans and bursaries are not employment income and therefore, should not be included in the \$1000.

Applications will be verified against tax records to confirm income.

What income types count towards the \$5,000 in employment and/or self-employment income?

The \$5,000 includes all employment and self-employment income. This includes among others: tips you have declared as income; non-eligible dividends; honoraria (e.g., nominal amounts paid to emergency service volunteers); and royalties (e.g., paid to artists). If you are not eligible for Employment Insurance, you may also include maternity and parental benefits you received from the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.

Pensions, student loans and bursaries are not considered employment income and should not be included.

Does the minimum income of \$5,000 have to be earned in Canada?

No.

The income does not have to be earned in Canada, but you need to reside in Canada.

If I am in receipt of dividends am I eligible for the CERB?

Yes as long as the dividends are non-eligible dividends (generally those paid out of corporate income taxed at the small business rate) and you meet the eligibility criteria.

Non-eligible dividends count towards the minimum \$5000 in income required for eligibility. Non-eligible dividends also count toward the \$1000 income threshold for a benefit period.

Do artists' royalties count as employment or self-employment income with respect to the CERB?

Yes, in some cases. Artists' royalties would be considered payments received as self-employment income if they were received as compensation for using or allowing the use of a copyright, patent, trademark, formula or secret process that is a result of their own work or invention. These royalties count towards the \$5,000 income threshold, as well as towards the \$1,000 that claimants can earn per month while receiving the Benefit. However, royalty payments received from work that took place before the period for which a person applies for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit do not count as income during that specific benefit period. Other royalties (i.e., from investment activities) do not count with respect to the Benefit.

## Payment

How much could I receive through the CERB?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you would receive \$500 per week to a maximum of 16 weeks.

The Benefit is taxable -- you will be expected to report it as income when you file your income tax for the 2020 tax year.

When and how will I receive my CERB payment? Is there a waiting period?

There is no waiting period so you will receive your Benefit within 10 days of applying.

Payments will be made through direct deposit or by cheque; however direct deposit is faster.

Your payments will be retroactive to the date you became eligible.

If I would be entitled to more than the \$500 per week under EI, will I get the higher amount?

No.

You will receive \$500 per week, regardless of what you may have been eligible to receive through Employment Insurance.

However, once you are finished receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, you will still be eligible to receive Employment Insurance at the higher rate provided you cannot find a job. Getting the Canada Emergency Response Benefit does not affect your EI entitlement.

If I would have been entitled to less than the \$500 per week under EI, will I get the \$500?

Yes.

You will receive \$500 per week, regardless of what you may have been eligible to receive through Employment Insurance.

What happens if I get a CERB payment I am not entitled to because I applied twice - once to the Canada Revenue Agency and once to Service Canada?

Canadians should only apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit from either Service Canada **OR** the Canada Revenue Agency, not both. If you have already applied for Employment Insurance benefits but haven't received your benefits yet, you should not submit another application.

While there will not be any penalty for Canadians if you have received a payment in error, you will have to repay the CERB benefits for which you are not entitled and will receive a letter from the CRA providing you with further information about the repayment process.

Specifically, if you have received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit twice for the same benefit period, you are requested to return one of the payments to the Canada Revenue Agency using the following procedure:

- If you still have the original Canada Emergency Response Benefit cheque, you can return the cheque by mail to the address below.
- If you received the payment by direct deposit, or deposited the cheque, you can mail your repayment to the CRA. Be sure to:
  1. Make payment out to "Receiver General for Canada"
  2. Indicate it is for "Repayment of CERB"
  3. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or your Temporary Tax Number (TTN)

Please do not send cash through the mail.

Please mail your payment to

Revenue Processing – Repayment of CERB  
Sudbury Tax Centre  
1050 Notre Dame Avenue  
Sudbury ON P3A 0C1

Once I receive my first payment, can I assume I will receive my next payment 4 weeks later?

No, the renewal of payments will not be automatic. You must confirm your eligibility for each period for which you apply either [online](#) or by phone (1-833-966-2099).

If you are receiving your Benefit through Service Canada you must complete your EI Report Card to confirm your eligibility.

### **Maternity/Parental benefits**

If I am planning on going on maternity/parental leave shortly am I eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit? Why was I put on EI regular benefits rather than the CERB? Will this impact my eligibility for Employment Insurance maternity and/or parental benefits?

- The Government of Canada is committed to addressing the situation experienced by some expectant mothers applying for the CERB and receiving regular EI benefits when they should have been receiving the CERB. Anyone entitled to the CERB should be getting the CERB.
- We are also committed that being on the CERB will not affect an expectant mother's ability to collect EI maternity and parental benefits. We have come up with a way that will not negatively impact any expectant mother who should have been receiving the CERB
- As way of background, Service Canada asks CERB applicants if they are pregnant and anticipating going on maternity/parental benefits to ensure that the claims are properly established with all the necessary information to allow the client to transition over to maternity / parental at the appropriate time without having to reapply.
- There was a limitation with the CERB system when expectant mothers disclosed they were pregnant, and women were being immediately put on EI benefits rather than the CERB. This was happening regardless of whether the expectant mother became eligible for EI before or after March 15th.
- March 15th is an important date as it determines whether a claim will be processed through the regular EI system or through the CERB system. The triggering date is not the date of application.
- Expectant mothers who lost their job and are eligible for EI prior to March 15th, should have received EI regular benefits, and when eligible, transition to EI maternity and parental benefits following the birth of their child.
  - The benefits will be paid at the rate established under EI rules.
- Expectant mothers who lost their job and are eligible for EI after March 15th should receive the CERB (to a maximum of 16 weeks) and when eligible, transition to EI maternity and parental benefits following the birth of their child.
  - CERB benefits will be paid out at the rate of \$500/week.
  - An expectant mother could potentially claim EI regular benefits in between the end of CERB and the beginning of EI maternity and parental benefits.
- Scheduled to start as of May 8th, women who should have been receiving the CERB will have their claims converted retroactively to the CERB.
  - Those who had been receiving less than the \$500 per week will receive a payment to get them up to the \$500.
  - Those who had been receiving more than the \$500 per week will not have any money clawed back, but will receive the \$500 per week flat rate from the time their claim is converted going forward.
  - The weeks for which they collect the CERB will not impact the number of weeks of maternity and parental benefits they may receive.
- The maximum number of weeks of EI regular and maternity and standard parental benefits any claimant can receive is 50 weeks, or over a longer period for claimants who choose the extended parental benefits.
  - Whereas EI regular benefits count towards this 50-week maximum, CERB benefits do not.
  - In all cases, maternity and parental benefits will be paid at the rate established under EI rules.

If I am on maternity/parental benefits, am I eligible to apply for the CERB?

You cannot receive maternity or parental benefits at the same time as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

If you cannot return to work due to COVID-19 following your maternity/parental leave, you would be considered to have stopped working due to COVID-19. If you meet the other eligibility requirements you may receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

### **Students/Apprentices**

Am I eligible for the CERB if I am a student who was working part-time and lost my job for reasons related to COVID-19?

Yes, provided you lost your job as a result of reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

I lost my job but I am receiving bursaries and/or scholarships. Can I get the CERB?

Yes, provided you stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

Student loans and bursaries do not affect eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Does the money I receive through bursaries and/or scholarships count toward the requirement for \$5000 in income?

No. Student loans and bursaries do not count toward the \$5000 in income.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from employment and/or self-employment. For those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance you may also include maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan as part of the calculation for income.

Am I eligible for the CERB if I am in an apprenticeship program, receiving funding through the Employment Insurance Program, and lose my job as a result of COVID-19?

No, but you could be eligible to continue receiving your Employment Insurance benefits.

### ***Retired persons***

Are people who lost their job but are receiving a pension eligible for the CERB?

Yes, provided you stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

Pension income does not affect eligibility to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Does pension income count towards the \$5000 income requirement for the CERB?

No. Pension income does not count toward the \$5000 in income.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from employment and/or self-employment. For those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance you may also include maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan as part of the calculation for income.

### ***Persons with Disabilities***

Can I get the CERB if I am receiving disability benefits?

Yes, provided you stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19 and meet the other eligibility criteria.

Disability benefits do not affect eligibility to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Does the money I receive through my disability benefits count toward the requirement for \$5000 in income?

No. Funding received through disability benefits does not count toward the \$5000 in income.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from employment and/or self-employment. For those who are not eligible for Employment Insurance you may also include maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan as part of the calculation for income.

### ***Part-time Workers***

I am a part-time worker who has seen a reduction in my hours as a result of COVID-19. Am I eligible for the CERB?

You may be eligible if you have stopped working because of COVID-19.

When submitting your first claim, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for a period of at least 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of your claim.

When submitting subsequent claims, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for the entire four-week benefit period of your new claim.

### ***Self-employed and Independent Workers***

Are self-employed small business owners eligible for the CERB?

Yes provided they meet the eligibility criteria including that they stopped working due to COVID-19 and do not earn more than \$1000 in a period of at least 14 consecutive days in the first benefit period and for the entire four-week benefit period of any subsequent claim.

Small Business owners can receive income from their business in different ways, including as salary, business income or dividends. In determining their eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit:

- Owners who take a salary from their business should consider their pre-tax salary;
- Owners who rely on business income should consider their net pre-tax income (gross income less expenses);
- Owners who rely on dividend income should consider this as self-employment income provided it comes from non-eligible dividends (generally, those paid out of corporate income taxed at the small business rate).

Can someone qualify for CERB if they still have a small amount of income coming into their business account as a sole proprietor to pay some of their business expenses (commercial rent, utility costs, etc.) as long as they are not paying themselves any income from the business?

Yes. To be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, you must have stopped working as a result of reasons related to COVID-19 and receive less than \$1,000 in employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days within the initial four-week period for which you apply. For subsequent periods, you cannot receive more than \$1,000 in employment or self-employment income for the entire four-week period.

Are Self-Employed Fishers eligible for the CERB?

Self-employed fishers are encouraged to apply for Employment Insurance fishing benefits.

If a self-employed fisher does not meet the criteria to establish a new EI fishing benefits claim, or if they have exhausted their EI fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020 and are unable to work due to COVID-19, they may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

You cannot be in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits (including fishing benefits) and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

### **Employment Insurance**

Do I need to complete my bi-weekly EI reports?

Yes.

While you are receiving the CERB through Service Canada and the Employment Insurance program, you must complete reports to show that you are eligible and to continue to be paid.

You can complete your reports online using the [Internet Reporting Service](#) or by telephone at 1-800-531-7555.

You will need your 4-digit Access Code from Service Canada and your Social Insurance Number (SIN). Continue completing reports when they're due to continue to be paid for the duration of your claim.

Do I get a choice between collecting the EI CERB and collecting EI regular Benefits?

There are three possible scenarios in terms of which benefit you may receive:

If you became eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits prior to March 15th, you will receive the Employment Insurance benefits. You do not get to choose to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

If you became eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits March 15th onward, you will receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. You do not get to choose.

The only case where you get a choice is if you started a new EI claim within the last 52 weeks and there are still weeks payable on that claim. If you are in this situation, you can choose to:

- Automatically reactive (renew) your existing claim at the existing benefit rate; or
- Request that Service Canada end your existing claim and open a new claim for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you choose to end your existing claim, any remaining weeks payable on that existing claim will be lost and your decision is irreversible and not subject to reconsideration.

You cannot get Employment Insurance benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

I am a seasonal worker who received EI regular benefits over the off-season and I have just exhausted my benefit entitlement, but I am unable to find work due to COVID-19—am I eligible for the CERB?

Yes. You are eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if you are a former Employment Insurance claimant who used up your entitlement to your Employment Insurance regular benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020, and are unable to find work due to COVID-19.

The date for which you would potentially become eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit would be the week following your last Employment Insurance benefit payment or March 15, 2020, whichever is most recent. You may not receive EI benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

I was laid-off from my work prior to March 15, 2020 for reasons not related to COVID-19 and I have exhausted my EI regular benefits, but I am unable to find work due to COVID-19—am I eligible for the CERB?

Yes. You are eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit if you are a former Employment Insurance claimant who used up your entitlement to your Employment Insurance regular benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020, and are unable to find work due to COVID-19.

The date for which you would potentially become eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit would be the week following your last Employment Insurance benefit payment or March 15, 2020, whichever is most recent. You may not receive EI benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

Are individuals who are part of work-sharing agreements eligible for the CERB?

No. Individuals who are part of work-sharing agreements are not eligible as you cannot be getting Employment Insurance Benefits and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit at the same time.

Employers and workers can continue to enter into Work-Sharing agreements. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit has no impact on claims subject to Work-Sharing agreements. These claims continue to be processed using the standard rules for calculating Work-Sharing benefits.

Are individuals who are working while on claim eligible for the CERB if they lose their jobs for reasons related to COVID-19?

You cannot be paid Employment Insurance benefits as part of working while on claim and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

However, if you lose your job for reasons related to COVID-19 you will no longer be eligible for working while on claim. You may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

I am a fisher who received Employment Insurance fishing benefits over the off-season and I have just exhausted my benefit entitlement, but I am unable to find work due to COVID-19—am I eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

If a self-employed fisher does not meet the criteria to establish a new EI fishing benefits claim, or if they have exhausted their EI fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020 and are unable to work due to COVID-19, they may be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

You may not receive Employment Insurance benefits (including fishing benefits) and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit for the same period.

Can employers use a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) plan to increase their employee's weekly earnings while they are unemployed and collecting the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

Given the simplified design of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the provisions that exist under the Employment Insurance (EI) system for employers to make additional payments to workers through SUB plans do not apply to employees who are receiving the CERB. However, eligible individuals collecting the CERB and receiving \$2,000 for a 4-week period may earn up to \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income in each of their benefit periods from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020 while continuing to receive the CERB. This represents 50% of the amount of the benefit. Employers who wish to increase their employees weekly earnings while they are unemployed have the flexibility to top-up CERB benefits up to this amount in lieu of a SUB plan. However, individuals who receive income from employment, including top-ups, in excess of \$1,000 over each four week period for which they claim the CERB would have to repay CERB amounts they received for the same benefit period.

Employers that wish to do so may continue to submit a SUB plan to Service Canada. By registering a plan, employers can make payments to employees who are currently receiving EI regular or sickness benefits, and will also be prepared should employees need EI benefits at a future time.

Eligible employers may also choose to claim the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which provides a subsidy of 75 percent of employee wages, up to a maximum of \$847. To the extent that they can, employers are encouraged to continue to pay employees their normal salaries if it is above the amount supported through the CEWS.

### **[Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\) – Who can apply](#)**

You cannot apply for the CERB with CRA if you already applied through Service Canada

If you have completed an application for Employment Insurance (EI) or for the CERB through Service Canada and have received a payment or are waiting for a payment from Service Canada, you cannot apply for the CERB with the CRA.

If you are applying for the CERB for the first time, and not sure where to apply, answer the questions under Get started, on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit page. We will direct you to the service option that best fits your situation.

To be eligible, you must meet the following conditions:

- You did not apply for, nor receive, CERB or EI benefits from Service Canada for the same eligibility period
- You did not quit your job voluntarily
- You reside in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- You earned a minimum of \$5,000 (before taxes) in the last 12 months, or in 2019, from one or more of the following sources:
  - employment income
  - self-employment income
  - provincial benefit payments related to maternity or parental leave
- One of the following:
  - Your work hours have been reduced because of COVID-19 (see last checkbox below for more details)
  - You have stopped or will stop working because of COVID 19
  - You are unable to work because of COVID-19, for example because you are taking care of someone
  - Your regular or fishing EI benefits have run out (any time between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020)
- One of the following:
  - If you are applying for the first time: You have stopped or will stop working, or you are working reduced hours due to COVID-19, and you don't expect to earn over \$1,000 in employment or self-employment income for at least 14 days in a row during the 4-week period. New
  - If you are applying for a subsequent period: You are still not working, or you are working reduced hours due to COVID-19, and don't expect to earn over \$1,000 in employment or self-employment income, and you expect this to continue during the entire 4-week period. New

The current eligibility period is May 10, 2020 to June 6, 2020. The next eligibility period is June 7, 2020 to July 4, 2020.

We will verify eligibility

The CRA will be verifying that individuals are eligible to receive the benefit. In cases where claimants are found to be ineligible, they will be contacted to make arrangements to repay any applicable amounts.

As part of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the CRA will be comparing employers' payroll records with information provided by CERB claimants to ensure that individuals who have returned to work and who have therefore become ineligible for the CERB repay those amounts.

Applying for CERB with CRA

How to apply

Determine your eligibility periods

An eligibility period is a fixed 4-week payment period. Each period has a pre-set start and end date. This means when you apply for the CERB, you will receive a payment for a specific 4-week period.

Display eligibility periods

If your situation continues, you can re-apply for another 4-week period, up to a maximum of 4 periods (or 16 weeks in total).

Before you apply

To ensure your application will be as easy and quick as possible, here is how to get started:

1. If you are applying online, you will need a CRA My Account

Do you have a CRA My Account?

- Yes - I have a CRA My Account
- Yes - but I forget my CRA user ID or password

- Yes - but I'm locked out
  - No - but I have a My Service Canada Account
  - No - I don't have an account, and I have filed a tax return for either the 2018 or 2019 calendar years
  - No - I don't have an account, and I have filed tax returns for calendar years prior to 2018
  - No - I don't have an account, and I have never filed a tax return before with the CRA
2. You can get your payment by direct deposit (in 3 business days) or by cheque (in 10 business days)
- Is your direct deposit and mailing information up to date with the CRA?
- Yes – My direct deposit and mailing information is up to date with the CRA
  - No - I need to update direct deposit and mailing information

The CERB may impact your social assistance benefits

If you receive provincial or territorial Social (Income or Disability) Assistance, you may want to consult your Provincial or Territorial Social Assistance Office before applying for the CERB.

First Nations living on-reserve should contact the Band Administration Office.

Determine when to (re)apply

Whether you apply online or by phone, we want to provide the best service possible to everyone. To help manage this, we have set up specific days when you may apply. To find out when you can apply:

Select your birth month (required)

Alternative format: When to (re)apply

March 15 to April 11 eligibility period and days to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 7
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	April 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable
April 12 to May 9 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 13
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 14
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	April 15
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 16
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable

May 10 to June 6 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	May 11
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	May 12
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	May 13
October, November, or December	Thursdays	May 14
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable
June 7 to July 4 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	June 8
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	June 9
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	June 10
October, November, or December	Thursdays	June 11
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable

July 5 to August 1 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	July 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	July 7
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	July 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	July 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable
August 2 to August 29 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	August 3
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	August 4
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	August 5
October, November, or December	Thursdays	August 6
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable

August 30 to September 26 eligibility period, day to apply for the CERB		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your first day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	August 31
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	September 1
July, August, or September	Wednesdays	September 2
October, November, or December	Thursdays	September 3
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	Not applicable

Apply online or by phone

If you do not have a CRA My Account, register for one.

By phone:

Call the automated toll-free line

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern time) for maintenance.

The CERB is a taxable benefit

You will need to report any payments you received on next year's income tax return. A tax slip will be made available for the 2020 tax year in CRA My Account under Tax Information Slips (T4 and more).

Applying for CERB with CRA

Keep getting your payments

Re-apply for the CERB

If your situation continues, you should apply for the CERB again for another 4-week period, up to a maximum of 4 periods (16 weeks total).

When and how to expect your payment

If you are eligible for the CERB, you can expect \$2,000 (\$500 per week) for a pre-set 4-week period.

The CERB is paid by direct deposit in 3 business days if you have direct deposit with the CRA. If you don't, you should get a cheque in about 10 business days.

Applying for CERB with CRA

Return or repay a payment

Why you would send the CERB back

The CRA has provided convenient ways for you to get the CERB as quickly as possible. Most people are able to complete the application in under 2 minutes, and receive payments through direct deposit within 2 business days.

The CRA also needs to ensure that the CERB is paid to and kept only by those individuals who are eligible.

You must repay the CERB if you no longer meet the eligibility requirements for the 4-week period in question. This could happen if:

- you earned employment or self-employment income earlier than expected
- you applied for the CERB but later realize you're not eligible
- you receive a CERB payment from both Service Canada and the CRA for the same period

If you applied for the CERB twice in one period Do I have to repay my CERB if I get rehired or find a new job?

Repayment conditions

The conditions around paying back the CERB are different if you're paying back your first eligibility period, or a subsequent period.

For your first eligibility period For subsequent eligibility periods

Impact on tax slips

The CERB is taxable. You will receive a T4A tax slip on the amount of CERB you receive.

If you repay the CERB, the CRA won't issue a T4A for that payment. To ensure that we don't issue slips improperly, you need to repay your CERB before December 31, 2020.

If you need more time to repay

How to return or repay the CERB

You have the option to return or repay your CERB payment now.

If you were paid by direct deposit or don't have the original CERB cheque If you still have the original CERB cheque

Mail back your payment

Revenue Processing – Repayment of CERB  
Sudbury Tax Centre  
1050 Notre Dame Avenue  
Sudbury ON P3A 0C3 Applying for CERB with CRA

## Applying for CERB with CRA

### **Contact us about CERB**

To determine if you should apply for the **CERB through EI or the CRA**, answer the questions under [Get started](#), on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit page.

Online:

What you can do online:

- update your address and your direct deposit information
- apply for the CERB

CRA My Account

[Register](#)

My Service Canada Account (EI)

## Applying online

You can only apply online using My Service Canada Account if you **switch to your Canada Revenue Agency account** after signing in.

[Register](#)

By phone:

The CERB is delivered by both Service Canada (using EI) and the CRA.

You **must** contact the department you applied with.

If you are not sure who you applied with

**You should contact CRA if:**

- the application you filled out was very short
- you applied through CRA [My Account](#) or applied with an automated phone service
- you were asked what period of eligibility you were applying for and then had to certify that you met the eligibility requirements

Note: It is possible you may have logged in to [My Service Canada Account](#) and then switched to CRA [My Account](#) to apply.

**You should contact Service Canada if:**

- you applied online and did not need to enter a user ID or password. Applying by telephone was not available
- you were asked several questions, similar to an employment insurance (EI) application, including the type of EI benefits you were applying for and the name of your former employer

If you applied for the CERB with CRA Ask about the status of your CERB payment

Contact the CRA at:  
**1-800-959-8281**

Update your address or direct deposit information

Contact the CRA at:  
**1-800-959-8281**

Questions about reapplying for the CERB

Contact the CRA at:  
**1-833-966-2099**

If you applied using Employment Insurance (Service Canada) Ask about the status of your CERB payment

Contact Service Canada at:  
**1-833-699-0299**

Update your address or direct deposit information

Contact Service Canada at:  
**1-800-206-7218**

Missing your access code for EI reports

If it's been 15 days since your application and you still are missing your access code, sign into your My Service Canada Account to get your access code.

If you don't have access to your My Service Canada Account, you can sign into your My CRA Account and follow the link in the lower right to My Service Canada Account to get your access code.

Or you contact Service Canada at:  
**1-800-206-7218**

Get help with EI reports

You will need to complete [EI reports over the phone](#) or [file your EI reports online](#) to keep receiving the CERB.

Get help with your EI reports:  
**1-800-206-7218**

More about [Employment Insurance \(EI\)](#)

All other inquiries for applications on or after March 15th

Contact Service Canada at:  
**1-833-699-0299**

All other inquiries for applications before March 15th

Contact Service Canada at:  
**1-800-206-7218**

Get help applying:

Questions about eligibility or how to apply (including applying for other periods)

Find answers to common questions:  
**1-833-966-2099**

If you are unable to apply with CRA My Account or by phone

Contact the CRA at:  
**1-800-959-8281**

## Links

- [Who can apply: Applying for CERB with CRA](#) [updated May 11]  
Who can get the CERB
- [How to apply: Applying for CERB with CRA](#)  
When and how to apply for the CERB

- [Keep getting your payments: Applying for CERB with CRA](#)  
How to re-apply for the CERB and when you can expect it
- [Return or repay a payment: Applying for CERB with CRA](#) [updated May 11]  
Why and how to return or repay the CERB
- [Contact us about CERB](#)  
How to contact the CRA with your questions about the CERB

## [Bill C-17 \(First Reading June 10, 2020\). An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures](#)

.....

Part 4 amends the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* to, among other things, enhance the administration and enforcement of the Act and allow a review of decisions made under the Act. It also provides that a worker is not eligible for an income support payment if they do not return to work when it is reasonable to do so or decline a reasonable job offer...

### ***Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act***

#### **Amendments to the Act**

7 Subsection 5(1) of the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* is replaced by the following:

#### Application

5(1) A worker may, in the form and manner established by the Minister, apply for an income support payment (a) for any period of four weeks falling within the period beginning on March 15, 2020 and ending on July 4, 2020; and (b) for any period of two weeks falling within the period beginning on July 5, 2020 and ending on October 3, 2020.

8(1) Paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(a) for reasons related to COVID-19 and whether as an employee or in self-employment, (i) in the case of the first application made under paragraph 5(1)(a), the worker ceases working for a period of at least 14 consecutive days within the period in respect of which they apply for the payment, or (ii) in the case of any other application made under paragraph 5(1)(a) or any application made under paragraph 5(1)(b), the worker ceases working for the period in respect of which they apply for the payment; and

(2) The portion of paragraph 6(1)(b) of the Act before subparagraph (i) is replaced by the following:

(b) the worker does not receive, in respect of the period for which they have ceased working,

(3) The portion of subsection 6(1) of the Act before paragraph (a) is replaced by the following:

#### Eligibility

6 (1) Subject to subsection (2.1), a worker is eligible for an income support payment if

(4) Section 6 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (2):

#### Exception — return to work

(2.1) A worker is not eligible for an income support payment if they (a) fail to return to work when it is reasonable to do so and the employer makes a request for their return; (b) fail to resume self-employment when it is reasonable to do so; or (c) decline a reasonable job offer when they are able to work.

9 The Act is amended by adding the following after section 8:

.....

## Request for review

8.1 (1) A person who is the subject of a decision of the Minister in respect of an application made by that person under section 5 may make a request, in the form and manner established by the Minister, to the Minister for a review of that decision at any time within 30 days after the day on which they are informed of the decision or any further time that the Minister may allow.

## Review

(2) The Minister must review the decision if a request for its review is made under subsection (1). On completion of the review, the Minister must confirm, vary or rescind the decision.

## Notification

(3) The Minister must inform the person who made the request of the Minister's decision under subsection (2).

## Review is final

(4) The Minister's confirmation, variation or rescission, as the case may be, is final and is not to be questioned or reviewed in any court.

10 The Act is amended by adding the following after section 12:

## Penalties

12.1 (1) The Minister may impose on a person who made an application for an income support payment under section 5, or on another person acting for that person, a penalty for each of the following acts or omissions if the Minister becomes aware of facts that in the Minister's opinion establish that the person or other person has

- (a) in relation to the application, made a representation that they knew was false or misleading;
- (b) being required under this Act to provide information, provided information or made a representation that they knew was false or misleading;
- (c) knowingly failed to declare to the Minister all or some of the person's income for the period in respect of which they applied for the payment;
- (d) made an application or declaration under this Act that they knew was false or misleading because of the non-disclosure of facts;
- (e) knowingly, in any manner, received an income support payment that they were not eligible to receive under this Act; or
- (f) participated in, assented to or acquiesced in an act or omission mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (e).

## Amount

(2) The Minister may set the amount of the penalty for each act or omission at not more than three times the amount of an income support payment for a week that falls within the period in respect of which the application was made.

## Limitation of imposition of penalties

12.2 A penalty must not be imposed under section 12.1 if

- (a) a prosecution for the act or omission has been initiated against the person who made an application for an income support payment under section 5 or another person who acted for that person; or
- (b) 36 months have passed since the day on which the act or omission occurred.

## Rescission, etc., of penalty

12.3 The Minister may rescind the imposition of a penalty under section 12.1, or reduce the penalty, on the presentation of new facts or on being satisfied that the penalty was imposed without knowledge of, or on the basis of a mistake as to, some material fact.

## Warning

12.4 The Minister may issue a warning instead of setting the amount of a penalty for an act or omission under subsection 12.1.

## Recovery as debt due to Her Majesty

12.5 (1) A penalty imposed under section 12.1 constitutes a debt due to Her Majesty in right of Canada that may be recovered by the Minister.

## Certificate of default

(2) The amount of any debt referred to in subsection (1) may be certified by the Minister and registration of the certificate in the Federal Court has the same effect as a judgment of that Court for the amount specified in the certificate and all related registration costs.

## Garnishment

12.6 If the Minister is of the opinion that a person is or is about to become liable to pay an amount to another person who is indebted to Her Majesty under subsection 12(2) or 12.5(1), the Minister may, by written notice, order the person to pay to the Receiver General on account of the other person's liability all or part of the amount otherwise payable to the other person.

11 Subsection 13(6) of the Act is replaced by the following:

## Limitation or prescription period suspended

(6) The running of a limitation or prescription period in respect of money owing under this Act is suspended

## Prosecution

(2) No prosecution for an offence under this section may be instituted if a penalty for that conduct has been imposed under section 12.1.

## Punishment

(3) Every person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable on summary conviction to, as the case may be,

- (a) a fine of not more than \$5,000, plus an amount of not more than double the amount of the income support payment that was or would have been paid as a result of committing the offence; or
- (b) both the fine and imprisonment for a term of not more than six months.

## Contravention of Act or regulations

14.2(1) Every person who contravenes a provision of this Act or of the regulations is guilty of an offence.

## Obstruction

(2) Every person who delays or obstructs an investigator designated under subsection 14.3(1) or under an authorization issued under subsection 14.3(2) in the investigator's exercise of the Minister's powers or in their performance of the Minister's duties and functions under this Act is guilty of an offence.

## Punishment

(3) Every person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) for which no penalty is provided is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both.

## Designation — investigators

14.3 (1) The Minister may designate as an investigator any person or class of persons for the purpose of enforcing sections 14.1 and 14.2.

## Authorization

(2) The Minister may authorize the Commissioner, as defined in section 2 of the *Canada Revenue Agency Act*, to designate as an investigator any employee or class of employees of the Agency, as defined in that section 2, for the purpose of enforcing sections 14.1 and 14.2.

## Territorial jurisdiction

(3) An information or complaint about an offence under this Act may be heard, tried or determined by any provincial court judge, as defined in section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, if the accused is resident, carrying on business, found, apprehended or in custody in the judge's territorial jurisdiction regardless of whether or not the matter of the information or complaint arose in that jurisdiction.

## Limitation period

(4) Proceedings in respect of an offence under this Act may be commenced at any time within, but not later than, five years after the day on which the Minister became aware of the subject matter of the prosecution.

## Transitional Provisions

### Section 8.1

13 Section 8.1 of the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* applies regardless of the date on which the decision was made.

### Sections 12.1 and 12.4

14 Sections 12.1 and 12.4 of the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* apply regardless of the date on which the act or omission occurred.

### Section 12.6

15 Section 12.6 of the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* applies regardless of the date on which the debt arose.

## Coming into Force

March 25, 2020

16 Section 7 and subsections 8(1) and (2) are deemed to have come into force on March 25, 2020.

[See also Global News, "[Fraudulent CERB applications could land Canadians with \\$5K fine, jail time](#)" June 9, CTV News, "[A 12-minute meeting: Feds fail to get support for latest COVID-19 emergency aid bill](#)", June 10, and Global News, "[CRA has received 190K repayments of CERB benefits Canadians shouldn't have claimed](#)", June 10.]

## News Release 2020-05-07: [Prime Minister announces agreements to boost wages for essential workers](#)

While many of us are being asked to stay home, millions of Canadians are being called on to go to work every day. These Canadians are providing us with essential services, so we can continue to keep our families safe and healthy. We are relying on them now more than ever, and that is why the Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to provide them with a much-needed wage boost.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that all provinces and territories have confirmed, or are in the process of confirming, plans to cost share wage top-ups for their essential workers.

The Government of Canada will provide up to \$3 billion in support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers. Each province or territory will determine which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive.

These measures are part of the Government of Canada's comprehensive economic plan to help Canadians and businesses through this period of uncertainty. We will continue to monitor this evolving situation closely, and take additional actions as needed to protect our health and safety, and stabilize the economy.

### Quotes

"Workers are risking their health to provide us with essential care and services, and we need to make sure that they are paid properly for the work they do every day. We're stepping up, and working with the provinces and territories, to give a much-needed wage boost to Canadians who are helping keep our country and economy strong during this difficult time."

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"Canada's front line workers are dealing directly with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by taking care of Canadians in our hospitals and nursing homes. They deserve our support. This measure will help workers critical to the current COVID-19 response get the compensation they need."

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

### Quick Facts

- The Government of Canada has announced targeted new initiatives to support Canadians through the COVID-19 pandemic, such as:
  - Introducing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. The government also extended the eligibility of this benefit to individuals who earn up to \$1,000 per month, as well as workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.
  - Providing families who receive the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) an extra \$300 per child for the month of May.
  - Providing a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low- and modest-income families. The average additional benefit is close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.
  - Providing approximately \$9 billion towards various measures, including the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, to support post-secondary students and recent graduates who are unable to secure employment in order to help them overcome the challenges brought on by the pandemic.
  - Extending the maximum duration of the Work-Sharing program, from 38 weeks to 76 weeks, for workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.
  - Allowing all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, and before September 2020.

### Associated Links

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

- [Prime Minister announces more support for workers and businesses through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Prime Minister announces expanded access to Canada Emergency Response Benefit and support for essential workers](#)

**News Release 2020-04-15: Prime Minister announces expanded access to Canada Emergency Response Benefit and support for essential workers**

The Government of Canada is taking significant and decisive action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. No Canadian should have to choose between protecting their health, putting food on the table, paying for their medication or caring for a family member. This is why the government introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every four weeks for up to four months for eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that the government is stepping up to better support those who need help but don't qualify for the CERB, and Canadians working in essential jobs who make less than they would if they received the benefit.

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government will be changing the eligibility rules to:

- 1) Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB;
- 2) Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their usual seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak;
- 3) Extend the CERB to workers who recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed particular demands on low-income workers in certain sectors, including those on the front-line in hospitals and nursing homes, those ensuring the integrity of the food supply, or providing essential retail services to Canadians. In recognition that these essential workers' salaries are often less or similar than what they would receive from the CERB, the government will work with provinces and territories through a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top-up to the salaries of workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19, who make less than \$2,500 a month. Details as to the application and delivery of this measure will be released shortly following further work with provinces and territories. This measure could help several million workers currently involved in the COVID-19 response. The government will continue to look for ways to better help all Canadians during this difficult time.

**Quick Facts**

- The government is working to get money into the pockets of Canadians as quickly as possible. Canadians begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. Canadians will have to apply every four weeks, attesting that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the CERB payment, which will be available to individuals for a maximum of 16 weeks, until October 3, 2020.
- The more accessible CERB and the top-up for low-income essential workers are part of the government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which committed \$107 billion in support to Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of COVID-19.

**Backgrounder 2020-04-15: Expanding access to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and proposing a new wage boost for essential workers**

**Ensuring that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit helps those who need it**

The government established the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to support workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This taxable benefit provides \$2,000 every four weeks for up to four months to workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB covers Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures. The CERB also applies to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and are unable to work due to COVID-19. Additionally, workers who are still employed, but

are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19, also qualify for the CERB. This will help businesses keep their employees as they navigate these difficult times, while ensuring they preserve the ability to quickly resume operations as soon as it becomes possible.

The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the following conditions:

- live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
- have not voluntarily quit their job
- had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government is announcing changes to the eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

These changes will be retroactive to March 15, 2020 . More details will be posted on the portal shortly.

### ***A new wage boost for essential workers***

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed particular demands on low-income workers in certain sectors, including those on the front-line in hospitals and nursing homes, those ensuring the integrity of the food supply, or providing essential retail services to Canadians. With today's announcement, the Government of Canada will work with provinces and territories through a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top up to the salaries of low-income essential workers that the provinces and territories have deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19.

The Government of Canada will cover a portion of the cost of providing temporary financial support to these low-income workers, thereby helping to support employers in keeping their workers on staff, while also ensuring fairness. Through this new transfer, provinces and territories will be able to provide their low-income essential workers (those who earn less than \$2,500 per month), with a top up. This will provide a much needed boost to those on the front-line in hospitals, those caring for seniors in long-term care facilities, those working so hard to make sure that there that is food on our shelves and tables, and others. We continue to work with provinces and territories on the delivery of this measure and further details will be released shortly.

Quebec and British Columbia have already implemented direct wage support for low-income workers in the essential service sectors. With today's announcement, the federal government will be sharing the cost of this wage support through the new transfer to these provinces.

### ***Backgrounder 2020-04-01: Canada Emergency Response Benefit (Employment and Social Development Canada)***

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit provides temporary emergency income support to workers who have stopped working and are without employment or self-employment income for reasons related to COVID-19.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit replaces the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit announced on March 18, 2020.

#### Eligibility

The CERB will be available to workers: 1) residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old; 2) who have stopped working because of COVID-19; 3) who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their

application; and 4) who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period.

For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment income.

The Benefit is also available to workers who, after March 15, are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits.

The income of at least \$5,000 may be from any or a combination of the following sources: employment; self-employment; maternity and parental benefits under the Employment Insurance program and/or similar benefits paid in Quebec under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.

The Benefit is only available to individuals who stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. If you have not stopped working because of COVID-19, you are not eligible for the Benefit.

#### Application process

- Applications for the CERB will open on April 6, 2020 at [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus).
- Applicants will be asked simple questions that help direct them to one of two service options:
- Canadians who would generally be eligible for EI benefits will be directed to apply for the CERB through Service Canada through Appliweb; or
- Canadians who would generally not be eligible for EI benefits will be directed to apply for the CERB through the CRA's MyAccount or CRA's automated toll-free line at 1-800-959-2019.

Canadians calling the toll-free line at 1-800-959-2019 will be connected to the CRA's automated telephone system. This is a dedicated line for CERB applications.

Applicants will need to affirm that they meet the eligibility criteria and information that individuals provide during the application process may be verified at a later time.

The benefit is available from March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020. You can apply no later than December 2, 2020.

#### Applying online

Canadians can get ready to apply for the CERB by signing up to My Account or My Service Canada Account. They should also make sure their direct deposit and mailing information is up to date with the CRA.

#### Amount

The CERB will be paid in blocks of four weeks in the amount of \$2,000, which is equivalent to \$500 per week. If an individual's situation continues, they can re-apply for a payment for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

#### Processing time

Once the application process opens as of April 6, 2020, Canadians can expect to receive payments within three to five business days through direct deposit or within 10 business days by cheque.

[See also Finance News Release 2020-03-25: [Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses; Benefits, credits and financial support: CRA and COVID-19](#) (updated May 28); and [What to do if the Canada Revenue Agency reviews your benefits](#)]

### **Employment Insurance Regular Benefits**

See Canada.ca under “[EI regular benefits: Apply](#)”. Also, see Part 18 of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*, [P.C. 2020-153](#) (SOR/2020-44), *Regulations Amending the Employment Insurance Regulations*; [SOR/2020-61](#) Interim Order Amending the Employment Insurance Act (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit); [SOR/2020-88](#) Interim Order No. 2 Amending the *Employment Insurance Act* (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit), Canada Gazette, Part II, Volume 154, Number 9, April 16, 2020; [SOR/2020-89](#) Interim Order No. 3 Amending the Employment Insurance Act (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit); [SOR/2020-95](#), *Interim Order No. 4 Amending the Employment Insurance Act (Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit)*, May 13, 2020; and P.C. 2020-335 (SOR/2020-111), *Regulations Amending the Employment Insurance Regulations* (The EI Regulations are amended to replace the date of May 30, 2020, in subsec. 77.992(2) with the date of Oct. 30, 2021. This expands the time period in which the extra weeks are made available to eligible seasonal claimants under Pilot Project No. 21. Published in the Canada Gazette, Part II on June 10, 2020).

### **Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)**

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19.

This benefit is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

From May to August 2020, the CESB provides a payment to eligible students of:

**\$1,250**

For each 4-week period

**\$2,000**

For each 4-week period, if you have dependants or a disability

#### **To look for a job:**

Visit [Job Bank](#)

By using the Job Bank, you can keep track of your job search activities in one place.

### **Sections [click the link for details]**

- [Who can apply: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
Who is eligible for the CESB
- [How much you can get: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
Payment amounts and dates for CESB eligibility periods
- [Which periods you can apply for: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
Determine how many CESB eligibility periods you can apply for
- [How to apply: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
When and how to apply for the CESB
- [Keep getting your payments: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
Looking for work during COVID-19 and when to re-apply for the CESB
- [Return or repay a payment: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
When and how to return or repay CESB
- [Contact us about CESB: Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)  
How to contact the CRA with questions about CESB

### **News Release 2020-05-13: Canada Emergency Student Benefit application period to launch on May 15, 2020**

From: Employment and Social Development Canada

Post-secondary students across Canada are facing unprecedented challenges as they work to complete their studies and find summer jobs in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, the

Government of Canada is providing direct support to students and recent graduates who are facing a very different job market this summer.

Today, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, along with the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue, announced that the application period for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will begin on Friday, May 15, 2020. The CESB, which will be delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), will provide temporary income support to eligible post-secondary students and new graduates who are unable to work or find work this summer due to COVID-19, or are working and are not making over \$1000.

If you are able to work, you must be actively looking for a job to be eligible to receive the CESB. If you still cannot find work due to COVID-19, or do not earn more than \$1,000, you can re-apply for each CESB eligibility period that you are eligible for. Registering with JobBank.gc.ca is a way for students to find available opportunities to earn an income and meaningful work experience that will help them succeed in the future.

The CESB will be available from May to August 2020 to students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and who are enrolled in a post-secondary education program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; or who ended their studies no earlier than December 2019. It will also be available to Canadian students studying abroad, as well as high school graduates who will be starting a post-secondary program in the coming months. The CESB will provide \$1,250 every four weeks to eligible students, or \$2,000 every four weeks to eligible students with disabilities, or those with children or other dependants.

The CRA will offer the same fast and easy application process that has delivered CERB payments to millions of Canadians. Starting on May 15, 2020, eligible students will be able to apply for the CESB online through their CRA My Account or by phone through CRA's automated toll-free line. To help manage the volume of applications, applicants will be asked to apply over four days depending on their month of birth, and can expect their payment in three business days from when they are deemed eligible if they are using direct deposit.

To get ready to apply, the CRA is encouraging eligible students to take three easy steps:

1. Create a profile with the CRA by calling 1-800-959-8281 (for students who have never filed a tax return)
2. Register for a CRA My Account as it is the fastest and easiest way to complete an application
3. Enroll in Direct Deposit to have CESB payments deposited directly into their bank accounts. Financial institutions across the country are also allowing Canadians to sign up for CRA Direct Deposit through their bank portals in a few easy steps.

The Government of Canada remains fully committed to supporting all Canadians during this global pandemic. The Government will continue to carefully consider any additional steps it can take to do just that.

## Quotes

*"During these unprecedented times, summer jobs are more scarce, leaving post-secondary students worried about making ends meet. Through the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, the Government of Canada is providing students with the support they need to keep a roof over their heads. When Canada emerges from this pandemic, we want to ensure students are in a financial position to continue their studies so they can pursue fruitful careers."*

*-The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion*

*"Canadian students are the future of our country and we recognize that they are also heavily affected by the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, we have taken decisive actions to ensure that they are not left behind. The CRA has successfully delivered millions of dollars in benefits to those who need it most and it will continue this vital work by supporting students through the Canada Emergency Student Benefit."*

*-The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue*

*"Young Canadians are not just the leaders of tomorrow – they are leaders today. Our role – now more than ever – is to provide them with the assistance they need to help them reach their potential. The Canada Emergency Student Benefit*

*will do just that. It is a key element of the suite of programs our Government is offering to support Canadian students in navigating the uncertainty of COVID-19.”*

*-The Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth*

## Quick facts

- The CESB could help approximately one million students who are facing a very different job market this summer due to COVID-19 pay their bills.
- The CESB will be available between May and August 2020 for post-secondary students and graduates. For high school students and those working towards the equivalent of a high school diploma, the CESB will be available between:
  - May and August 2020 if they receive a high school diploma or equivalent before May 10, 2020;
  - June and August 2020 if they receive a high school diploma or equivalent between May 10, 2020 and June 6, 2020; and
  - July and August 2020 if they receive, or are to receive, a high school diploma or equivalent between June 2020 and December 2020.
- On April 22, 2020, the Prime Minister announced a comprehensive suite of measures totaling approximately \$9 billion, aimed at helping students and new graduates affected by COVID-19. Those measures include the CESB, as well as the doubling of student grant amounts and a raised cap on student loans for the upcoming school year. A six-month, interest-free moratorium on student loan repayment is already in effect.
- The CESB is part of the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which already commits \$146 billion in support to Canadians and businesses through these unprecedented times.

## Backgrounder: The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (From: Employment and Social Development Canada)

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provides emergency financial relief to students and recent graduates who are unable to work, or unable to find work, due to reasons related to COVID-19. It is also available for those who are working but not making more than \$1,000 (before taxes) over the four-week period for which they are applying.

## Eligibility

Students, including those studying abroad, are eligible for the CESB if they are:

- a Canadian citizen, including dual citizens;
- a registered Indian under the *Indian Act*;
- a permanent resident; or
- a protected person.

There are no age restrictions for who is eligible for the CESB.

When applying, students must attest that for COVID-19 related reasons, they are:

- unable to work; or
- seeking work but are unable to find it; or
- working but unable to make more than \$1,000 (before taxes) over the four-week period for which they are applying.

For those seeking work but are unable to find it, they must continue to actively be looking for a job to be eligible to receive the CESB. If the individual still cannot find work due to COVID-19, or cannot earn more than \$1,000, they can re-apply for each CESB eligibility period that you are eligible for. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) may ask you to provide information later to verify that you have been looking for work during the eligibility period(s) that you have applied for.

In addition, students are not eligible for CESB if they are receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance benefits for the same four-week period as their current application.

Students working full-time or part-time can earn up to \$1,000 (before taxes) during the four-week period for which they are applying for CESB. The \$1,000 includes:

- employment/self-employment income;
- taxable benefits and allowances provided by an employer;
- tips a student may earn while working;
- non-eligible dividends;
- honoraria (e.g., nominal amounts paid to emergency service volunteers); and
- royalties (e.g., paid to artists).

The \$1,000 limit does not include:

- pensions, student grants and loans, scholarships, bursaries, graduate stipends
- family, common-law, and spousal income
- graduate stipends and bursaries
- educational funding for indigenous students through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)

If a recipient is later deemed to be ineligible—for example, because they earned more than \$1,000 before taxes during the four-week period for which they received the benefit—they would need to repay the CESB through their CRA My Account.

Three categories of students are eligible for the CESB:

#### 1. Students enrolled in a post-secondary education program

To be considered a post-secondary program for the purpose of the CESB, a program must meet ALL of the following criteria:

1. Taken at post-secondary level (means education at a university or college level, including education of a technical or vocational nature and vocational training at the secondary level in Quebec);
2. A series of courses that last at least 12 weeks and lead to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and
3. At a listed institution (from the Government of Canada's Master List of Designated Educational Institutions or the Master List of Certified Educational Institutions, or Quebec's *Répertoire des Établissements d'enseignement et des Programmes d'études*; or an Indigenous Institution recognized by a province or territory).

Failure to meet any of the three criteria listed above would make a person ineligible. The CESB will be available to both part-time and full-time post-secondary students, as well as summer students.

Canadians in apprenticeship programs who meet the eligibility criteria (currently enrolled in a PSE program) would also qualify for the CESB so long as they do not qualify for, or are in receipt of, the CERB, and do not earn more than \$1,000 (before taxes) per month.

#### 2. Students who have graduated from or left their post-secondary studies no earlier than December 2019

#### 3. Students who have completed, or will complete, high school in 2020 and have applied for a post-secondary educational program that begins before February 1, 2021

- High school students who complete, or expect to complete their studies between June 7 and December 31, 2020, and have applied for **post-secondary studies** and are intending to pursue it, are eligible to receive two months of the CESB (July and August).

- Those who complete high school before June 7, 2020 are eligible to apply for the period that starts after their graduation. For example, if a student graduates on May 30, 2020, they can apply for three periods of the CESB (June to August). This also applies to students receiving their high school equivalency.
- High school students who have left their studies without graduating are not eligible. Only high school students who graduate in 2020 and who have applied to a post-secondary educational program beginning before February 1st, 2021 are eligible to apply.
- Students enrolled in CEGEP, and students who graduated from their CEGEP program no earlier than December 2019, can also apply for the CESB.

International students, temporary workers who have a SIN beginning with “9”, and non-resident students with international tax numbers are not eligible for the CESB.

## Payment

Eligible students can receive \$1,250 per month, plus an additional \$750 per month if they have dependents or a disability for a maximum of \$2,000 per month. Students are only eligible to receive one top-up of \$750 per month.

A student with a disability must attest to having an impairment, such as a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment, or a functional limitation—whether permanent or episodic in nature, or evident or not—that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.

A student with a dependent must attest that they are supporting a dependent to receive the top-up amount. A student with a dependent is someone who has at least one child (including an adopted child, a stepchild, or a foster child) under the age of 12, or a person with disability who is wholly dependent on them or their spouse/common-law partner.

Students will receive a T4A that includes the CESB they received to use for filing their 2020 income tax returns.

## Application

Students and recent graduates can apply for the CESB through the Canada Revenue Agency’s My Account, and will need a Social Insurance Number to apply. Eligible Canadians are encouraged to choose the direct deposit payment option and ensure their contact information is up-to-date prior to applying to ensure a smooth and timely receipt of funds.

Eligible students must reapply for the CESB for each four-week period and must meet the eligibility criteria each time.

Since individuals can only receive this benefit during a four-week period, students cannot receive the CESB if they are receiving the CERB or EI for any part of the same four-week period.

Applicants will be required to attest to meeting the eligibility criteria, and that the information they are providing is accurate.

Students do not need to provide documents as part of their CESB application; however, they should have documents readily available if they are requested.

CESB is available for four months from May 2020 to August 2020 but students will be able to retroactively apply for this benefit until September 30, 2020.

## Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act

S.C. 2020, c. 7

Assented to 2020-05-01

An Act respecting Canada emergency student benefits (coronavirus disease 2019)

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

**1** This Act may be cited as the [Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act](#).

**2** The following definitions apply in this Act.

*Minister* means the Minister of Employment and Social Development. (ministre)

*student* means a person who is a Canadian citizen, a person registered as an Indian under the [Indian Act](#), a *permanent resident* as defined in subsection 2(1) of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#) or a protected person within the meaning of subsection 95(2) of that Act and who

- (a) is enrolled, at any time between December 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020, in a post-secondary educational program that leads to a degree, diploma or certificate;
- (b) has graduated from secondary school in 2020, has applied for enrollment in such a post-secondary educational program that is scheduled to begin before February 1, 2021 and plans to enroll in the program if their application is accepted; or
- (c) is a member of a class of persons that is prescribed by regulation. (étudiant)

*week* means the period of seven consecutive days beginning on and including Sunday. (semaine)

**3** With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting the meaning of the term “post-secondary educational program” for the purposes of the definition *student* in section 2; and
- (b) prescribing classes of persons for the purposes of paragraph (c) of that definition.

**4** The Minister must pay a Canada emergency student benefit to a student who makes an application under section 5 and who is eligible for the benefit.

**5** (1) A student may, in the form and manner established by the Minister, apply for a Canada emergency student benefit for any four-week period falling within the period prescribed by regulation.

(2) A student who applies on the basis that they are seeking work, whether as an employee or in self-employment, but are unable to find it must, in their application, attest to the fact that they are seeking work.

(3) No student is permitted to file an application after September 30, 2020, and the Minister must not pay a Canada student emergency benefit to a student who files an application after that day.

(4) An applicant must provide the Minister with any information that the Minister may require in respect of the application.

(5) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may, by regulation, prescribe periods for the purposes of subsection (1).

**6** (1) A student is eligible for a Canada emergency student benefit if

(a) for reasons related to the coronavirus disease 2019 and whether as an employee or in self-employment, they are unable to work, are seeking work and unable to find it, or are working but are paid less than the amount determined under the regulations, during the four-week period for which they apply for the benefit; and

(b) they do not, in respect of any part of that four-week period, receive

- (i) subject to the regulations, income from employment or self-employment,

- (ii) *benefits*, as defined in subsection 2(1) of the [Employment Insurance Act](#), or an employment insurance emergency response benefit referred to in section 153.7 of that Act,
- (iii) allowances, money or other benefits that would be paid to the student under a provincial plan because of pregnancy or in respect of the care by the student of one or more of their new-born children or one or more children placed with them for the purpose of adoption,
- (iv) an income support payment under the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act](#), or
- (v) any other income that is prescribed by regulation.

(2) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting the meaning of terms referred to in paragraph (1)(a) and the amount referred to in that paragraph;
- (b) excluding income from the application of subparagraph (1)(b)(i); and
- (c) prescribing any other income for the purposes of subparagraph (1)(b)(v).

(3) The Minister is to make available to eligible students information about employment opportunities through a government-managed job posting system.

**7** (1) The amount of a Canada emergency student benefit for a week is the amount determined for that week under the regulations.

(2) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may make regulations respecting the amount of a Canada emergency student benefit for a week specified in the regulations.

(3) Regulations made under subsection (2) may distinguish among different classes of students.

**8** (1) The maximum number of weeks for which a student may receive Canada emergency student benefits is the number of weeks that is determined under the regulations.

(2) With the consent of the Minister of Finance, the Minister may make regulations respecting the number of weeks for the purpose of subsection (1).

**9** Regulations made under this Act may, if they so provide, have retroactive effect.

**10** The Minister is authorized to collect and use, for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of this Act, the Social Insurance Number of a person who makes an application under this Act.

**11** The Minister may, for any purpose related to verifying compliance or preventing non-compliance with this Act, by notice served personally or by confirmed delivery service, require that any person provide any information or document within the reasonable time that is stated in the notice.

**12** A Canada emergency student benefit

- (a) is not subject to the operation of any law relating to bankruptcy or insolvency;
- (b) cannot be assigned, charged, attached or given as security;
- (c) cannot be retained by way of deduction, set-off or compensation under any Act of Parliament other than this Act; and
- (d) is not garnishable moneys for the purposes of the [Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act](#).

**13** (1) If the Minister determines that a person has been paid a Canada emergency student benefit to which the person is not entitled, or an amount in excess of the amount of such a benefit to which the person is entitled, the person must repay the amount of the benefit or the excess amount, as the case may be, as soon as is feasible.

(2) The amount of the erroneous payment or overpayment, as determined by the Minister, constitutes a debt due to Her Majesty in right of Canada, as of the day on which it was paid, that may be recovered by the Minister.

(3) The amount of any debt referred to in subsection (2) may be certified by the Minister, and registration of the certificate in the Federal Court has the same effect as a judgment of that Court for the amount specified in the certificate and all related registration costs.

## SOR/2020-105 – Canada Emergency Student Benefit Regulations

### CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT ACT

#### Definitions

**1. Definitions** — The following definitions apply in these Regulations.

**Act** means the *Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act*.

**dependant**, in relation to a student, means

(a) a child (including an adopted child, a stepchild or a foster child) who is under 12 years of age and is wholly dependent on the student or the student's spouse or common-law partner for their care and upbringing; or

(b) a person with a disability who is wholly dependent on the student or the student's spouse or common-law partner for their care and upbringing.

**disability** means any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — whether permanent or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, as defined in section 2 of the *Accessible Canada Act*, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

**2. Post-secondary educational program** — For the purpose of the definition *student* in section 2 of the Act, a post-secondary educational program includes a series of courses taken over a period of at least 12 weeks at the post-secondary level at

(a) an educational institution set out in the *Master List of Designated Educational Institutions*, published by the Government of Canada on its website;

(b) an educational institution set out in the *Master List of Certified Educational Institutions*, published by the Government of Canada on its website;

(c) an educational institution set out in the *Directory of Educational Institutions and Programs*, published by the Government of Quebec on its website; or

(d) an Indigenous institution recognized by a province.

**3. Student who is to graduate** — A person who is to graduate from secondary school in 2020, has applied for enrollment in a post-secondary educational program that leads to a degree, diploma or certificate that is scheduled to begin before February 1, 2021 and plans to enroll in the program if their application is accepted is prescribed for the purposes of paragraph (c) of the definition *student* in section 2 of the Act.

#### Canada Emergency Student Benefit

**4. Prescribed period** — For the purpose of subsection 5(1) of the Act, the prescribed period is

(a) for a student described in paragraph (a) of the definition *student* in section 2 of the Act, the period beginning on May 10, 2020 and ending August 29, 2020; and

(b) for a student described in paragraph (b) or (c) of that definition

(i) who graduates before May 10, 2020, the period beginning on May 10, 2020 and ending on August 29, 2020,

(ii) who graduates on or after May 10, 2020 but before June 7, 2020, the period beginning on June 7, 2020 and ending on August 29, 2020, and

(iii) who has not graduated before June 7, 2020, the period beginning on July 5, 2020 and ending on August 29, 2020.

**5. (1) Maximum allowable income** — An amount of income of \$1000.01 is determined for the purposes of paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Act.

(2) **Excluded income** — Any income received by a student from employment or self-employment is excluded from the application of subparagraph 6(1)(b)(i) of the Act if the total of such income received in respect of the four-week period for which they apply for the Canada emergency student benefit is \$1000 or less.

**6. Amount of benefit** — For the purpose of subsection 7(1) of the Act, the amount of a Canada emergency student benefit for any week is

(a) \$500, in the case of a student with a dependant or a student with a disability; and

(b) \$312.50, in any other case.

**7. Maximum number of weeks** — For the purposes of subsection 8(1) of the Act, the maximum number of weeks for which a student may receive a Canada emergency student benefit is 16 minus the number of weeks, if any, for which the student receives an income support payment under the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit Act* or an employment insurance emergency response benefit referred to in section 153.7 of the *Employment Insurance Act*.

### Coming into Force

**8. May 10, 2020** — These Regulations are deemed to have come into force on May 10, 2020.

## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT

### Issues

The Government of Canada recognizes that students and recent graduates are being significantly affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As many post-secondary students adapt to the new reality brought on by COVID-19, they are concerned about the effect of the pandemic on their ability to continue their studies, secure and retain summer employment, pay their bills and save for tuition in the fall. Additionally, students who are about to graduate might struggle to find employment in their field of study, which may in turn have a negative impact on the value of their education over the long term.

The *Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act* (the Act), which received royal assent on May 1, 2020, created the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) to provide financial support to post-secondary students, recent post-secondary graduates, and graduating high school students. The Act also provides the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, with the consent of the Minister of Finance, the regulatory power to adopt the measures and establish the key parameters to implement the Act.

### Objective

The objective of the *Canada Emergency Student Benefit Regulations* (the Regulations) is to provide financial support to students who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are facing challenges to find and retain employment and pay their bills by establishing key parameters needed to implement the CESB.

CESB payments to students will build on the relief provided by a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans (CSL), from March 30, 2020, to September 30, 2020, announced by the Government of Canada in March 2020.

### Description and rationale

The Regulations establish several key parameters that are not set out in the Act. Specifically, the Regulations include the following information:

- “Post-secondary educational program” includes a series of courses at a post-secondary level of at least 12 weeks in duration at

- an educational institution listed on the [Master List of Designated Educational Institutions](#);
- an educational institution listed on the [Master List of Certified Educational Institutions](#);
- an educational institution listed in the directory [Répertoire des Établissements d'enseignement et des Programmes d'études](#) published by the Government of Quebec; or
- an Indigenous educational institution recognized by a province;
- high school students who are scheduled to graduate at any time before December 31, 2020, are added as a class of students eligible for the CESB if they have applied to a post-secondary educational program scheduled to begin before February 1, 2021, and plan to attend if accepted;
- for post-secondary students and graduates, the CESB is available between May 10, 2020, and August 29, 2020;
- for high school students and those receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma, the CESB is available between
  - May 10, 2020, and August 29, 2020, if they receive a high school diploma or equivalent before May 10, 2020;
  - June 7, 2020, and August 29, 2020, if they receive a high school diploma or equivalent between May 10, 2020, and June 6, 2020; and
  - July 5, 2020, and August 29, 2020, if they receive or are to receive a high school diploma or equivalent between June 7, 2020, and December 31, 2020;
- a student may be eligible for the CESB if their income from employment and self-employment is \$1,000 or less during the four-week benefit period;
- the benefit is \$1,250 per four-week period;
- for students with disabilities and those with dependants, the benefit is \$2,000 per four-week period;
- “disability” is defined as any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society;
- “dependant” is defined as a child under 12 years of age or a person with a disability who is wholly dependent on the student or the student’s spouse or common-law partner; and
- the maximum number of weeks for which a student may receive the CESB is 16 weeks, minus the number of weeks for which the student has received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or the Employment Insurance Emergency Response Benefit, if any.

### Consultation

Employment and Social Development Canada regularly engages with stakeholders and partners in post-secondary education, including student groups, borrowers, and provinces and territories, through the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Student Financial Assistance (ICCSFA) and the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Assistance (NAGSFA). Members of these forums raised concerns about challenges students are likely to face in finding employment due to COVID-19 and have reacted favourably to the announcement of the CESB.

As these Regulations respond to the immediate and extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to implement these measures expeditiously to be effective. Consequently, the Regulations were not pre-published for public comment.

### Cost-benefit analysis

The analytical requirements for cost-benefit analysis have been adjusted as it relates to the response to COVID-19.

The CESB is part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, and will provide direct financial support to Canadian students who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are facing challenges to find and retain employment, and pay their bills. In addition to the direct benefits to students, the CESB will help stabilize the economy. The cost of the CESB to the Government of Canada has been estimated at \$5.25 billion in 2020–2021.

### **Small business lens**

The small business lens does not apply to these Regulations, as there are no impacts on small businesses.

### **One-for-one rule**

The one-for-one rule does not apply, as there is no change in administrative burden nor are there any administrative costs that would impact businesses.

### **Regulatory cooperation and alignment**

The Regulations are not related to any commitment under a formal regulatory cooperation forum.

### **Implementation**

The Regulations came into force on May 10, 2020, and the first four-week CESB payment period began on May 10, 2020. CESB applications and payments will be managed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

## ***Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC)***

### ***Legislation***

*COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*

#### PART 1

#### Subsection 2(1)

Section 122.5 [GST/HST credit] of the *Income Tax Act* is amended by adding the following after subsection (3):

(3.001) An eligible individual in relation to a month specified for a taxation year who files a return of income for the taxation year is deemed to have paid during the specified month on account of their tax payable under this Part for the taxation year an amount determined by the formula  $0.5(A - B)$  where

A is the total of

- (a) \$580,
- (b) \$580 for the qualified relation, if any, of the individual in relation to the specified month,
- (c) if the individual has no qualified relation in relation to the specified month and is entitled to deduct an amount for the taxation year under subsection 118(1) because of paragraph (b) of the description of B in that subsection in respect of a qualified dependant of the individual in relation to the specified month, \$580,
- (d) \$306 times the number of qualified dependants of the individual in relation to the specified month, other than a qualified dependant in respect of whom an amount is included under paragraph (c) in computing the total for the specified month,

(e) if the individual has no qualified relation and has one or more qualified dependants, in relation to the specified month, \$306, and

(f) if the individual has no qualified relation and no qualified dependant, in relation to the specified month, the lesser of \$306 and 2% of the amount, if any, by which the individual's income for the taxation year exceeds \$9,412; and

B is 5% of the amount, if any, by which the individual's adjusted income for the taxation year in relation to the specified month exceeds \$37,789.

#### Subsection 2(2)

Section 122.5 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (3.01):

(3.02) Notwithstanding subsection (3.001), if an eligible individual is a shared-custody parent (within the meaning assigned by section 122.6, but with the words qualified dependant in that section having the meaning assigned by subsection (1)) in respect of one or more qualified dependants at the beginning of a month, the amount deemed by subsection (3.001) to have been paid during the specified month is equal to the amount determined by the following formula:  $0.5(A + B)$  where

A is the amount determined by the formula in subsection (3.001), calculated without reference to this subsection; and

B is the amount determined by the formula in subsection (3.001), calculated without reference to this subsection and subparagraph (b)(ii) of the definition eligible individual in section 122.6.

#### Subsection 2(3)

Section 122.5 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (4):

(4.1) Notwithstanding subsection (4) and for the purposes of this section, the month specified in subsection (3.001) is May 2020 (or an earlier month designated by the Minister) and the taxation year is the 2018 taxation year.

#### Subsection 5(1)

Paragraph 152(1)(b) [Assessment] of the Act is replaced by the following:

(b) the amount of tax, if any, deemed by subsection 120(2) or (2.2), 122.5(3) or (3.001), 122.51(2), 122.7(2) or (3), 122.8(4), 122.9(2), 122.91(1), 125.4(3), 125.5(3), 125.6(2), 127.1(1), 127.41(3) or 210.2(3) or (4) to be paid on account of the taxpayer's tax payable under this Part for the year. [emphasis added]

#### Subsection 5(2)

Paragraph 152(1.2)(d) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(d) if the Minister determines the amount deemed by subsection 122.5(3) or (3.001) to have been paid by an individual for a taxation year to be nil, subsection (2) does not apply to the determination unless the individual requests a notice of determination from the Minister. [emphasis added]

#### Subsection 5(3)

Paragraph 152(4.2)(b) of the Act is replaced by the following:

(b) redetermine the amount, if any, deemed by subsection 120(2) or (2.2), 122.5(3) or (3.001), 122.51(2), 122.7(2) or (3), 122.8(4), 122.9(2), 122.91(1), 127.1(1), 127.41(3) or 210.2(3) or (4) to be paid on account of the taxpayer's tax payable

under this Part for the year or deemed by subsection 122.61(1) to be an overpayment on account of the taxpayer's liability under this Part for the year. [emphasis added]

## Overview

The Government has introduced a one-time special payment to be made by early May through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low-and modest-income families. The average additional benefit will be approximately \$400 for single individuals and \$600 for couples. An individual is not required to apply for this benefit – if eligible, the payment will be automatically made. On its website, under "[Benefits, credits and support payments: CRA and COVID-19](#)", the CRA states: "April 9 - GST/HST credit payment: The one-time supplementary GST/HST credit payment will be issued starting on April 9, 2020. This payment is part of the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You will get the payment automatically if you normally receive the GST/HST credit. It will be mailed to you or deposited into your bank account if you're enrolled for direct deposit".

See Also: [Prime Minister's remarks updating Canadians on the rollout of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) (April 1, 2020).

## CRA–COVID-19 - Frequently asked questions: Increase to the GST/HST credit amount (updated May 29)

### ***What is the increase to the GST/HST credit amount?***

The one-time payment doubles, for the majority of Canadians, the annual GST/HST credit amounts for the 2019-2020 benefit year (2018 tax year) and is being issued as part of the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Who gets the increase?***

You will get the one-time special GST/HST credit payment amount automatically if you normally receive the GST/HST credit and have filed a 2018 tax return. Payments will be issued on April 9, 2020.

If you were previously not entitled to the GST/HST credit, but have filed your 2018 tax return, you may also get the one-time special GST/HST credit amount based on your family net income.

If you're not entitled to the one-time special GST/HST credit amount, you may be eligible for the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#).

### ***Will I get the one-time special GST/HST credit payment automatically?***

If you normally receive the GST/HST credit amount, you will get the one-time special GST/HST credit payment amount automatically.

If you were previously not entitled to the GST/HST credit, and have filed your 2018 tax return, you may also get the one-time credit amount based on your family net income.

### ***When will I get the one-time special GST/HST credit payment?***

You will receive the one-time special GST/HST credit payment starting April 9. Your regular quarterly GST/HST credit payment will be sent or deposited separately on April 3.

You will get a notice explaining the additional one-time special GST/HST credit payment by mail or through MyAccount.

### ***Why did I receive a GST/HST credit payment on April 3 but I did not receive the one-time special GST/HST credit payment on April 9?***

If you receive a paper cheque, it could take up to 10 business days for you to receive the payment.

You might also not have received a payment on April 9 if any of the following information on your account has changed since March 9, 2020:

- direct deposit,
- address,
- marital status.

You may also not receive it if your 2018 income tax was reassessed, or your 2019 income tax was assessed and you have an amount owing.

For any balance owing amounts on the 2019 income tax year, the CRA recognizes these amounts are not payable until September 1, 2020. As a result, the CRA is taking corrective action and will reach out to those negatively impacted.

***Why did I receive the one-time special GST/HST credit payment on April 9 but I did not receive the GST/HST credit payment on April 3?***

You may have received the April 9 payment and not the April 3 payment as a result of one of the following situations:

- You received all your GST/HST annual entitlements prior to April 3, 2020.
- If you were previously not entitled to the GST/HST credit, and have filed your 2018 tax return, you may also get the one-time special GST/HST credit amount based on your family net income.

***What is the one-time special GST/HST credit payment amount based on?***

The one-time special GST/HST credit payment amount is calculated based on information from your 2018 tax return.

***Do I have to file my 2019 taxes to get the one-time special GST/HST credit amount?***

You don't have to file your 2019 taxes to receive the one-time special GST/HST credit amount, the payment will be based on your 2018 taxes. You do have to [file](#) your 2019 taxes to ensure you continue to get your benefits and credits for the July 2020 to June 2021 benefit year.

***Will I get the one-time special GST/HST credit amount if I haven't filed a 2018 tax return?***

The amount you receive will be calculated based on information from your 2018 tax return. Therefore, if you didn't file taxes for 2018, you won't receive this payment.

If you're late in filing your 2018 taxes, we encourage you to file as soon as possible. You may be eligible for retroactive benefits and credits. The only way to get them is to file.

If you're not entitled to the one-time special GST/HST credit amount, you may be eligible for the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#).

***How much will I get?***

The one-time special GST/HST credit payment will be calculated based on information from your 2018 tax return.

The **maximum** amounts for the 2019-2020 benefit year will increase from:

- \$443 to \$886 if you're single
- \$580 to \$1,160 if you're married or living common-law
- \$153 to \$306 for each child under the age of 19 (excluding the first eligible child of a single parent)
- \$290 to \$580 for the first eligible child of a single parent.

There will be no changes to:

- The family net income used to calculate the amount.
- The family net income used to calculate the single supplement.

The current shared custody rules apply (shared custody parents get half of the child amount they would have otherwise received in respect of a shared custody child).

**Example:**

Sam is single. For the 2019-2020 benefit year, he received an annual base credit amount of \$290. His GST/HST credit entitlement is \$290 (four quarterly payments of \$72.50). His one-time supplementary payment will be \$290.

You will get a notice explaining the additional one-time special GST/HST credit payment by mail or through MyAccount.

**How can I calculate the increase to the GST/HST credit amount?**

To calculate your COVID-19 - Increase to the GST/HST credit amount, subtract the annual credit amount on line 14 in the [calculation sheet for the July 2019 to June 2020 payments \(2018 tax year\)](#) from line 14 in the [COVID-19 calculation sheet for the July 2019 to June 2020 payments \(2018 tax year\)](#).

**I normally receive the GST/HST credit amount. Why didn't I receive the one-time special GST/HST credit payment?**

If you have an outstanding debt with the CRA and/or Family Order & Agreement, your payment may have been applied to the debt. If so, you will receive a GST/HST credit notice that will explain any changes to your account.

Outstanding debts with the CRA include debts from the 2018 income tax year and prior, any amount owing for GST/HST credit, for the Canada child benefit (CCB) and for any provincial or territorial program administered by the Canada Revenue Agency.

For any balance owing amounts on the 2019 income tax year, the CRA recognizes these amounts are not payable until September 1, 2020. As a result, the CRA is taking corrective action and will reach out to those negatively impacted.

**Why was the one-time special GST/HST credit payment less than I expected?**

If you have an outstanding debt with the CRA and/or Family Order & Agreement, your payment may have been applied to the debt. If so, you will receive a GST/HST credit notice that will explain any changes to your account.

If the GST/HST credit is more than the amount you owe, we will send a payment for the difference.

Outstanding debts with the CRA include debts from the 2018 income tax year and prior, any amount owing for GST/HST credit, for the Canada child benefit (CCB) and for any provincial or territorial program administered by the Canada Revenue Agency.

For any balance owing amounts on the 2019 income tax year, the CRA recognizes these amounts are not payable until September 1, 2020. As a result, the CRA is taking corrective action and will reach out to those negatively impacted.

If you normally receive a provincial component as part of your GST/HST credit quarterly payments, your one-time special GST/HST credit payment may have been less than you expected as any provincial related portions are not doubled as part of the COVID-19 measures.

**Will my one-time special GST/HST credit payment be used to pay an amount owing for any other non-CRA federal debt, for example student loans?**

No, your one-time special GST/HST credit payment will not be used to pay an amount owing for non-CRA federal debts.

**I became a new resident of Canada in 2019. Do I have to file a 2018 tax return to get the one-time special GST/HST credit payment?**

If you became a new resident of Canada between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, you don't have to file a 2018 tax return.

However, in order to be eligible for retroactive benefits and credits, including the one-time special GST/HST credit payment amount, you must have provided your world income information for 2018 when you applied for child and family benefits.

If you have not already done so, be sure to apply for the GST/HST credit and/or the Canada child benefit.

If you have children, apply for all child and family benefits, including the GST/HST credit by completing [form RC66, Canada Child Benefits Application](#).

If you don't have children, apply for GST/HST credit by completing [form RC151, GST/HST Credit Application for Individuals Who Become Residents of Canada](#).

Once your form is complete, mail it to your [tax centre](#).

**Will there be another COVID-19 GST/HST credit payment coming in May?**

No, the one-time special GST/HST credit payment originally scheduled for May 2020, will now be issued one month earlier on April 9, 2020.

***Is the estate of a deceased individual eligible to receive the GST/HST credit payment?***

The estate is eligible to receive the one-time special supplementary payment if they were eligible for any GST/HST credit quarterly payments in the 2019-2020 benefit year (July 2019 – June 2020).

***Where can I get more information about the one-time special GST/HST credit payment?***

For more information on the one-time special GST/HST credit payment, visit [GST/HST credit](#) or call 1-800-387-1193.

[See also Bruce Ball, Bruce Ball, "[COVID-19 tax update: Deadlines, international issues and wage subsidies](#)", May 29, "[COVID-19 tax update: CEWS, employee expenses and benefits, deadline extensions](#)", May 7, 2020 ("Check out our federal government COVID-19 tax updates page for information on these and other developments, and check back regularly for the latest updates on... the CRA's work to correct the offsetting of the one-time GST credit against 2019 tax liabilities issue through letters and refunds for affected recipients (similar issues arose with the Ontario Trillium Benefit but won't be corrected until after June 2020)" and [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS Q&A, other developments and CRA discussions](#), May 14, CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*.]

***Canada Child Benefit (CCB) Payment Amounts******Legislation***

*COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*

## PART 1

## Section 3

Section 122.61 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (1):

(1.01) If the month referred to in subsection (1) is May 2020, each amount expressed in dollars referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of the description of E in subsection (1) is deemed, for that month, to be equal to that amount (as adjusted under subsection (5)) plus an additional amount of \$3,600. For greater certainty, the adjustment in subsection (5) shall not take into account this additional amount.

***Overview***

An extra \$300 per child is being provided through the [Canada Child Benefit](#) (CCB) for 2019-20. This measure is intended to provide approximately \$550 more for the average family. The benefit will be delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment in May.

***Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs)******Legislation***

*COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*

## PART 1

## Section 4

Section 146.3 of the Act is amended by adding the following after subsection (1.3):

Adjusted minimum amount for 2020

(1.4) The minimum amount under a retirement income fund for 2020 is 75% of the amount that would, in the absence of this subsection, be the minimum amount under the fund for the year.

#### Exceptions

(1.5) Subsection (1.4) does not apply to a retirement income fund for the purposes of subsections (5.1) and 153(1) and the definition periodic pension payment in section 5 of the *Income Tax Conventions Interpretation Act*.

#### Section 7

Section 8506 of the Income Tax Regulations is amended by adding the following after subsection (7):

(7.1) The minimum amount for a member's account under a money purchase provision of a registered pension plan for 2020 is 75% of the amount that would, in the absence of this subsection, be the minimum amount for the account for the year.

### **Canada Revenue Agency – Economic Statement - New Measure for Annuitants of Registered Retirement Income Funds**

On March 18, 2020 the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, announced a set of economic measures as part of the Government of [Canada's Covid-19 Economic Response Plan](#). That statement included proposed changes to the calculation of the 2020 required minimum withdrawal for registered retirement income funds (RRIF). This measure also applies to individuals receiving variable benefit payments from a defined contribution registered pension plan (RPP) and a pooled registered pension plan (PRPP). Therefore, in this notice, all references to a RRIF includes variable benefit payments from a defined contribution RPP or a PRPP.

The following questions and answers are provided to help financial institutions, RRIF annuitants, as well as sponsors and members of defined contribution registered pension plans and pooled registered pension plans, understand the changes.

#### 1. What are the changes?

The main changes are the following:

The minimum amount that must be withdrawn from RRIFs will be reduced by 25% for 2020. For example, if the 2020 minimum amount would have been \$10,000, the reduced minimum amount will be \$7,500.

The minimum amount for individuals receiving variable benefit payments under a defined contribution registered pension plan or pooled registered pension plan will also be reduced by 25% in 2020. Variable benefits are payments made to plan members from a defined contribution pension plan or pooled registered pension plan in a manner similar to a RRIF. Therefore, in this notice, all references to a RRIF apply to variable benefit payments as well.

#### 2. What is the status of the Government's announcement to reduce the required RRIF minimum withdrawals for 2020 by 25%?

On March 18, 2020, the Prime Minister announced a new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. One of the measures reduces the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020. These measures were delivered as part of the Government of [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#). The proposal was included in a detailed Notice of Ways and Means Motion tabled in the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The legislation containing these measures received Royal Assent on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and is now law.

#### 3. Will individuals who have already withdrawn more than the reduced 2020 minimum amount be permitted to re-contribute to their RRIFs an amount up to the 25% proposed reduction?

No. Individuals who have already withdrawn more than the reduced 2020 minimum amount will not be permitted to re-contribute to their RRIFs an amount up to the 25% proposed reduction.

4. Is the 25% reduction to the minimum amount applicable for 2020 and future years?

No. These changes apply only for 2020.

5. Do the changes apply to Life Income Funds and other locked-in RRIFs?

Yes. These changes apply to all types of RRIFs.

6. There is no tax withheld when the minimum amount is withdrawn from a RRIF. If I chose to withdraw the unreduced minimum amount in 2020, will I have tax withheld?

No. Tax will only be withheld if you withdraw more than your unreduced minimum amount for 2020.

### [News Release 2020-05-12: Prime Minister announces additional support for Canadian seniors](#)

No Canadian should have to choose between putting food on the table, filling their prescriptions, or paying their bills. Yet too many seniors are facing significant health, economic, and social challenges due to COVID-19. They helped shape this country, and now they need our help.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada has introduced measures to support seniors. We invested \$1.3 billion in a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit in April. More than 4 million seniors benefited from this top-up, which gave an average of \$375 for single seniors and \$510 for senior couples. We also invested in community organizations that provide practical services to Canadian seniors, including the delivery of groceries and medications.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced a series of additional measures to help Canadian seniors and provide them with greater financial security in this time of crisis. These measures include:

- Providing additional financial support of \$2.5 billion for a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). This measure would give a total of \$500 to individuals who are eligible to receive both the OAS and the GIS, and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.
- Expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program with an additional investment of \$20 million to support organizations that offer community-based projects that reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network.
- Temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed. This will ensure that the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive their benefits when they need them the most. To avoid an interruption in benefits, seniors are encouraged to submit their 2019 income information as soon as possible and no later than by October 1, 2020.

The Government of Canada will continue to monitor and respond to the health, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19. We stand ready to take additional actions as needed to support all Canadians, including seniors, and stabilize the economy.

“Seniors have helped shape the Canada we know and love today. Supporting seniors during this difficult time is essential. With an additional \$300 for OAS recipients plus a further \$200 for GIS recipients, we are helping Canadian seniors get the support they need during the pandemic.”

The Hon. Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors

### Quick Facts

- There are currently 6.7 million seniors who are eligible for the OAS pension and 2.2 million who are eligible for the GIS.
- The government has taken a number of actions to support seniors through the outbreak of COVID-19, such as:
  - Providing a one-time special payment through the GST credit for low- and modest-income families. Close to 85 per cent of single seniors and almost half of senior couples benefited from this payment.
  - Providing seniors flexibility with their Registered Retirement Income Funds, by reducing minimum withdrawals by 25 per cent for 2020. This will help preserve assets during a volatile market.
  - Contributing \$9 million through United Way Centraide Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community supports.
  - Investing \$100 million to improve access to food for Canadians, including seniors, facing social, economic, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Creating a \$350 million Emergency Community Support Fund to support charities and non-profit organizations to adapt the services they provide to vulnerable groups, including seniors, in response to COVID-19.
  - Introducing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers, including seniors, who have lost their income due to COVID-19. Pension income does not affect eligibility to the CERB. The government also extended the eligibility of this benefit to individuals who earn up to \$1,000 per month, as well as workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

#### **[CRA News Release 2020-05-15: Benefits payments for eligible Canadians to continue until Fall 2020](#)**

Today, the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue is announcing that benefit payments will continue for an additional three months for those who are not able to file their 2019 returns on time.

Eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit and/or the Canada child benefit (CCB) will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020.

As previously announced as part of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, the tax filing deadline has been extended from April 30 to June 1, 2020.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) expects many Canadians will need to take advantage of the extended deadline. Therefore, if the 2019 tax return is not assessed, and to allow time to calculate benefits and/or credits for the July to September 2020 payments, payment amounts will be based on information from 2018 tax returns.

If 2019 tax returns are not received and assessed by early September 2020, estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and the taxpayer will have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued as of July 2020.

The CRA encourages Canadians to [file their tax returns](#) by June 1, 2020 or as soon as possible in order to receive the right amount of benefits based on their 2019 tax return, and in order to ensure continuity of benefits beyond September 2020. The CRA has [helpful information](#) and a [step-by-step guide](#) to help Canadians complete their taxes.

To help file taxes, [free virtual clinics](#) will be offered by local organizations, in partnership with the CRA's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) and the joint CRA and Revenu Québec Income Tax Assistance – Volunteer Program.

These clinics will be held on an interim basis to help those with low and modest incomes and a simple tax situation who are looking for support during tax season.

#### **Quotes**

"We know many Canadians are facing hardship as a result of the financial, physical, and emotional strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Benefits and credits are important for Canadians as many rely on them to make ends meet. We also know that some Canadians are not able to file their tax return on time due to physical distancing measures, even with the addition of virtual tax clinics. By making sure that benefits aren't interrupted, we are providing relief to some of the most vulnerable Canadians during this difficult time."

-The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue

### Quick facts

- Benefits payments starting in July 2020 and those scheduled for August and September won't be interrupted for those who are presently receiving the GST/HST credit and/or the CCB.
- The CRA is currently processing paper returns. However, due to the reduced staff onsite to support physical distancing in all of our offices, Canadians that have filed a 2019 tax year paper return can expect significant delays in processing their return. To assist with these delays, the CRA will allow these Canadians the option to also file a 2019 return electronically. This is a temporary measure which started on April 20, 2020.
- Penalties and interest will not be charged if payments are made by the extended deadline of September 1, 2020.
- On May 12, Minister Lebouthillier [announced](#) that free virtual clinics will be held on an interim basis to help those with low and modest incomes and a simple tax situation who are looking for support during tax season.
- Virtual clinics will have new flexibility to receive and authenticate documents in a variety of ways, including allowing the use of video communication.
- As [announced](#) on May 12, the government is temporarily extending Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed. This will ensure that the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive their benefits when they need them the most.

### [CRA Note](#)

On May 15, it was [announced](#) that eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit and/or Canada child benefit (CCB) payments will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020. Benefit payments starting in July 2020 and those scheduled for August and September won't be interrupted.

Due to the change in the tax deadline from April 30 to June 1, 2020, we expect many will need to take advantage of the extended deadline. Therefore, if the 2019 tax return is not assessed, and to allow time to calculate benefits and/or credits for the July to September 2020 payments, payment amounts will be based on information from 2018 tax returns.

If you receive an estimated benefit and/or credit payment based on your 2018 tax return(s), you're still required to file your 2019 income tax return.

If we're unable to assess your return by early September 2020, your estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and you'll have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued to you starting in July 2020.

### [News Release 2020-06-05: Prime Minister announces supports for Canadians with disabilities to address challenges from COVID-19](#)

We know Canadians living with disabilities are facing significant challenges during this difficult time, with some experiencing job insecurity and others seeing increased costs for personal support workers, medication, and medical supplies. As we work together to restart the economy, we must continue to protect health and safety, and ensure the right supports are in place for all Canadians.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced support to help Canadians with disabilities deal with extra expenses during the pandemic.

This support includes a special one-time, tax-free payment to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit as of June 1, 2020, as follows:

- \$600 for Canadians with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate.

- \$300 for Canadians with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate and who are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension.
- \$100 for Canadians with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate and who are eligible for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

Combined with the special payments of \$300 for Canadians who are eligible for the OAS pension and the additional \$200 for those eligible for the GIS, all seniors with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate will receive a total of \$600 in special payments. People who are eligible for this special payment will receive it automatically.

The Government of Canada recognizes that people with disabilities are also at higher risk of job loss during economic downturns. To help Canadians with disabilities get and maintain good jobs so they can continue to support themselves and their families, the government will:

- Create a National Workplace Accessibility Stream through the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. A new investment of \$15 million in 2020-21 will provide community organizations with resources to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs in response to COVID-19, including by helping employers set up accessible and effective work-from-home arrangements. This support will also cover expanding accessible online training opportunities and helping connect Canadians with disabilities working from home with employers.
- Invest \$1.18 million in five new projects across the country through the Accessible Technology Program. With this funding, organizations will develop dynamic and affordable technology, such as accessible payment terminals for retailers and tools to make communication easier for Canadians with disabilities in the digital economy.

As we mark National AccessAbility Week, we reaffirm our commitment to continue listening to and working in partnership with persons with disabilities to maintain their health, safety, and dignity as we address the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19.

## Quotes

“To make it through this difficult time, we need to look out for one another. Canadians with disabilities are facing significant challenges because of COVID-19, as they work to access essential services and care, and provide for their families. With today’s announcement, we are stepping up to make sure they have the support they need to make it through this crisis.”

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

“We know this pandemic has deeply affected the lives and health of all Canadians, and disproportionately affected Canadians with disabilities in particular. The cost to safely get groceries, medication, and other basic necessities has increased, while services like disability support workers and therapy may be unavailable because volunteer and subsidized services have declined. We have listened to the concerns of Canadians with disabilities and received advice from the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group on how to best provide support during this difficult time. I am confident that the measures announced today will greatly benefit Canadians with disabilities across the country.”

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

“Working together empowers our companies, our economy, our people. We know now, more than ever, how important it is to be able to access the digital world. Through the Accessible Technology Program, we continue to open doors to endless possibilities, so that Canadians with disabilities can fully benefit from being connected. Thanks to our innovative entrepreneurs, we continue to increase accessibility and awareness of this importance.”

The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

## Quick Facts

- The funding included in today’s announcement will benefit approximately 1.25 million Canadians with disabilities who are facing additional expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- According to the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability, 22 per cent of Canadians 15 years of age and over identify as having a disability. That rate increases as people age, with 37.8 per cent of Canadians over 65 and 47.4 per cent of Canadians over 75 identifying as having a disability.
- Among working-age Canadians with disabilities, more than 1.5 million, or 41 per cent, are unemployed or out of the labour market entirely. Among those with severe disabilities, this rate increases to over 60 per cent.
- The Government of Canada is working to support people with disabilities in-line with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the *Accessible Canada Act*, which came into force in July 2019.

### **[Backgrounder 2020-06-05: New supports for Canadians with disabilities to address challenges related to COVID-19](#)**

The Government of Canada is providing support to help people with disabilities deal with the extra expenses they are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support includes a one-time payment to certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit, a new National Workplace Accessibility Stream through the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities, and new investments through the Accessible Technology Program.

#### **One-time payment for persons with disabilities**

A special one-time payment of \$600 will be automatically provided to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit as of June 1, 2020. The payment will be provided to eligible Canadians without an application or attestation. It will be non-taxable.

Seniors who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit and are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and/or the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will have their payments adjusted accordingly. Seniors who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit and eligible for the OAS pension will receive a payment of \$300, in addition to the special COVID-19 one-time OAS pension payment of \$300. Those who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit and are eligible for the GIS will receive a payment of \$100, in addition to the combined \$500 from the special COVID-19 one-time OAS pension and GIS payments. With this new support and these special payments announced last month, all seniors who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit will receive a total of \$600.

For certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit who are under the age of 18, the special payment will be made to the individual who is considered primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child for the purposes of the Canada Child Benefit. In cases of shared custody, each parent will receive \$300. Where a child who is a certificate holder of the Disability Tax Credit is maintained by an agency and the Children's Special Allowances are paid for that child, the special payment will be made to that agency.

#### **National Workplace Accessibility Stream of the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities**

This new stream will provide additional funding to help Canadians with disabilities and their employers to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs in response to COVID-19. Some of the activities supported by this fund will include:

- Setting up accessible and effective work-from-home measures
- Expanding online training opportunities
- Creating inclusive workplaces, whether virtual or physical
- Connecting people with disabilities and employers
- Training for in-demand jobs
- Wage subsidies

#### **New projects from the Accessible Technology Program**

The Accessible Technology Program is part of the Government of Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan, a multi-year strategy to create well-paying jobs for middle class Canadians. The most recent call for proposals from businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and research institutes closed in January 2020. In total, 20 projects from across Canada have received funding since the beginning of the program, including these five new projects that are currently receiving funding:

- \$557,725 for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to create accessible payment terminals for individuals with sight loss
- \$106,425 for the University of Laval to develop an arm support that will allow Canadians with disabilities to use standard technology
- \$199,850 for the Regional Health Authority B, operating as Horizon Health Network, to develop a system that allows Canadians with neurological conditions to interact with technology for a longer period of time
- \$251,088 for Ryerson University to develop a prototype that will allow individuals with speech disabilities to navigate images to reply to written or spoken messages
- \$70,307 for the Secret Study Projects to develop extended expression software with voice and Braille controls

The technologies established through these projects will help Canadians with disabilities participate more fully in the digital economy, improving quality of life and opportunities for success.

[See [Bill C-17 \(First Reading June 10, 2020\)](#), *An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures* – Part 3 proposes to amend the ITA to authorize the use by officials, or disclosure to Government of Canada officials, of taxpayer information solely for the purpose of a one-time payment to persons with disabilities for reasons related to COVID-19. It also proposes to amend the *Children's Special Allowances Act* to authorize the disclosure of information for the purpose of that one-time payment).]

### **[Employee Considerations]**

- Per CPA Canada's *Taxation Blog*, May 7 update (Ball, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS, employee expenses and benefits, deadline extensions](#)): "Automobile and parking benefits: Some employers may pay for parking for employees who, due to COVID-19, do not have normal access to their parking spot or cannot travel to their normal place of employment. We asked the CRA whether employers should record a taxable benefit for these payments. Similarly, where an employer has provided an automobile to an employee, the personal-use portion is normally considered to be a taxable benefit to the employee. During the mandated closure of most businesses, the employee's business use is likely nominal, which could disqualify employees from claiming the prorated standby charge benefit. We have asked the CRA to consider relief from this outcome. Home office expenses: With so many Canadians newly working at home due to workplace closures, we have encouraged the CRA to streamline Form T2200, Declaration of Conditions of Employment and reduce the associated administrative burden of home office expense claims. We also asked the CRA to consider taking a more flexible approach to employment contract conditions. Finally, we asked the CRA to simplify their administrative policy for home office expenses incurred as a result of mandated work from home measures. For example, we suggested the CRA look into a simplified approach implemented in Australia that provides employees the option to claim a deduction for home office expenses based on a fixed rate per hours worked or by determining actual costs incurred". See also Bruce Ball, [COVID-19 tax update: CEWS Q&A, other developments and CRA discussions](#), CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, May 14);
- Qian et al., "COVID-19 and Employees' Home Office Expenses" *Canadian Tax Focus*, Vol. 10–2, May 2020 ("Since [ITA] 8(1) refers to "computing a taxpayer's income for a taxation year from an office or employment," it would be reasonable to infer that the "principally" test should be determined over the course of the full period of employment in the calendar year, rather than for just the part of the year during which the employee is required to work from home for that employment. This would imply that for a 12-month period of employment in which the person works either fully from home or not at all from home for any given month, the work-from-home policy would have to be in place for at least 6 months in order to meet the test");
- Walker et al., "Executives Working from Home: Tax Treatment of Home Office Expenses", *Taxation of Executive Compensation and Retirement* (Federated Press) Vol. XXVIII–1, May 2020 ("the "principally" requirement would typically not be met in situations where a home office is used on a contingent basis, for business continuity planning, if only used seasonally (such as the summer holidays) or on a full-time but temporary basis (such as during stay at home orders). This may be consistent with the general tax policy of limiting employee deductions. However, the authors suggest that it is time to reconsider whether a shift towards working at home and remotely should result in a broader availability of such employee deductions");
- BLG, "[Help may be on the way: Deduction of home office expenses for employees required to work from home](#)", May 2020;
- Views Document No. 2020-0845431C6 (CRA indicated that it would generally not consider a reimbursement of up to \$500 paid by an employer to an employee for the cost of teleworking equipment – i.e. to work from home because of the crisis) to give rise to a taxable benefit for the employee provide that the equipment purchased is principally for the

- employer's benefit (i.e. in accordance with the usual taxable benefit rules – and the amount reimbursed is supported by an invoice).]
- Deferred salary leave plans (CRA Views Document 2020-0848641E5): ITR 6801(a) qualifies certain leave-of-absence arrangements as a prescribed plan or arrangement excluded from the “salary deferral arrangement” definition. Generally, up to one-third of regular salary or wages may be deferred for a period of no longer than six years where the employee undertakes to return to employment with his/her employer or an employer that participates in the same or a similar arrangement for a period at least as long as the leave-of-absence period. The CRA does not have the discretion to extend the six-year maximum deferral period for DSLPs, but Finance is reviewing this issue in light of COVID-19. Pending the completion of the Finance’s review, the CRA will not require an employer to terminate an individual’s DSLP in the event that the individual defers their leave of absence beyond the six-year maximum deferral period, regardless of the reason for deferring the leave (“In addition to providing flexibility to health care workers and others providing essential services, [the administrative position] will accommodate, for example, individuals who had planned to travel during their leave but who are now unable to because of travel restrictions”). See also VDs 2020-0849841E5 and 2020-0849681E5 in which the CRA makes similar comments and Bruce Ball, “[COVID-19 updates: Amending CEWS claims, CEWS and corporate groups, DSLPs and time limits](#)”, CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, June 8, under “No need to end deferred salary leave plans”);
  - PHSPs: When asked whether the credits allocated to a health care spending account that are unused as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and expiring may be carried forward without affecting the status of the plan as a PHSP, in CRA Views Doc 2020-0846751E5, the CRA states: “In these extraordinary circumstances (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), a HCSA that qualifies as a PHSP and which has unused credits expiring between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020, could allow a one-time carry forward of those unused credits for a reasonable period to allow members to access services that were otherwise restricted during the COVID-19 outbreak. A period of up to six months would generally be considered reasonable and would not, in and of itself, disqualify the HCSA from being a PHSP”. See also Bruce Ball, “[COVID-19 updates: Amending CEWS claims, CEWS and corporate groups, DSLPs and time limits](#)”, CPA Canada, *Taxation Blog*, June 8, under “Administrative leeway for health care spending accounts”);
  - Winfield, “COVID-19 and Non-Equity Pension and Benefits Arrangements for Executives”, *Taxation of Executive Compensation and Retirement* (Federated Press) Vol. XXVIII–1, May 2020.

## Federal Economic Measures

### [Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) (June 5)

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### *On this page*

- [Support for individuals](#)
- [Support for businesses](#)
- [Support for sectors](#)
- [Support for organizations helping Canadians](#)

### *Support for individuals*

#### Individuals and families

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

We are providing a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers who have lost income or stopped working due to COVID-19.

An online questionnaire will help us direct you to the service option that best fits your situation (i.e. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or not).

[Apply for the CERB](#)

You can also apply over the phone: 1-833-966-2099

- Increasing the Canada Child Benefit

An extra \$300 per child was delivered through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20.

This benefit was delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment on May 20.

**Those who already receive the CCB do not need to re-apply.**

[Apply for the CCB](#)

- Extra time to file income tax returns

The due date for filing individual 2019 income tax returns has been deferred until June 1, 2020. Any new income tax balances due, or instalments, are also being deferred until after August 31, 2020 without incurring interest or penalties.

[View all income tax and filing payment deadlines](#)

- Mortgage payment deferral

Homeowners facing financial hardship may be eligible for a mortgage payment deferral of up to six months.

The deferral is an agreement between you and your lender. Typically, the agreement indicates that you and your lender have agreed to pause or suspend your mortgage payments for a certain amount of time. After the agreement ends, your mortgage payments return to normal and the deferred payments — including principal and accumulated interest — are added to the outstanding principal balance and subsequently repaid throughout the life of the mortgage.

To know if you are eligible for a mortgage payment deferral or to learn what options are available, contact your lender — your bank or your mortgage professional.

[Learn more about mortgage payment deferral](#)

- Temporary wage top-up for low-income essential workers

All provinces and territories have confirmed, or are in the process of confirming, plans to provide wage top-ups for essential workers.

We will provide up to \$3 billion in federal support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers. Each province or territory will determine which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive.

- Special Goods and Services Tax credit payment

We provided a one-time special payment through the [Goods and Services Tax credit](#) for low and modest-income families.

The average additional benefit will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.

[Learn more about the Goods and Services Tax credit](#)

## People with disabilities

- Special one-time tax-free payment for certified holders of the Disability Tax Credit

We are providing a special one-time-tax payment to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) as of June 1, 2020, as follows:

- \$600 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate.
- \$300 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension.
- \$100 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

People who are eligible for this special payment will receive it automatically.

[Learn more about the DTC](#)

### Post-secondary students and recent graduates

- Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)

We are providing a taxable benefit of \$1,250 every 4 weeks to eligible students or \$2,000 to eligible students with dependents or with disability who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or Employment Insurance or unable to work due to COVID-19.

This benefit is available from May to August 2020.

[Apply for the CESB](#)

You can also look for employment opportunities through the [Job Bank](#)

- Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)

We are launching the Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG), which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new CSSG will provide up to \$5,000 towards their education in the fall.

More details will be made available on the “I Want to Help” platform soon.

- Helping student loan borrowers

### Changes to the Canada Student Loans Program

We made changes to the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) to allow more students to qualify for support and be eligible for greater amounts.

The changes include:

- doubling the Canada Student Grants for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-21. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents would also be doubled.
- broadening eligibility for student financial assistance by removing the expected student’s and spouse’s contributions in 2020-21.
- raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21 from \$210 to \$350.

[Learn more about changes to the Canada Student Loans Program](#)

### Suspending repayment and interest on student and apprentice loans

All student loan borrowers will automatically have their loan repayments and interest suspended until September 30, 2020.

[Learn more about the moratorium on the repayment](#)

- Supporting student researchers and post-doctoral fellows

We are providing additional support to student researchers and post-doctoral fellows through the federal granting councils.

Funding will support a one-semester extension for eligible students whose research scholarships or fellowships end between March and August 2020 and who intend to continue their studies. It will also provide a 3-month extension in funding for holders of federal research grants to support eligible trainees and staff paid out of these awards.

[Learn more about the Federal Granting Agencies](#)

- Supporting international students working in an essential service

We have removed the restriction that allows international students to work only a maximum of 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods.

This temporary rule change will be in place until August 31, 2020.

[Consult the Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

## Seniors

- Providing a one-time tax-free payment for Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement

We are providing a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

This measure would give a total of \$500 to individuals who are eligible to receive both the OAS and the GIS, and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.

**You do not have to apply.** This payment will be issued during the week of July 6.

[Learn more about the one-time tax-free payment](#)

- Temporarily extending the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance payments

We are temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed.

This will ensure that the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive their benefits when they need them the most. To avoid an interruption in benefits, seniors are encouraged to submit their 2019 income information as soon as possible and no later than by October 1, 2020.

- Reduced minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds

We reduced the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25 % for 2020.

[Learn more about Registered Retirement Income Funds](#)

## Indigenous peoples

- Supporting Indigenous communities

### Addressing immediate needs in Indigenous communities

We are providing \$305 million for a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.

These funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to:

- support for Elders and vulnerable community members,
- measures to address food insecurity,
- educational and other support for children,
- mental health assistance and emergency response services,
- preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

[Learn more about the Indigenous Community Support Fund](#)

### Supporting public health needs and preparedness

We are providing \$100 million to support a range of federal health measures, including support for preparedness in First Nation and Inuit communities.

[Learn more about this support to Indigenous communities](#)

- Making personal hygiene products and nutritious food more affordable

We are providing an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies so families can afford much-needed personal hygiene products and nutritious food.

[Learn more about Nutrition North Canada](#)

- Providing support to Indigenous post-secondary students

We are providing \$75.2 million to offer additional distinctions-based support to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation post-secondary students

- Funding for additional health care resources for Indigenous communities

We are providing \$285.1 million to fund community-led responses to the pandemic and provide targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities.

In case of outbreaks, this funding can be used to provide surge capacity and additional support for community-based services in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.

- Boosting the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program

We are providing \$270 million to supplement the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program to address increased demand on the program, which will help individuals and families meet their essential living expenses. It will also help hire additional staff to better serve First Nations communities and connect individuals to other government programs.

First Nations administer the On-Reserve Income Assistance Program. Program staff members play an important role in helping individuals with other needs, including providing referrals to mental health and addictions counselling, and helping families find and apply for appropriate government benefits, such as Employment Insurance, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, and the Canada Child Benefit.

- New shelters to protect and support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence

We are providing \$44.8 million over five years to build 12 new shelters, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence.

This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country (funded through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program) and two in the territories (funded through National Housing Co-Investment Fund), to support Indigenous women and children.

We will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.

We are also announcing \$1 million a year ongoing, starting this year, to support engagement with Métis leaders and service providers on shelter provision and community-led violence prevention projects for Métis women, girls, and LGBTQ and two-spirit people.

The process to access the funding for the shelters will be through an Expression of Interest. First Nations on reserve across the country and Indigenous governments and/or organizations in the territories will be eligible to submit proposals.

Indigenous peoples can also access all other benefits.

### Find the support you need

- [Answer a few questions to get a list of benefits and support tailored to you](#)

## Support for businesses

### Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs

- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

We are covering 75% of an employee's wages – up to \$847 per week - for eligible employers. The CEWS will allow you to re-hire your employees and avoid layoffs during the crisis.

The program will be in place until August 29.

[Apply for the CEWS](#)

- Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy

The Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy is a three-month measure that allows eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency.

[Learn more about the Temporary 10% Wage Subsidy for Employers](#)

- Extending the Work-Sharing program

We have extended the maximum duration of the [Work-Sharing program](#) from 38 weeks to 76 weeks for employers affected by COVID-19. This measure will provide income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.

[Apply to the Work-Sharing program](#)

- Creating new jobs and opportunities for youth

We are creating up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students find employment and develop valuable skills this summer and over the coming months.

We also made temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program to allow employers to:

- receive an increased wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 % of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee;
- extend the end date for employment to February 28, 2021;
- adapt their projects and job activities;
- hire staff on a part-time basis.

Learn more about the various programs:

- [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#)
- [Canada Summer Jobs program \(Calls for applications closed\)](#)
- [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy \(Calls for applications closed\)](#)
- [Student Work Placement Program](#)
- [Mitacs](#)
- [Business + High Education Roundtable](#)

## Taxes and tariffs

- More time to pay income taxes

We are allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.

No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

[View all income tax filing and payment deadlines](#)

- Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments until June

We are allowing businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer until June 30, 2020 payments of the GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports.

Any GST/HST payment that becomes owing from March 27 until the end of May can be deferred until the end of June. For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April and May.

These amounts were normally due to be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency and the Canada Border Services Agency as early as the end of March 2020.

[Learn more about the deferral of GST/HST tax remittances and customs duty owing on imports](#)

- Waiving tariffs on certain medical goods

We are waiving tariffs on certain medical goods, including PPE such as masks and gloves.

This will reduce the cost of imported PPE for Canadians, help protect workers, and ensure our supply chains can keep functioning well.

[Learn more about this tariff relief](#)

## Financial support, loans and access to credit

- Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) interest-free loans

The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) provides 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. This program has been implemented by banks and credit unions in collaboration with Export Development Canada.

Business owners can apply for support from CEBA through their [banks](#) and [credit unions](#).

[Learn more about the CEBA](#)

- Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Through the Business Credit Availability Program, Export Development Canada (EDC) is working with financial institutions to guarantee 80% of new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

This financing support is to be used for operational expenses and is available to both exporting and non-exporting companies.

**This program is now available at various [banks](#) and [credit unions](#).**

[Learn more about the loan guarantee](#)

- Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Through the Business Credit Availability Program, Business Development Canada (BDC) is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements.

The program offers differing maximum finance amounts based on business revenues.

This support is available until or before September 30, 2020.

**This program is now available at various [banks](#) and [credit unions](#).**

[Learn more about the Co-lending program](#)

- Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

We are providing nearly \$962 million through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) to help more businesses and organizations in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, tourism and others that are key to the regions and to local economies. This fund is specifically targeted to those that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been unable to access other support measures.

[Apply to the RRRF through your local Regional Development Agency](#)

- Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) provides relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Over the course of the program, property owners will reduce rent by at least 75 % for the months of April and May (retroactive), and June, for their small business tenants. CECRA will cover 50 % of the rent, with the tenant paying up to 25 % and the property owner forgiving at least 25 %.

[Apply to CECRA](#)

- Mid-Market Financing Program

Through the Business Credit Availability Program, the Business Development Canada's (BDC) Mid-Market Financing Program will provide commercial loans ranging between \$12.5 million and \$60 million to medium-sized businesses whose credit needs exceed what is already available through the Business Credit Availability Program and other measures.

BDC anticipates that qualifying companies will have annual revenues in excess of approximately \$100 million.

More details will be made available soon.

- Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program

Through the Business Credit Availability Program, EDC's Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program will bring liquidity to companies who tend to have revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million, to sustain operations during this uncertain period. EDC will continue to work with Canadian financial institutions to guarantee 75 % of new operating credit and cash-flow loans – ranging in size from \$16.75 million to a maximum of \$80 million.

These expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada.

More details will be made available soon.

- Businesses in the territories

We are making available \$15 million in non-repayable support for businesses in the territories to help address the impacts of COVID-19. This support will assist businesses with operating costs not already covered by other Government of Canada measures.

[Apply to the Northern Business Relief Fund](#)

- Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)

The Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) provides 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 additional liquidity provided through LEEFF allows Canada's largest businesses, their workers and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time, and position them for a rapid economic recovery.

This program is delivered by the Canada Development Investment Corporation, in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Department of Finance.

[Apply to the LEEF program](#)

- Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) for early-stage businesses

We are investing \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access other COVID-19 business supports through the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP).

IRAP provides advice, connections, and funding to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take ideas to market.

**Applications have closed**

[Learn more about the IRAP](#)

- Additional support by sector
  - [Agriculture and agri-food](#)
  - [Aquaculture and fisheries](#)
  - [Culture, heritage and sport](#)
  - [Air transportation](#)
  - [Tourism](#)
  - [Energy](#)
  - [Academic and research](#)

## Targeted support

- Young entrepreneurs

We are providing \$20.1 million in support for Futurpreneur Canada to continue supporting young entrepreneurs across Canada who are facing challenges due to COVID-19. The funding will allow Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.

[Learn more about Futurpreneur Canada](#)

- Women entrepreneurs

We are providing \$15 million in new funding through the [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy](#) (WES). This funding will be available to existing WES Ecosystem Fund recipient organizations, enabling these third-party organizations to provide timely support and advice to women entrepreneurs facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Learn more about the WES Ecosystem Fund](#)

### Support for self-employed individuals

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

We are providing a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers who have lost income or stopped working due to COVID-19.

An online questionnaire will help us direct you to the service option that best fits your situation (i.e. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or not).

[Apply for the CERB](#)

You can also apply over the phone: 1-833-966-2099

- Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments until June

We are allowing businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer until June 30, 2020 payments of the GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports.

Any GST/HST payment that becomes owing from March 27 until the end of May can be deferred until the end of June. For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April and May.

These amounts were normally due to be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency and the Canada Border Services Agency as early as the end of March 2020.

[Learn more about the deferral of GST/HST tax remittances and customs duty owing on imports](#)

- More time to pay income taxes

We are allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.

No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

[View all income tax and filing payment deadlines](#)

### Indigenous businesses

- Relief measures for Indigenous businesses

We are providing \$306.8 million in funding to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses.

The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions, which offer financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses.

Financial support for Indigenous businesses will be provided through Aboriginal Financial Institutions, and administered by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association and the Métis capital corporations in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada.

[Learn more about this measure for Indigenous SME](#)

Indigenous peoples can also access all other benefits.

## Supporting financial stability

- Relief for federally regulated pension plan sponsors

We are providing immediate, temporary relief to sponsors of federally regulated, defined benefit pension plans in the form of a moratorium, through the remainder of 2020, on solvency payment requirements for defined benefit plans.

This relief will help ensure that employers have the financial resources they need to maintain their operations and their pension plans, and to protect the retirement security of their workers and retirees.

- Launching an Insured Mortgage Purchase Program

We launched an [Insured Mortgage Purchase Program](#), in which we will purchase up to \$150 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

This action will provide long-term stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders, help facilitate continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses, and add liquidity to Canada's mortgage market.

[Learn more about the Insured Mortgage Purchase Program](#)

- Bank of Canada's actions

The Bank of Canada is acting in several ways to support the economy and financial system and stands ready to take any and all actions that it can to protect the well-being of Canadians during this difficult time. The Bank has responded by lowering interest rates, intervening to support key financial markets and providing liquidity support for financial institutions.

[Learn more about Bank of Canada's actions](#)

- Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions actions

The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions announced it is [lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer by 1.25%](#) of risk-weighted assets. This action will allow Canada's large banks to inject \$300 billion of additional lending in to the economy.

## Find the support you need for your business

[Answer a few questions to get a personalized list of support](#)

## Support for sectors

### Agriculture and agri-food

- Keeping workers in the food supply chain safe

We are providing \$50 million to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers, put in place the measures necessary to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period required of all workers arriving from abroad.

The Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP) provides support of \$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker, to employers or those working with them to ensure requirements are fully met. The funding is conditional on employers not being found in violation of the mandatory isolation.

[Apply to the MISTFWP](#)

- Increasing credit availability

We have enabled Farm Credit Canada to provide an additional \$5 billion in lending to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. This will offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales, helping them remain financially sound during this difficult time.

You can also contact your [banks](#) and [credit unions](#) to discuss other support available.

[Learn more about increasing credit availability](#)

- Helping food producers access more PPE and adapt to health protocols

We are creating a \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund to help food producers access more personal protective equipment (PPE), adapt to health protocols, automate or modernize their facilities, processes, and operations, and respond to emerging pressures from COVID-19 so they can better supply Canadians with food during this period.

- Helping producers faced with additional costs incurred by COVID-19

We are launching a national AgriRecovery initiative of up to \$125 million in funding to help producers faced with additional costs incurred by COVID-19 such as set-asides for cattle and hog management programs to manage livestock backed-up on farms, due to the temporary closure of food processing plants.

This new federal funding will help beef and pork producers and processors adapt to a changing market, and help farmers and ranchers keep their animals longer before marketing.

- Increasing the Canadian Dairy Commission borrowing limit

We have increased the Canadian Dairy Commission's borrowing limit by \$200 million to support costs associated with the temporary storage of cheese and butter to avoid food waste.

- Helping redistribute existing and unsold inventories

We are launching the Surplus Food Purchase Program with an initial \$50 million fund designed to help redistribute existing and unsold inventories, which could include products such as potatoes and poultry, to local food organizations who are serving vulnerable Canadians.

- Increasing interim payments from 50% to 75% through AgriStability

We are working with provinces and territories to increase interim payments from 50 % to 75 % through AgriStability, a federal, provincial and territorial program that supports producers who face significant revenue declines. This change has already been enacted in some provinces.

[Learn more about the AgriStability program](#)

- Expanding AgrilInsurance to include labour shortage

We are working with provinces and territories to explore possibilities for expanding the AgrilInsurance program to include labour shortages as an eligible risk for the horticulture sector. This work would insure against lost production due to an insufficient workforce, should producers be unable to find enough labour to harvest.

[Learn more about the AgrilInsurance program](#)

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Aquaculture and fisheries

- Keeping workers in the food supply chain safe

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We have enabled Farm Credit Canada to provide an additional \$5 billion in lending to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. This will offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales, helping them remain financially sound during this difficult time.

[Learn more about increasing credit availability](#)

- Assisting the fish and seafood processing sector

We are providing \$62.5 million of new assistance to the fish and seafood processing sector through the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund.

This will help businesses:

- access short-term financing to pay for maintenance and inventory costs;
- add storage capacity for unsold product;
- comply with new health and safety measures for workers;
- support new manufacturing/automated technologies to improve productivity and quality of finished seafood products; and,
- adapt products to respond to changing requirements and new market demands.

More details will be available soon.

- Fish Harvester Grant Benefit

We are launching the Fish Harvester Benefit, to provide income support for this year's fishing seasons to eligible self-employed fish harvesters and sharespersons crew who cannot access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

This support will be provided to those that experience fishing income declines of greater than 25% in the 2020 tax year, compared with a reference period to be identified.

This measure covers 75% of fishing income losses beyond a 25% income decline threshold, up to a maximum individual entitlement equivalent to what is provided under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (\$847 per week for up to 12 weeks).

More details will be available soon.

- Fish Harvester Grant Business

We are launching the Fish Harvester Grant, to provide grants to fish harvesters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Business Account or equivalent measures.

This will provide more liquidity to address non-deferrable business costs. The program would provide non-repayable support of up to \$10,000 to self-employed fish harvesters with a valid fishing licence. Size of the non-repayable support will vary depending on the level of fish harvesters' historic revenue.

More details will be available soon.

- Changes to EI for self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons

We are proposing measures or changes to Employment Insurance (EI) that would allow self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons to access EI benefits on the basis of insurable earnings from previous seasons (winter and summer claims).

More details will be available soon.

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Culture, heritage and sport

- Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations

We have established a \$500 million Emergency Support Fund as a temporary relief measure to help alleviate the financial pressures of cultural, heritage and sport organizations facing significant losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Learn more about the Emergency Support Fund](#)

- Waiving payments for Part I licence fees

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will not issue letters requesting payment for Part I licence fees by private broadcasters for the 2020–21 fiscal year.

We are providing the CRTC with the necessary funds to support its operations, in the absence of these fees.

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Air transportation

- Continuing the supply of essential goods and services to remote and fly-in communities

We are providing up to \$17.3 million to the governments of Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut to support critical air services to Northern and remote communities, in partnership with investments by the territorial governments, to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods and services to remote and fly-in communities.

- Waiving ground lease rents

We are waiving ground lease rents from March 2020 through to December 2020 for the 21 airport authorities that pay rent to the federal government. We are also providing comparable treatment for PortsToronto, which operates Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport and pays a charge to the federal government.

[Learn more about the support for airports](#)

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Tourism

- Deferring payments on commercial leases and licenses of occupation

We will work with tourism operators in national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas to defer payments on commercial leases and licences of occupation without interest until September 1, 2020.

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Energy

- Cleaning up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells

We are providing up to \$1.72 billion to the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and to the Alberta Orphan Well Association, to clean up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells. This will help maintain approximately 5,200 jobs in Alberta alone.

- Launching the Emissions Reduction Fund

We are providing up to \$750 million to create a new Emissions Reduction Fund to support workers and reduce emissions in Canada's oil and gas sector, with a focus on methane.

This fund will provide primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil and gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of this amount, \$75 million will be allocated to the offshore sector.

- Additional support for your business
  - [Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)

## Academic and research

- Providing wage support for universities and health research institutes

We are providing wage support for up to 75% of wages for individuals working in universities and health institutes, for a maximum of \$847 per week per employee.

This will ensure that universities and health research institutes can retain research staff.

- Covering eligible costs to maintain research activities

We are covering up to 75% of total eligible costs for research activities, and will support activities such as the safe storage of dangerous substances, and restarting data sets that were interrupted during the pandemic.

This will ensure that universities and health research institutes maintain essential research activities and return to full research operations once back to normal.

## Infrastructure

- Funding for communities

We are accelerating \$2.2 billion in annual federal infrastructure funding for communities through the Gas Tax Fund. The funding will be delivered in one payment in June will help communities quickly move forward with infrastructure projects that will improve our quality of life and help restart local economies.

Communities have flexibility to use the funding to meet their local needs. Projects could include access to high-speed broadband, improvements to water and road systems, and the building of cycling and walking paths.

[Learn more about the Gas Tax Fund](#)

## ***Support for organizations helping Canadians***

### **Services to those in need**

- Helping vulnerable Canadians

We invested \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need.

Apply to the Emergency Community Fund

[United Way](#)

[Canadian Red Cross](#)

[Community Foundations of Canada](#)

- Improving access to essential food support

We are providing \$100 million to national, regional, and local organizations across Canada to:

- Purchase, transport and distribute food and other basic necessities
- hire temporary help to fill volunteer shortages
- implement safety measures, such as the purchase of personal protective equipment, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among volunteers and clients.

These organizations – including but not limited to Food Banks Canada, Salvation Army, Second Harvest, Community Food Centres Canada, and Breakfast Club of Canada – will work with partners to meet the urgent food needs of Canadians.

## Seniors

- Supporting the delivery of items and personal outreach

We are contributing \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community supports.

[Contact your local organization](#)

- Providing immediate and essential services to seniors

We are expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program with an additional investment of \$20 million to support organizations that offer community-based projects that reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network.

For all organizations who received funding under the 2019-2020 New Horizons for Seniors Program community-based stream, funding can be used to provide immediate and essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19.

[Learn more about the New Horizons for Seniors Program](#)

## People who need it most

- Supporting people experiencing homelessness

We are continuing to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak by providing \$157.5 million to the Reaching Home initiative.

The funding can be used by recipients for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters.

[Learn more about the Reaching Home initiative](#)

- Supporting women and children fleeing violence

We provided support to women's shelters and sexual assault centres, including facilities in Indigenous communities, to help manage and prevent a COVID-19 outbreak in their facilities.

Over 500 organizations across Canada received support to protect some of Canada's most vulnerable.

[View the list of organizations that received support](#)

- Providing youth with mental health support

We are giving \$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide young people with the mental health support they need during this difficult time.

[Get the support you need](#)

- Supporting public health efforts through the Canadian Red Cross

We are providing \$100 million to the Canadian Red Cross to enhance their response capacity and to support public health efforts. With this funding, the Red Cross will:

- Recruit and train volunteers and staff
- Adapt its operations to the COVID-19 context
- Support quarantine and isolation sites

- Acquire personal protective equipment for its personnel and volunteers
- Provide training to the health care sector and other essential workers on using personal protective equipment, and maintaining infection prevention and control measures within facilities
- Expand their roster of public health and infection prevention and control specialists
- Procure and deploy, as necessary, emergency health supplies and equipment, including a mobile field hospital, to prepare for future waves and outbreaks of COVID-19

### [Learn how Red Cross is helping](#)

- Additional support for your organization
  - [Avoiding layoffs, and rehiring employees and creating new jobs](#)
  - [Financial support, loans and access to credit](#)
  - [Indigenous businesses](#)
  - [Support for self-employed individuals](#)
  - [Taxes and tariffs](#)

### People with disabilities

- Providing resources to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs

A new investment of \$15 million in 2020-21 will provide community organizations with resources to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs in response to COVID-19, including by helping employers set up accessible and effective work-from-home arrangements. This support will also cover expanding accessible online training opportunities and helping connect Canadians with disabilities working from home with employers.

- Investing in projects through the Accessible Technology Program

We are investing \$1.18 million in five new projects across the country through the Accessible Technology Program. With this funding, organizations will develop dynamic and affordable technology, such as accessible payment terminals for retailers and tools to make communication easier for Canadians with disabilities in the digital economy.

### Related resources

#### [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan – Overview](#)

- Information for individuals
  - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - [Get email updates on COVID-19 from the Government of Canada](#)
  - [Jobs and career options during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
  - [Benefits and Services](#)
  - [Changes to Canadian taxes and benefits](#)
  - [Managing financial health in challenging times](#)
  - [Indigenous communities](#)
  - [COVID-19 fraud](#)
  - [COVID-19 – A data perspective](#)
- Information for businesses
  - [Canada's international trade](#)
  - [Canadian Business Resilience Network](#)
  - [COVID-19 Small Business Help Centre](#)
- Information for sectors
  - [Canadian manufacturers needed to help combat COVID-19](#)
  - [Information for industry and partners](#) (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

- [Information for industry](#) (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)
- [Information for industry](#) (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)
- [Measures, updates, and guidance](#) (Transport Canada)
- [Resources for Canada's natural resources sectors](#)
- [Information for the aquaculture sector](#)

## **Finance News Release 2020-05-20: [Prime Minister announces opening of program to protect jobs and help businesses](#)**

Canadians are focused on keeping their jobs and paying their bills, as they continue to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. That's why the Government of Canada has put jobs and workers first, in our approach to support businesses during this challenging time.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that application documents and updated criteria for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses are now available, and that the program will be opened for applications beginning on May 25.

The Government of Canada is focused on safeguarding workers' jobs as we continue to deal with this pandemic. That's why we reached an agreement in principle last month with all provinces and territories to implement CECRA. This program will provide forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners, who in turn will give a rent reduction of at least 75 per cent for April and May (retroactive), and June, to their small business tenants.

This program provides property owners the opportunity to do their part in helping small businesses and their employees succeed in these challenging times. We're all in this together, and that's why the government is stepping up to provide rent relief to businesses, while helping property owners maintain rental income through this crisis.

CECRA will provide important relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship, and is another measure that helps businesses keep Canadians on the payroll. Applications will be accepted through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website beginning on May 25, and application documents can be accessed now.

The Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is protecting middle class jobs and helping Canadian businesses through this crisis. Together, we will continue to ensure Canadians have what they need to pay their bills and keep their families safe and healthy during these challenging times.

### Quotes

"Canadians want to know that their jobs are protected and their families are safe and healthy. That's why we're stepping up to provide support that will keep workers on the payroll, protect middle class jobs, and help Canadians recover quickly once we make it through these difficult times."

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a profound impact on Canadians. We thank and commend the many property owners who have already taken action to help their tenants during this crisis. With CECRA, the Government of Canada is stepping up to support Canada's small businesses. The forgivable loans will significantly lower the rent for small business tenants and keep them prepared to bounce back when this crisis subsides."

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

### Quick Facts

CECRA will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners, whether they have a mortgage on their property or not. The loans will cover 50 per cent of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May, and June.

The loans will be forgiven if the qualifying property owner agrees to reduce the small business tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent under a rent reduction agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent.

Impacted small business tenants are businesses that are paying less than \$50,000 per month in gross rent in a given location, with annual revenues of less than \$20 million (at the ultimate parent level), and who have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues.

**Finance News Release 2020-05-20: [Government announces support program for large employers is open for applications](#)**

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to support Canadians and protect jobs during the global COVID-19 outbreak.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Navdeep Bains, today announced the opening of the application process for the government's Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF). The program will support Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing. LEEFF will help successful applicants keep their operations going.

The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic challenges, 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.

The government's support for large employers through LEEFF will be delivered by a subsidiary of the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV), in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance. Additional information on the application process is available on the CDEV website. Broader sectoral dynamics for LEEFF applicants will be considered through processes led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

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. 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.

## Quotes

"We know that times have been tough, and Canadians are concerned about their jobs. We continue to make sure government action responds to the significant needs of Canadians and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. LEEFF will help protect jobs, safeguard workers' benefits, and protect our economy. It will help businesses keep workers on the payroll, and put more Canadians in a position to recover quickly once we make it through these uncertain times."

—*The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance*

"Companies of all sizes throughout the country are facing economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. LEEFF is a complement to support measures already in place for workers and businesses, all with the common objective of protecting Canadian jobs. Combined with our ongoing analysis of the pressures that are facing our sectors, we will work to make sure this program is delivered in an efficient and responsible manner."

—*The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry*

## Quick facts

- The LEEFF program will be open to large for-profit businesses—with the exception of those in the financial sector—as well as certain not-for-profit businesses, such as airports, with annual revenues generally in the order of \$300 million or higher. To qualify for LEEFF support, eligible businesses must be seeking financing of \$60 million or more, have significant operations or workforce in Canada, and not be involved in active insolvency proceedings.
- The LEEFF program will be designed to protect the interests of taxpayers and will require the cooperation of applicants' private sector lenders, to ensure government financing is focused on sustaining operations.
- 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.

### **Associated links**

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Prime Minister announces new support to protect Canadian jobs](#) [(April 17)]
- [Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs](#)

### **News Release 2020-05-11: Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs**

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.

### Quotes

"We know that times have been tough, and Canadians are concerned about their jobs, and the health and safety of their families. We promised that we would be here to support all Canadians, and that is why we are announcing new measures that will help save middle class jobs, safeguard workers' benefits, and protect our economy. This will help businesses keep workers on the payroll, and put more Canadians in a position to recover quickly once we make it through these uncertain times."

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"Employers, large and small, are facing challenges due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our government has their backs. We know that many businesses of all sizes need our help in order to keep their many employees on the payroll and their suppliers paid until the economy recovers. That is why today's measures will help both large and mid-sized employers to get access to the financing they need to make it through this extraordinarily challenging time."

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

"We know that Canadian workers and companies of all sizes are facing economic hardship and uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to analyse the specific pain points that COVID-19 is putting on all our industrial sectors as they grapple with unprecedented financial difficulties during this crisis. The measures we are announcing today will add to the supports currently available to large employers in Canada to help them weather the storm during this difficult time."

The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

### Quick Facts

- The composition of the mid-market segment may be varied, but the needs of its companies are similar, especially at a time when demand in many sectors has suffered. Mid-market businesspeople are looking for ways to access sufficient liquidity to bridge current uncertainties and to recover.
- The expanded BCAP will allow mid-market companies to leverage the Crown's mandate for support, as well as their expertise and relationships with the country's financial institutions, in order to access the best complementary solutions that address their financing gaps.
- The government's support for large companies through LEEFF will be delivered by the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV), in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance. The LEEFF program will be open to large for-profit businesses – with the exception of those in the financial sector – as well as certain not-for-profit businesses, such as airports, with annual revenues generally in the order of \$300 million or higher. To qualify for LEEFF support, eligible businesses must be seeking financing of about \$60 million or more, have significant operations or workforce in Canada, and not be involved in active insolvency proceedings. Broader sectoral dynamics for LEEFF applicants will be considered through processes led by ISED.

- The LEEFF program will be designed to protect the interests of taxpayers and will require the cooperation of applicants' private sector lenders, to ensure government financing is focused on sustaining operations.
- The government is in the final stages of establishing the program and further information about the application process will be provided shortly.
- The government is also supporting Canadian businesses through the COVID-19 outbreak with targeted initiatives that:
  - Provide effective support to those eligible employers that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). The CEWS applies at a rate of 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week, per employee. Employers of all sizes from across the economy are eligible, with certain exceptions including public sector entities.
  - Allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) payments, as well as customs duty payments owed for imports, until June. This measure is the equivalent of providing up to \$30 billion in interest-free loans to Canadian businesses. It will help businesses continue to pay their employees and their bills, and help ease cash-flow challenges across the country.
  - Defer the payment of income taxes. The government is allowing all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020. This relief, amounting to \$55 billion in liquidity support, would apply to new balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

**News Release 2020-05-19: [Prime Minister announces expansion of support for workers and small businesses](#)**

Throughout the pandemic, the Government of Canada has focused on keeping Canadians safe and healthy and helping families pay their bills. That's why we have introduced strong measures to protect middle class jobs and support businesses, so they can keep Canadians on the payroll during this challenging time.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses. This extended measure will help small businesses protect the jobs that Canadians rely on.

The changes to the CEBA will allow more Canadian small businesses to access interest free loans that will help cover operating costs during a period when revenues have been reduced, due to the pandemic.

The program will now be available to a greater number of businesses that are sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll.

To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

Expenses will be subject to verification and audit by the Government of Canada. Funding will be delivered in partnership with financial institutions. More details, including the launch date for applications under the new criteria, will follow in the days to come. To date, over 600,000 small businesses have accessed the CEBA, and the government will work on potential solutions to help business owners and entrepreneurs who operate through their personal bank account, as opposed to a business account, or have yet to file a tax return, such as newly created businesses.

This measure is part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which is putting Canadians and the protection of middle class jobs first. We will continue to help all Canadians, and together we will get through this crisis.

## Quotes

“Canadians are counting on us to protect their jobs and help them pay their bills during this difficult time. By expanding the CEBA, we will be giving more businesses access to the support they need, so they can help protect workers and the jobs they rely on. Today we are helping to keep more businesses open and more Canadians working, so we are better prepared for the recovery to come.”

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

“Our government has been taking action since the start of this crisis to support the small businesses that define our Main Streets and provide jobs that Canadians rely on. We have been listening to you throughout this, and will continue to, to make sure we’re delivering the support Canadian businesses need to get through this tough time and be well positioned for success once the recovery begins.”

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

“Small businesses are at the heart of our communities, and they drive our national economy. By making our lending supports more generous and inclusive, we’re working hard to save Canadian jobs and businesses. We will continue to be there for Canadian businesses and workers every step of the way through this crisis.”

The Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

## Quick Facts

- Launched on April 9, 2020, the CEBA provides zero-interest, partially forgivable loans up to \$40,000 to small businesses that have experienced diminished revenues due to COVID-19, but face ongoing non-deferrable costs such as rent, utilities, insurance, taxes, and employment costs. Twenty-five per cent of this loan is forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022.
- The CEBA is administered by Export Development Canada, which is working closely with Canadian financial institutions to deliver the loans to their existing business banking customers.
- When first launched, the CEBA was designed to allow for rapid deployment of credit to businesses with 2019 payroll between \$50,000 and \$1 million. The government then expanded the eligibility parameters of the program, by increasing the payroll eligibility range to between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million.
- Since the CEBA's launch, over 600,000 loans have been approved, representing a total of more than \$24 billion in credit.

## Associated Links

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Prime Minister announces additional support for small businesses](#)
- [Prime Minister announces support for small businesses facing impacts of COVID-19](#)

**News Release 2020-05-13: [COVID-19: \\$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic](#)**

**From: [Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada](#)**

*Government of Canada will support more small businesses and communities with targeted assistance delivered by regional development agencies*

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in uncertainty and anxiety for small businesses and their employees in all regions of Canada. These businesses are at the heart of communities nationwide and are a source of local jobs and local pride.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, which is why the Government of Canada has implemented a series of concrete and tangible measures to help them retain their employees, pay rent and access capital to cover costs. Building on these measures, the new Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) devotes nearly \$962 million to help

more businesses and organizations in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, tourism and others that are key to the regions and to local economies.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, today announced that the RRRF is now accepting applications from businesses and communities. It is specifically targeted toward those that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but have been unable to access existing support measures. Canada's businesses are as diverse as Canadians are, and the fund's immediate, concrete help will be tailored to their unique needs. Most importantly, it will relieve pressures, helping them pay employees and cover costs. In the months to come, it will position them to play a meaningful role in our economic recovery.

The best way to help Canadian communities is through a source they already trust, which is why the six regional development agencies (RDA) will be delivering this funding. Covering every region of Canada, the RDAs are very familiar with the economic realities of their regions and are well suited to assist workers and businesses.

The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$110 million for Atlantic Canada – [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#) (ACOA)
- \$211 million for Quebec – [Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions](#) (CED)
- \$34.3 million for Northern Canada – [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#) (CanNor)
- \$252.4 million for Southern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario)
- \$49.5 million for Northern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario](#) (FedNor)
- \$304.2 million for Western Canada – [Western Economic Diversification Canada](#) (WD)

The funding announced today is part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which commits more than \$149 billion to support Canadians and businesses through this difficult time. As other government measures are further strengthened, the RDAs will adapt to meet the ongoing needs of local businesses.

Businesses interested in receiving support through this initiative are now invited to apply for the RRRF through their local RDA.

### Quotes

"No matter how wide we extend the safety net, businesses across Canada continue to slip through the cracks. Many entrepreneurs are still anxious about whether they will get the help they need. With nearly a billion dollars in support across the country, the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund will fill in some of the gaps. Our message to Canadians is clear: We are here for you now, we will be here for you in the weeks and months to come, and we will get through this together. We've got your back."

– The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, Minister responsible for the Regional Development Agencies and Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic-Cartierville

### Quick facts

- The [six regional development agencies](#) (RDA) ensure that Canada's regions are heard in Ottawa and that local economies and businesses get the support they need to grow and prosper.
- Canada's RDAs focus on developing and diversifying regional economies to help communities thrive. Already a major presence in communities, they know where additional support is needed most.
- This special initiative delivered through the RDAs is part of [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#), which is providing up to \$149 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses.
- CanNor's portion of the RRRF will build on the supports provided by the agency's [Northern Business Relief Fund](#) (NBRF) to fill further needs for immediate relief for SMEs and to ensure the stability of businesses in sectors that are vital to the recovery of the Northern economy.

## Ontario

### [Tax Bulletin – Interest and Penalty Relief for Businesses](#)

On March 25, 2020, the Ontario government announced a five-month relief period for Ontario businesses who are unable to file or remit select provincial taxes on time, due to the special circumstances caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ontario. This relief period will help businesses around the province focus on supporting the well-being of their employees and their continued operations during this time of uncertainty.

#### Relief Period Overview

Tax filing and remittance deadlines will remain the same. However, beginning April 1, 2020, penalties and interest will not apply to Ontario businesses that miss any filing or remittance deadline under select provincial taxes. This will continue for a period of five months.

The following provincial taxes are included in the relief period:

- Employer Health Tax
- Tobacco Tax
- Fuel Tax
- Gas Tax
- Beer, Wine & Spirits Tax
- Mining Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- International Fuel Tax Agreement
- Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans
- Race Tracks Tax

#### Relief is Automatic

If a business is unable to file their return or remittance during the relief period, they **do not need** to contact or notify the Ministry of Finance. Penalties and interest will be waived automatically for all late returns or remittances by Ontario businesses during the relief period.

Ontario businesses are also **not required** to provide the Ministry of Finance with information about the impact of COVID-19 on their staff or daily operations during the relief period.

#### Filing Your Late Return or Remittance

Ontario businesses are required to file any late returns or remittances by the end of the relief period.

The Ministry will continue to review what challenges businesses are experiencing in light of COVID-19 and develop rules around returning to normal accordingly. Any transition plan will be communicated to all tax clients before the relief period ends.

#### What's Not Included

The relief period does not include business accounts with outstanding taxes, interest or penalties owing to the government from previous filing periods. Existing debts from before the relief period will continue to accrue interest.

#### Audit Activity

The government is also temporarily suspending audit interactions with most Ontario businesses and representatives beginning the month of April 2020 until further notice.

[See also [Beer and Wine Tax](#) updates]

### **Ontario's Action Plan 2020: RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

[Excerpts from the Action Plan with tax implications are reproduced below]

#### **\$3.7 billion to support people and jobs, including:**

- \$75 million in urgent additional support for 194,000 low-income seniors by proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples, for six months starting in April 2020;
- Helping families pay for extra costs associated with school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 outbreak by providing a one-time \$200 payment per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs including kids enrolled in private schools;
- Providing six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief, in coordination with the federal government's measures, leaving more money in the pockets of student borrowers;
- Providing new, additional support of \$26 million to Indigenous peoples and communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need, costs for health care professionals and critical supplies to reach remote First Nations, as well as funding to address emergency planning and self-isolation needs for people in First Nation communities;
- \$200 million in new funding to provide temporary emergency supports for people in financial need as well as funding to municipalities and other service providers to respond to local needs; for example, food banks, homeless shelters, churches and emergency services;
- Making electricity bills more affordable for eligible residential, farm and small business consumers through a \$1.5 billion increase in electricity cost relief compared to the 2019 Budget. The government is also setting electricity prices for time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days, to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage as a result of measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak;
- \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and ensuring that their electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption;
- Helping to support regions lagging in employment growth with a proposed new Corporate Income Tax credit — the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit; and
- Supporting the timely delivery of critical food and supplies by amending a regulation that restricted delivery trucks from operating during off-peak hours.

#### **\$10 billion in support for people and businesses to improve cash flows by:**

- Providing a five-month interest and penalty-free period to make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes, providing \$6 billion in relief to help support Ontario businesses when they need it the most;
- Deferring the upcoming quarterly (June 30) remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days. This will provide municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals of over \$1.8 billion to local residents and businesses; and
- Providing \$1.9 billion in new financial relief by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for a period of six months.

#### **Fiscal prudence at historical levels, including:**

- A dedicated \$1.0 billion COVID-19 contingency fund as part of the additional health care investments;
- An increased contingency fund of \$1.3 billion; and

- An unprecedented reserve of \$2.5 billion — the largest in Ontario's history — to provide continued flexibility to respond to changing global circumstances...

## Supporting People and Jobs

People across Ontario are responding to the evolving COVID-19 outbreak by taking additional precautions to keep themselves, their families and their communities safe. They should not be penalized for acting responsibly and doing the right thing by following the advice of public health officials. Building on coordinated actions with the federal government, Ontario is taking immediate steps to support people and families by planning to invest \$3.7 billion in supports for people and jobs in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Seniors

The Province is providing immediate financial support of an additional \$75 million to 194,000 vulnerable seniors, who may need more help to cover essential expenses during the COVID-19 outbreak, by proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) maximum payment for low-income seniors, for six months starting in April 2020. This would increase the maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples. The government is also helping seniors by providing \$5 million to support the coordination of subsidized deliveries of meals, medicines and other essentials, by working with local businesses and charities as well as existing health services.

### Parents

To help parents pay for the extra costs associated with the closure of schools and daycares during the COVID-19 outbreak, the government is providing a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including kids enrolled in private schools. As part of the government's efforts to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, Ontario is also providing emergency child care options to enable parents who are front-line workers to report for work, such as health care workers, police officers, fire fighters and correctional officers.

[See also News Release 2020-04-06: [Province Providing One-time Financial Assistance During School and Child Care Closures](#)]

### Students

The government is temporarily suspending Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan repayments between March 30, 2020 and September 30, 2020, during which time borrowers will not be required to make any loan or interest payments. In coordination with the federal government's measures, this will immediately leave more money in the pockets of student borrowers during these challenging economic times.

[See also Federal News Release 2020-04-22: [Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#)]

### Workers

The government is taking further measures to support Ontario workers, with initiatives including:

Quickly passing legislation to provide job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or daycare closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak; Committing \$100 million in funding through Employment Ontario for skills training programs for workers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak; and Working with the federal government to find ways to support apprentices and enable businesses to continue to retain these skilled trades workers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Indigenous Peoples and Communities

The government is providing supports of \$26 million for Indigenous peoples and communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need and costs for health care professionals and critical supplies to reach remote First Nations.

### **Vulnerable People**

During the COVID-19 crisis, it is particularly important to support vulnerable people, including those who are homeless, unemployed or living in poverty. That is why the government is: Investing \$52 million to expand access to the emergency assistance program administered by Ontario Works to provide financial support to people facing economic hardship and help them with basic needs, such as food and rent during this public health emergency; Enhancing funding for charitable and non-profit social services organizations, for example food banks, homeless shelters, churches and emergency services such as the Red Cross, to improve their ability to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The government is doing this by providing \$148 million directly to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards who would allocate this funding based on local needs; and Equipping essential first responders and front-line staff in the justice sector with the necessary personal protective equipment and other critical supplies required to ensure the safety and security of all people in Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[See also News Release 2020-04-21: [Ontario Providing Additional Relief to the Province's Most Vulnerable](#) (Funding and services will help seniors and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak)]

### **Electricity Relief**

The government is supporting people and businesses with the costs of electricity during the COVID-19 outbreak. That is why the government is: Providing \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and by ensuring that their electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak; and Supporting more affordable electricity bills for eligible residential, farm and small business consumers, by providing approximately \$5.6 billion for electricity cost relief programs in 2020–21. This is an increase of approximately \$1.5 billion compared to the 2019 Budget plan. The Province is also setting electricity prices for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, addressing concerns about time-of-use metering.

### **Employer Health Tax**

The government is cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers by proposing a temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million for 2020. With this plan, more than 90 per cent of private-sector employers would not pay EHT in 2020. Eligible private-sector employers with annual payrolls up to \$5 million would be exempt from EHT on the first \$1 million of total Ontario remuneration in 2020. The maximum EHT relief from the exemption would increase by \$9,945 to \$19,500 for 2020 for eligible employers. About 57,000 private-sector employers would pay less EHT, including about 30,000 who would not pay any EHT for 2020, effectively eliminating EHT for these employers for one year. The exemption would return to its current level of \$490,000 on January 1, 2021.

### **Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit**

To support business investment in regions of the province where employment growth has been significantly below the provincial average, Ontario is proposing a new 10 per cent refundable Corporate Income Tax credit. The Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit would be available to eligible businesses that construct, renovate or acquire qualifying commercial and industrial buildings in designated regions of the province, saving them up to \$45,000 in the year.

### **Support for People and Businesses to Improve Cash Flow**

Ontario is making \$10 billion available to improve cash flows for people and businesses through tax and other deferrals over the coming months to provide relief during this challenging economic time, in coordination with the federal government.

## **\$6 Billion in Tax Deferrals**

To help support Ontario businesses when they need it most, the government is providing a five-month interest and penalty-free period for businesses to make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes. Beginning April 1, 2020, the Province is providing flexibility to about 100,000 businesses in Ontario to help manage their cash flows during this challenging time. This will continue for a period of five months, up until August 31, 2020, and is expected to make available \$6 billion to improve the cash flows of Ontario businesses. For this period, the Province will not apply any penalty or interest on any late-filed returns or incomplete or late tax payments under select provincially administered taxes, such as the Employer Health Tax, Tobacco Tax and Gas Tax. The initiative and relief period complement the relief from interest and penalties from not remitting Corporate Income Tax owing that was announced by the federal government on March 18, 2020.

## **\$1.8 Billion in Education Property Tax Deferrals**

The Province recognizes that many residents and businesses are facing challenges in making their scheduled property tax payments. The government is working closely with municipalities as they introduce measures to provide property tax relief, for example, by allowing taxpayers to defer property tax payments. To encourage these actions, the government is deferring the property tax payments municipalities make to school boards by 90 days. In addition to collecting municipal property taxes, municipalities collect and remit education property taxes to school boards on a quarterly basis. Deferring the June 30 quarterly remittance to school boards by 90 days will provide municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide over \$1.8 billion in property tax deferrals to residents and businesses. To ensure this does not have a financial impact on school boards, the Province will adjust payments to school boards to offset the deferral.

## **\$1.9 Billion in Workplace Safety Expenses**

Working in conjunction with the government of Ontario, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) will allow employers to defer payments for a period of six months. This will provide employers with \$1.9 billion in financial relief. All employers covered by the WSIB's workplace insurance are automatically eligible for the financial relief package. Schedule 1 employers with premiums owed to the WSIB will be allowed to defer reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. The deferral will also apply to Schedule 2 businesses that pay WSIB for the cost related to their workplace injury and illness claims. In addition, no interest will be accrued on outstanding premium payments and no penalties will be charged during this six-month deferral period.

## **Responsibly Managing the Province's Finances**

Events like the COVID-19 outbreak underscore why governments must be positioned to act in a time of crisis. Through its action plan, Ontario is immediately allocating the necessary resources to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak, while continuing to invest in people. As a result, the 2020–21 deficit is projected to be \$20.5 billion. This plan builds on the government's responsible approach to managing Ontario's finances with measures to provide further flexibility to respond to this rapidly changing global outbreak. This includes historic levels of prudence, including a dedicated \$1.0 billion COVID-19 contingency fund, an increased contingency fund of \$1.3 billion and an unprecedented reserve of \$2.5 billion, the largest in Ontario's history. Ontario's strong economic fundamentals have positioned the government to respond decisively to this outbreak. The Province will continue to actively monitor and mitigate risks, coordinating with partners and other levels of government, while continuing to retain flexibility to respond as conditions evolve.

## **Conclusion**

Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 outlines the government's first steps to protect public health, and support people and jobs. Ontario will continue to work diligently with health experts, business leaders, financial institutions, economists and municipal and federal partners to respond swiftly and effectively to this outbreak, so that the people of Ontario are supported and protected during the COVID-19 outbreak. The people and businesses of Ontario have shown immense cooperation, resilience and determination to tackle this crisis by helping one another. To every family, person, business and community — the Ontario government is right there beside you.

## **News Release 2020-04-24: Ontario Provides Urgent Relief for Small Businesses and Landlords**

## **Rent Assistance in Addition to Billions in Measures to Support Business During the COVID-19 Outbreak**

TORONTO — The Ontario government is partnering with the federal government to provide urgent relief for small businesses and landlords affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The province is committing \$241 million through the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA). The total amount of provincial-federal relief that would be provided is more than \$900 million, helping to ensure small businesses are ready to reopen their doors when the emergency measures are lifted.

Details of the new program were announced today by Premier Doug Ford, Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care. "The vast majority of Ontario's small businesses and landlords are struggling during this extraordinary public health emergency," said Premier Ford. "That's why we are doing everything we can to support them through these tough economic times, so they can hit the ground running when we are in a position to open up the provincial economy. I want to thank the federal government for partnering with us to help our small businesses and commercial landlords. I look forward to working together to also provide much-needed support to residential renters ahead of May 1."

The OCECRA will provide forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners experiencing potential rent shortfalls because their small business tenants have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. To receive the loan, property owners will be required to reduce the rental costs of small business tenants for April to June 2020 by at least 75 per cent and commit to a moratorium on evictions for three months.

Partnering with the federal government on the OCECRA builds on the provincial government's approach to supporting business during COVID-19. As part of *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*, the government has implemented a series of cash flow supports amounting to \$10 billion to help support jobs and the economy, including:

- Doubling the Employer Health Tax exemption for 2020, cutting taxes by \$355 million, benefiting roughly 57,000 employers;
- Eliminating penalties and interest to businesses who miss filing or remittance deadlines for various provincially administered taxes for five months starting April 1, 2020, providing up to \$6 billion in cashflow for about 100,000 Ontario businesses;
- Postponing the planned property tax reassessment for 2021, providing stability for Ontario's property taxpayers;
- Deferring the upcoming quarterly (June 30) remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days, providing municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals of over \$1.8 billion to local residents and businesses;
- Implementing the new Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit for businesses that make eligible capital investments in designated regions of the province where employment growth has significantly lagged behind below the provincial average.

Ontario has also suspended time-of-use electricity rates for eligible small businesses, as well as residential and farm time-of-use customers, holding electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour, for 24 hours per day, seven days a week for 45 days, for all time-of-use customers, who make up the majority of electricity consumers in the province. By switching to a fixed off-peak rate, time-of-use customers will see rate reductions of over 50 per cent compared to on-peak rates.

"To help stop the spread of COVID-19, businesses have closed their doors and employees have stayed home and that has been working, but it has also created significant financial hardship," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance. "By subsidizing rent payments, reducing taxes, extending deadlines, and eliminating penalties and interest, we're helping to ensure businesses can start up quickly when the time is right."

The Ontario government has also worked with the federal government to develop the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending, supported through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank. This program will help businesses meet cash flow requirements through guaranteed loans.

"Ontario's small and medium-sized businesses are vital to our economy and include some of the hardest-working people in the world who have rolled up their sleeves to support our frontline healthcare workers, and beat this virus," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "This package of supports will help them get through these difficult days and resume normal operations as soon as possible."

"In the months ahead, small businesses will be critical to Ontario's economic recovery. Together with our federal partners, we are ensuring we support our small businesses today, so that they can continue to create opportunities for hardworking Ontario families tomorrow," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "With rents coming due, it's extremely important that the federal government move quickly to implement this program and get small businesses and property owners the support they urgently need."

#### *Quick Facts*

- The Province's \$241 million investment in OCECRA is part of the \$17 billion Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19.
- The government has retroactively, to January 1, 2020, raised the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption to \$1 million from \$490,000 for 2020, providing additional EHT relief of up to \$9,945 per eligible employer.
- Starting January 1, 2020, Ontario reduced the small business Corporate Income Tax rate from 3.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent.

#### **Backgrounder 2020-04-24: Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program**

The Ontario Government is committing \$241 million to partner with the federal government and deliver more than \$900 million in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through a new program, the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA).

The OCECRA will provide forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners experiencing potential rent shortfalls because their small business tenants have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

#### ***How does the program work?***

The program has been developed to share the cost between small business tenants and landlords. Small business tenants and landlords would each be asked to pay 25 per cent of the before profit costs and the provincial and federal government would cost share the remaining 50 per cent. For example, a monthly rent for a small business is \$10,000. In this example, assume the landlord doesn't make a profit. The landlord forgoes \$2,500 (25 per cent of rent). The small business would be responsible for paying \$2,500 (25 per cent of rent). The government would cover the remaining \$5,000, with \$3,750 from the federal government (37.5 per cent of rent) and \$1,250 (12.5 per cent of rent) from the provincial government. To receive the loan, property owners will be required to reduce the rental costs of small business tenants for April to June 2020 by at least 75 per cent. The loan would also be contingent on the signing of a rent forgiveness agreement between impacted tenants and landlords. This would also include a moratorium on evictions for three months.

#### ***How long would a commercial property owner have to apply for OCECRA?***

The OCECRA would be administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and would be available until September 30, 2020. Support would be retroactive to April 1, covering April, May and June 2020.

#### ***Are there any eligibility requirements for commercial property owners?***

The OCECRA would apply to commercial properties with small business tenants. Commercial properties with a residential component, and residential mixed-use properties with a 30 per cent commercial component, would be equally eligible for

support with respect to their commercial tenants. The property owner must be the registered owner and landlord of the residential or commercial real estate property. If a property owner does not have a mortgage secured by a commercial rental property, the property owner should contact CMHC to discuss program options, which may include applying funds against other forms of debt facilities or fixed cost payment obligations (e.g. utilities).

### ***What are the eligibility requirements for small businesses?***

An eligible small business tenant is one that:

- Pays monthly rent not exceeding \$50,000 in gross rent payments; and is,
- A non-essential small business that has temporarily closed, or who is experiencing a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues (determined by comparing revenues in April, May or June to the same month in 2019 or alternatively compared to average revenues for January and February 2020).

Not-for-profit organizations and charitable entities would also be considered for the program.

### ***Are commercial properties that also have apartments eligible as well?***

Commercial properties with a residential component, and residential mixed-use properties that have a 30 per cent commercial component, would be equally eligible for support with respect to their commercial tenants only.

### ***Does the OCECRA program factor in profits for the commercial property owner through the loan period?***

The forgivable loan would be conditional on the property owner and tenant entering into a rent forgiveness agreement (including a moratorium on eviction for three-months) pursuant to which the property owner would reduce the tenant's monthly rent to 25 per cent of rent that relates to fixed costs for three months. The property owner would be responsible for the remaining 25 per cent. For certainty, government funding, and remaining monthly tenant rent payment obligations (i.e. 25 per cent), would not cover the property owner's profits derived from rental income - that is, in applying for this program, the property owner agrees to forego profit for a three-month period.

### ***Are any small businesses excluded from the OCECRA program?***

The following exclusions would apply: 1) Entities owned by individuals holding political office; 2) Entities that promote violence, incite hatred or discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability; and, 3) An entity in the Lenders special accounts or Restructuring Group prior to March 1, 2020.

### **Non-Resident Speculation Tax** (updated May 20)

The Ministry of Finance has developed some administrative flexibility regarding the Non-Resident Speculation Tax rebates and the requirement to occupy a home within 60 days of its purchase. This administrative flexibility will be applied only to purchases that occur between January 17, 2020 to the final day of the state of emergency. [Learn more.](#)

The Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST) is a 15 per cent tax on the purchase or acquisition of an interest in residential property located in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region (GGH) by individuals who are not citizens or permanent residents of Canada or by foreign corporations (foreign entities) and taxable trustees. The NRST applies in addition to the general LTT in Ontario...

### **COVID-19 Administrative Concession**

On March 17, 2020, in response to COVID-19 coronavirus disease, the Government of Ontario declared a state of emergency pursuant to section 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

The Ministry of Finance understands that the effect of COVID-19 and the state of emergency could make it difficult for individuals who seek an NRST rebate to fulfil the condition that they occupy a property as their principal residence within 60 days after the date of purchase.

Therefore, the Ministry will apply an administrative concession to extend the period of time within which a person must occupy a property as their principal residence for the purposes of an NRST rebate to 60 days after the final day of the state of emergency.

The administrative concession will be applied only to purchases that have occurred from January 17, 2020 to the final day of the state of emergency.

For greater certainty, the administrative concession will not apply with respect to purchases that occurred on or before January 16, 2020 or purchases that occur after the state of emergency is no longer in effect.

Rebates must be applied for within four years after the day on which the NRST became payable, except for the rebate for a foreign national who becomes a permanent resident of Canada. The rebate for a foreign national who becomes a permanent resident of Canada must be applied for within 90 days of the foreign national becoming a permanent resident, and no application may be made more than four years and 90 days from the date the NRST became payable.

All rebate applications must be made using the [Ontario Land Transfer Tax Refund/Rebate form for NRST](#).

Supporting documentation will be required to substantiate all applications for rebates.

### Other

- [Bill 190, COVID-19 Response and Reforms to Modernize Ontario Act, 2020 \(Royal Assent received\)](#) (May 12);
- [FedDev Ontario and partners to assist nearly 23,000 Ontario businesses in embracing online commerce](#) (June 11, 2020);
- [FedDev Ontario and partners to support nearly 23,000 Ontario businesses to go digital](#) (June 11, 2020);
- BLG, "[Ontario government addresses temporary layoffs during the COVID-19 period](#)", *Insights*, June 2;
- News Release 2020-05-31: [FedDev Ontario supports tourism and recovery efforts across Southern Ontario](#);
- [Support for Small Business Tenants and Landlords Now Available](#) (May 29);
- [Ontario Protecting Forestry Jobs & Worker Safety During COVID-19](#) (May 7);
- [Ontario extends electricity rate relief during COVID-19](#) (May 6);
- [Ontario providing support for industrial and commercial electricity consumers during COVID-19](#) (May 1);
- [News Release 2020-04-28: Ontario helping businesses overcome the unique challenges created by COVID-19](#) (the Ontario government is launching the COVID-19: [Tackling the Barriers](#) website to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic. The province is prepared to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain. The province will consider requests from businesses for temporary changes to rules and regulations to assist businesses respond to COVID-19 – requests can be submitted through a government website);
- [News Release 2020-04-25: Ontario supporting frontline heroes of COVID-19 with pandemic pay \(the province announced a bonus of \\$4 per hour for qualifying frontline healthcare staff, plus a bonus of \\$250 per month for employees working more than 100 hours per month; payments will be effective from April 24 until August 13, 2020\)](#);
- [Ontario Unveils Guiding Principles to Reopen the Province](#) (April 27);
- [Emergency order regarding meetings for corporations](#) (April 24);
- Fasken, "First Video Witnessing, and Now Counterparts: Ten Frequently Asked Questions Surrounding Ontario's Emergency Changes to Will and Power of Attorney Executions", *Private Client Services Bulletin*, April 23 (available on Taxnet Pro);
- News Release 2020-04-09: [Ontario Starts Planning for Economic Recovery](#);
- News Release 2020-04-06: [Ontario Providing Relief for Remote Northern Property Taxpayers During COVID-19](#) (taxpayers in unincorporated areas in northern Ontario may defer payment of 2020 Provincial Land Tax instalments by up to 90 days without interest or penalties);
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business – [Ontario: COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#)

Note: Ontario is scheduled to table a budget on November 16.

### Quebec

#### [COVID-19: FAQ for Businesses](#) (June 11)

This page presents answers to the most **frequently asked questions** we have received in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. We hope they give you the information you need.

For information about **important deadlines** businesses need to meet to fulfill their tax obligations, see [COVID-19 Summary Tables: Deadlines for Businesses](#).

For information about COVID-19 relief measures, see [Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#).

## **GST/HST, QST and other taxes**

What are the deadlines for filing GST/HST and QST returns?

The deadlines for filing all types of GST/HST and QST returns remain the same. If you are able to file the returns by the usual deadlines, you should do so.

However, you will not be charged interest or a penalty if you file, by June 30, 2020, all returns that you would normally have been required to file between March 27, 2020, and June 1, 2020.

The usual filing and payment deadlines set out in tax legislation apply to returns with a filing deadline after June 1, 2020.

What measures are provided for GST/HST and QST payments and instalments?

The deadline for paying GST/HST and QST related to returns that would normally be filed between March 27, 2020, and June 1, 2020, has been extended to **June 30, 2020**. The same applies to instalment payments.

Is Revenu Québec still processing refunds?

Yes. Given the circumstances, we are temporarily prioritizing tax refunds to ensure you quickly receive the money you need.

Note that you can now file fillable PDFs of some tax refund applications using our online service in [My Account for businesses](#).

Use our online services to ensure your application is processed faster.

What is the deadline for filing the return respecting the tax on lodging for the first calendar quarter of 2020 and remitting the related tax?

The usual April 30, 2020, deadline for the first calendar quarter of 2020 has been extended to **July 31, 2020**, for both filing the return and remitting the related tax.

This means that if you are registered for the tax on lodging, you will have two returns to file by July 31, 2020: one for the first calendar quarter of 2020 and one for the second quarter.

Does the extension apply to both sleeping-accommodation establishment operators and digital accommodation platform operators?

Yes. The extension applies to anyone required to file a return respecting the tax on lodging for the first calendar quarter of 2020.

Will I be charged penalties or interest if I file the return respecting the tax on lodging and remit the related tax by July 31, 2020?

No. We will not charge any penalties or interest for the first quarter of 2020 if you file the return respecting the tax on lodging and remit the related tax by July 31, 2020.

Are there measures for other taxes?

No special measures have been announced for other taxes, such as:

- the specific tax on alcoholic beverages;
- the tax on insurance premiums;
- the specific duty on new tires;
- the municipal tax for 9-1-1 service;
- the fuel tax;
- the tobacco tax.

## Employers

Have the deadlines for reporting source deductions and employer contributions and paying amounts due been extended?

No. The usual deadlines apply, regardless of your remittance frequency.

When an employer gives an employee money to buy equipment needed for teleworking, is it considered a taxable benefit for the employee?

Given the **exceptional circumstances** caused by COVID-19, we do **not** consider the total or partial reimbursement of up to \$500 for necessary computer or office equipment that an employee purchased for teleworking as a taxable benefit for the employee. We consider that the employer gains the most from the purchase.

What is the credit for contributions to the health services fund? Updated

This credit complements the federal Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and is granted to **employers who are eligible** for the CEWS and **have an establishment in Québec** for an eligibility period of up to 24 weeks that runs from March 15 to August 29, 2020.

As is usually the case for employer contributions refunded by the federal government, this credit is equal to the total health services fund contribution an employer made on the salary and wages paid to employees on paid leave.

For more information, see the following:

- information bulletin 2020-8 published on the [Ministère des Finances du Québec](#) website on May 29, 2020; and
- [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) on the federal government website.

Can all employers get the credit for contributions to the health services fund?

No. This credit is granted to employers who are eligible for the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) and have an establishment in Québec.

Employers who are eligible for **only** the [10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers](#) are **not eligible** for the credit for contributions to the health services fund.

Do I need to update my business's source deductions and employer contributions returns filed before May 1, 2020, to include the credit for contributions to the health services fund?

No. Employers can choose to either reduce periodic payments to the health services fund they make after April 30, 2020, as long as that amount was not used to reduce another periodic payment, or claim a refund of the health services fund contribution when they file their RL-1 summaries for 2020.

Does the credit for contributions to the health services fund cover all employees?

No. The credit covers only employees who are on paid leave for an entire week during the eligibility period.

It does not cover:

- employees who receive no remuneration from the employer for at least 14 consecutive days during the eligibility period;
- employees who work during a given week, even if it is for just a few hours.

How do I calculate the credit for contributions to the health services fund for a pay period that starts or ends during the eligibility period?

The credit covers the salary and wages paid to employees on paid leave for an entire week included in the eligibility period. If your employees are paid every two weeks and only one of the two weeks is included in the eligibility period, only the salary and wages paid for that week are eligible for the credit for contributions to the health services fund.

## Corporation income tax

What is the deadline for filing the corporation income tax return? Updated

Some corporations must normally file the *Déclaration de revenus des sociétés* ([CO-17](#)) no later than the date that is six months after the end of their taxation year. If that date falls in the period:

- from March 17 to **May 30, 2020**, those corporations have until **June 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- **from May 31** to August 31, 2020, those corporations have until **September 1, 2020**, to file the return.

What measures are provided for corporation income tax instalments?

Corporations that would normally have to pay instalments in the period between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, now have until **September 1, 2020** to do so.

Interest will accrue from September 2, 2020, on any payment not received by **September 1, 2020**.

### Note

Instalment payments are not deferred for the compensation tax for financial institutions, the tax on capital for insurance corporations or the tax on capital for life insurance corporations.

What measures are provided for corporation income tax balances?

A corporation must normally pay its income tax balance no later than the date that is two months after the end of its taxation year. If that date falls in the period between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, the corporation has until **September 1, 2020**, to pay its balance.

Interest will accrue from September 2, 2020, on any payment not received by **September 1, 2020**.

### Note

Payment is not deferred for the compensation tax for financial institutions, the tax on capital for insurance corporations or the tax on capital for life insurance corporations.

## Partnerships

What measures are provided for the *Partnership Information Return*? Updated

Partnerships that would normally file the *Partnership Information Return* ([TP-600-V](#)) during the period from:

.....

- March 17 to March 31, 2020, now have until **May 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- April 1 to May 30, 2020, now have until **June 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- May 31 to August 31, 2020, now have until **September 1, 2020**, to file the return.

### Registered Charities and Other Donees

Has the deadline to file the *Information Return for Registered Charities and Other Donees* been extended?

The deadline for filing the *Information Return for Registered Charities and Other Donees* ([TP-985.22-V](#)) has been extended to **December 31, 2020**, for registered charities that are required to file the return between March 17, 2020, and December 30, 2020.

This measure also applies to other donees that are required to file form TP-985.22-V during the same period.

### Non-profit corporations

Has the deadline for filing the *Déclaration de revenus et de renseignements des sociétés sans but lucratif* been extended? Updated

Non-profit corporations must normally file the *Déclaration de revenus et de renseignements des sociétés sans but lucratif* ([CO-17.SP](#)) and the *Information Return for Tax-Exempt Entities* ([TP-997.1-V](#)), if applicable, by the date that is six months after the end of their taxation year. If that date falls in the period:

- from March 17 to **May 30, 2020**, those corporations have until **June 1, 2020**, to file the returns;
- from **May 31** to August 31, 2020, those corporations have until **September 1, 2020**, to file the returns.

### Trusts

Has the filing deadline for the income tax or information return been extended? Updated

The filing deadline for the *Trust Income Tax Return* ([TP-646-V](#)) or the *Trust Information Return* ([TP-646.1-V](#)) has been extended for certain trusts.

#### Trust whose taxation year ended on December 31, 2019

The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return for 2019 of a trust whose taxation year ended on December 31, 2019, has been extended to **May 1, 2020**.

#### Trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from January 1 to March 1, 2020

The filing deadline for the trust income tax return or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from January 1 to March 1, 2020, has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.

#### Trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from March 2 to **June 2, 2020**

The filing deadline for the trust income tax return or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from March 2 to June 2, 2020, has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

### Mining tax

Has the deadline for filing the mining tax return been extended? Updated

The deadline for filing the *Mining Tax Return* ([IM-30-V](#)) has been extended:

.....

- to **June 1, 2020**, for operators that were required to file the return in the period from March 17 to May 31, 2020;
- to **September 1, 2020**, for operators that were required to file the return in the period from June 1 to August 31, 2020.

This measure also applies to operators of more than one mine that must use forms IM-30.MX-V and IM-30.DL-V (instead of form IM-30-V) to file their mining tax return.

What measures are provided for mining tax instalments?

The measures deferring payment of corporation income tax instalments and balances also apply to the mining tax. For more information, see **Businesses – Corporation income tax** above.

### **Mandatory billing in the restaurant sector**

What are the relief measures for restaurant establishment operators?

We have suspended the obligation to file a *Sommaire périodique des ventes* (periodic sales summary) with us using a sales recording module (SRM).

As a result, no penalties will be imposed on restaurant establishment operators that fail to file a periodic sales summary as of the period that began in February 2020. This applies until further notice.

Do restaurant establishment operators have to notify Revenu Québec if their restaurant closes temporarily?

No. We are aware that the government ordered dining rooms to close temporarily and that only meal delivery and takeout services are allowed. Operators that have ceased all activities during the health crisis therefore do not need to notify Revenu Québec.

### **Electronic signatures**

Can an authorized person sign forms MR-69, MRW-69.RP, MRW-69.E or MR-69.R for a corporation electronically?

Yes, the forms listed below can be signed electronically until **September 1, 2020**. However, the signature must meet the general requirements of specialized tools.

- *Autorisation relative à la communication de renseignements ou procuration* ([MR-69](#) or MRW-69.RP);
- *Autorisation relative à la communication de renseignements à une personne inscrite à Mon dossier pour les entreprises ou procuration* (MRW-69.E);
- *Révocation d'une autorisation relative à la communication de renseignements ou d'une procuration* ([MR-69.R](#)).

Note that [My Account for businesses](#) can be used to give a designated person power of attorney or authorization. In this case, an electronic signature is not necessary.

What types of electronic signatures will Revenu Québec accept?

We will accept the following types of electronic signatures:

- a digital certificate (for example, a digital certificate produced using a specialized tool);
- a scanned hand-written signature (meaning an image of a signature);
- a signature made using an input tool such as a stylus or mouse.

### **Recovery of tax debts**

What if I have a tax debt or Revenu Québec is garnishing my bank account?

We notified financial institutions that Revenu Québec has granted a release of garnishments on current bank accounts, including business accounts, for tax debt so that everyone can get the government assistance they are entitled to. If amounts are still being seized from your account, contact your financial institution. If they are unable to address all of your concerns, you can call us at 1 866 832-6816.

Note that garnishments that cover investment accounts (including RRSPs) will not be not released unless the garnishment covers bank accounts and investment accounts simultaneously. In addition, if legal proceedings were started to liquidate investment accounts, the garnishment on these accounts will be maintained. For information specific to your situation, call us at 1 866 832-6816.

## General information

What is currently the fastest way to receive a refund?

Direct deposit is the fastest way to receive a refund.

For information about registering for direct deposit, see [Direct Deposit of Refunds](#).

What is currently the fastest, safest way to file a return?

Online is the fastest, safest way to file a return, since it reduces physical handling of documents.

For more information, see our [online services](#) for businesses.

[Links: [TP-600-V](#), [IM-30-V](#), [TP-985.22-V](#), [CO-17.SP](#), [TP-997.1-V](#), [My Account for businesses](#), [Direct Deposit of Refunds](#), [TP-1000.TE-V](#), [CO-1000.TE](#)]

[Regarding the tax on lodging, see also Information Bulletin 2020-6: *Extension of the Deadline for reporting and remitting the tax on lodging* (April 9, 2020).]

[Revenue Quebec is also accepting electronic signatures on form MR-69-V, *Authorization to Communicate Information or Power of Attorney*, until September 1, 2020].

[For an overview of the measures for businesses, see [COVID-19 Measures for Businesses: Summary Tables](#)]

## **[Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#)**

Revenu Québec has introduced relief measures to make life easier for individuals and businesses affected by the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19.

For information about **deadlines** you need to meet to fulfill your tax obligations, see [COVID-19 Summary Table: Deadlines for Individuals](#) and [COVID-19 Summary Tables: Deadlines for Businesses](#).

## Payments

Measures for individuals

- For individuals and individuals in business, the deadline for paying income tax, contributions or the annual registration fee for the enterprise register related to the 2019 income tax return has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

- If you are required to make instalment payments, the payment normally due on June 15, 2020, is now due by **September 1, 2020**.

#### Measures for trusts (other than a specified investment flow-through entity [SIFT entity])Updated

- The deadline for paying income tax or the annual registration fee for the enterprise register related to the 2019 income tax return has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.
- If a trust is required to make instalment payments, the payment normally due on June 15, 2020, is now due by **September 1, 2020**.
- The deadline for paying income tax or the annual registration fee for the enterprise register that is related to the 2020 income tax return and that would normally be paid before September 1, 2020, has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

#### Measures for corporations and SIFT entities

Instalments and income tax balances that would have been due in the period between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, are now payable by **September 1, 2020**.

#### Mining tax

The deadline for paying mining tax has been extended to **September 1, 2020**, as it has been for income tax and instalment payments.

#### Logging tax

The deadline for paying logging tax that would normally fall between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, has been extended to September 1, 2020.

#### Note

The payment of balances and instalments has not been deferred for the compensation tax for financial institutions, the tax on capital for insurance corporations or the tax on capital for life insurance corporations.

#### Extended deadlines

##### Measures for individuals

- The deadline for filing the personal income tax return has been extended from April 30, 2020, to **June 1, 2020**.
- The deadline for filing the 2019 income tax return of a person who died in 2019 before December 1, 2019, has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.
- If an individual or their spouse carried on a business in 2019, the deadline to file their 2019 income tax return remains **June 15, 2020**.

##### Measures for corporationsNew

The deadline for filing the corporation income tax return has been extended. If the normal deadline falls in the period:

- from March 17 to May **30, 2020**, the deadline has been extended to **June 1, 2020**;
- from **May 31** to August 31, 2020, the deadline has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

##### Measures for trusts (including SIFT entities)Updated

- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on December 31, 2019, has been extended to **May 1, 2020**.
- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from January 1 to March 1, 2020, has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.
- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from March 2 to **June 2, 2020**, has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

The extended deadlines also apply to SIFT entities.

Measures for partnerships (including SIFT entities) Updated

Partnerships that would normally file the *Partnership Information Return* ([TP-600-V](#)) during the period from:

- March 17 to March 31, 2020, now have until **May 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- April 1 to May 30, 2020, now have until **June 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- May 31 to August 31, 2020, now have until **September 1, 2020**, to file the return.

The extended deadlines also apply to SIFT partnerships.

## Recovery measures

Employer-executed garnishments and formal requests to pay suspended Updated

On March 17, 2020, we stopped sending employers income seizure by garnishment notices and formal requests to pay regarding tax debts.

If you are an employer carrying out such garnishment notices or formal requests to pay, please **suspend them until further notice**. Do not withhold or remit the amounts in question unless we instruct you otherwise. **This measure took effect on April 17, 2020.**

Please note that this suspension is temporary and not a full release of these obligations.

In addition, only seizure by garnishment notices and formal requests to pay issued for tax debts are suspended; **garnishments for support payments are still in force and must still be carried out.**

Release of garnishment notices sent to financial institutions

On March 17, 2020, Revenu Québec stopped issuing financial institutions seizure by garnishment notices for tax debts.

In addition, during the week of April 6, 2020, Revenu Québec notified financial institutions that the Minister has released all active seizures issued before March 17, 2020, **except** those that exclusively cover investment accounts.

The release frees bank accounts so that funds can be deposited into and withdrawn from them, giving everyone access to any government assistance they are entitled to.

Note that only seizure by garnishment notices issued for tax debts have been released; **garnishments for support payments are still in force and must still be carried out.**

Payment agreements

We have also suspended our recovery measures and extended the usual duration of tax-debt payment agreements.

## Other measures

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Various deadlines have also been extended until June 1, 2020, for all taxpayers **Updated**

Tax laws and regulations set out numerous deadlines for taxpayers to exercise their rights, provide information, send documents or make an election. If taxpayers fail to meet these deadlines, they may sometimes be unable to exercise their rights or they may sometimes incur a penalty or interest, depending on the type of obligation and the extent of the omission.

Revenu Québec has extended to **June 1, 2020**, all administrative deadlines (other than the deadlines already extended to other specific dates for certain returns) that would **normally fall in the period from March 17 to May 30, 2020**.

### Note

If you are applying for a refund and the application deadline falls within the period mentioned above, we must receive your application on **or before June 1, 2020**. Simply mailing it by June 1, 2020, is insufficient. To ensure that you meet the deadline, use our [online services](#). If you believe you cannot make the deadline, [contact us](#) so we can work out a solution.

This does not apply to the payment of various consumption taxes, contributions or source deductions.

The extension covers the following:

- corporation income tax returns
- elections under Québec tax laws or regulations, such as rollovers (excluding QST elections, which are harmonized with the GST);
- tax credit applications requiring supporting documents (12-month time limit);
- refund applications for GST/HST, QST, the fuel tax and the tobacco tax;
- information request response times;
- mandatory or preventive disclosure of aggressive tax planning;
- applications under the Québec education savings incentive (QESI) (90-day time limit);
- etc.

Revenu Québec **has also extended to September 1, 2020**, most administrative deadlines that would **normally fall in the period from May 31, 2020, to August 31, 2020**. This extension does not apply to mandatory or preventive disclosures of aggressive tax planning or returns for which the deadline has already been extended to another specific date.

Mandataries

### GST/HST and QST returns

The deadline for remitting net GST/HST and QST has been extended to **June 30, 2020**, for all returns to be filed between March 27 and June 1, 2020. The same applies to instalment payments.

In light of the federal Minister of Finance's announcement on March 27, 2020, and in order to harmonize the QST system with the GST/HST system, the filing deadlines remain unchanged. Persons who are able to do so must file their GST/HST and QST returns by the normal deadlines to facilitate tax compliance and administration.

However, because of the current situation, no late-filing penalty will be charged if the returns are filed no later than June 30, 2020.

For returns whose filing deadlines fall after June 1, 2020, the filing and payment deadlines stipulated in tax legislation will apply.

### Tax on lodging

The usual April 30, 2020, deadline for the first calendar quarter of 2020 has been extended to **July 31, 2020**, for both filing the return and remitting the related tax.

### Other taxes, source deductions and employer contributions

The current relief measures do not apply to other Québec taxes, source deductions or employer contributions, which continue to have the same filing and payment obligations.

#### Information return for charities and other donees

The deadline for filing the *Information Return for Registered Charities and Other Donees* ([TP-985.22-V](#)) has been extended to **December 31, 2020**, for registered charities that are required to file the return between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020.

This measure also applies to other donees that are required to file form TP-985.22-V during the same period.

#### Advance payments of the tax credit for home-support services for seniors

Seniors who receive this tax credit and normally would have filed an application to renew their advance payments on March 17, 2020, or later now have extra time to file their renewal applications. We are following the health crisis closely and will determine a new deadline at a later date.

Advance payments of this tax credit will continue in the meantime.

Note that if we learn that an individual is no longer eligible for the tax credit or if the individual requests an adjustment, we will take action accordingly.

#### Shelter allowance program

To ensure program beneficiaries do not have to do anything in the short- and medium-term to continue receiving the allowance, the deadline to apply for renewal of the allowance has been extended by two months.

You therefore have until **December 1, 2020**, to file a shelter allowance renewal application with Revenu Québec.

#### Objecting to a notice of assessment

If you want to file a notice of objection and the time limit expires in the period between March 13, 2020, and June 29, 2020, the time limit has been extended to **June 30, 2020**.

#### Appeals

An appeal before the Court of Québec is brought by an application in accordance with the contentious proceedings governing actions and applications in civil matters. In accordance with Order 2020-4251 of the Chief Justice of Québec and the Minister of Justice, the time limits for filing appeals before the Court of Québec are suspended from March 15, 2020, until the health emergency is lifted. This suspension applies to:

- appeals before the Court of Québec;
- summary appeals before the Small Claims Division of the Court of Québec;
- applications for review of a decision by the Minister not to extend the deadline for filing a notice of objection;
- applications to extend the deadline for filing an appeal or summary appeal.

#### Administrative steps taken by Revenu Québec

- We are prioritizing personal income tax returns involving a refund.

- We are processing applications for business tax credits and tax refunds faster.
- We have suspended our audit activities, except in exceptional, high-risk situations, such as those involving fraud or the expiry of a time limit. We may then initiate or complete an audit. We will also process recourses initiated by clients. We will only contact clients if it is necessary to process a refund claim. Note that we have not suspended our activities related to the fight against aggressive tax planning.
- We are allowing tax preparers to use an electronic signature on forms that their clients must sign.
- The information sessions usually held in-person with individuals and businesses are now being held by phone.
- Our assistance program for small and medium-sized businesses is available by phone.

### Support payments

In accordance with the law, Revenu Québec will continue to collect support.

The 30-day time limit for appealing a decision by the Minister regarding a notice of contestation has been suspended until the health emergency is lifted (Order 2020-4251 dated March 15, 2020).

### Unclaimed property

- If the debtor or holder of unclaimed property carries on a business or is a legal person, the annual deadline for remitting unclaimed property to the Minister of Revenue (which corresponds to the end of the first quarter following the end of the fiscal period during which the property became unclaimed) has been extended to **August 31, 2020**. No late-remittance interest or penalty will be charged for property that became unclaimed in a fiscal period ending in the period from December 17, 2019, to May 30, 2020, provided the property is remitted to Revenu Québec **before September 1, 2020**.
- The 10-year limit for recovering amounts under \$500 from the Minister of Finance has been suspended until the health emergency is lifted (Order 2020-4251 dated March 15, 2020).

### [COVID-19: FAQ for Tax Preparers and Professional Representatives](#) (May 14)

This page presents answers to the most **frequently asked questions** that we have received in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. We hope they give you the information you need.

For information about COVID-19 relief measures, see the other COVID-19 FAQs and the [Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#) page.

What electronic signature relief measures are provided for tax preparers and professional representatives?

To limit in-person contact, Revenu Québec will allow preparers and professional representatives to use an electronic signature on the following forms their clients must sign:

- *Authorization to Communicate Information or Power of Attorney* ([MR-69-V](#));
- *Autorisation relative à la communication de renseignements* (MRW-69.RP);
- *Power of Attorney or Authorization to Communicate Information to a Person Registered for My Account for Businesses* (MRW-69.E-V);
- *Online Filing of the Personal Income Tax Return by an Accredited Person* ([TP-1000.TE-V](#));
- *Transmission par Internet de la déclaration de revenus d'une société* (form [CO-1000.TE](#)).

### Important

Forms MR-69-V, MRW-69.E-V and MRW-69.RP can be signed electronically only until **September 1, 2020**.

What types of electronic signatures will Revenu Québec accept?

Revenu Québec will accept the following types of electronic signatures:

- a digital certificate (for example, a digital certificate produced using a specialized tool);
- a scanned hand-written signature (meaning an image of a signature);
- a signature made using an input tool such as a stylus or mouse.

### **Form TP-1000.TE-V**

What if I do not have the technology for electronic signatures or my client is unable to sign form TP-1000.TE-V electronically?

You can replace form TP-1000.TE-V with an email containing only:

- the name of the business in My Account for professional representatives;
- your client's first and last names;
- the retirement income transferred by your client's spouse (line 123);
- your client's taxable income (line 299);
- the amount of your client's non-refundable tax credits (line 399);
- the amount transferred by your client's spouse (line 477).

To keep your client's information confidential, do not include your client's social insurance number or your NetFile Québec number in any correspondence with your client.

My client does not have Internet access or is confined to their home. Can I use something other than an electronic signature for form TP-1000.TE-V?

You can have your client physically sign the form at a later date. You are still responsible for giving your client the necessary information so they can consent to you filing their income tax return online.

Revenu Québec will carry out checks later to ensure that your client authorized you to file their return online. In addition, accredited tax preparers must meet the high standards of integrity that the public is entitled to. If you fail to meet this obligation, your accreditation may be withdrawn.

### **Form CO-1000.TE**

What if I do not have the technology for electronic signatures or the person authorized to sign on behalf of my client is unable to sign form CO-1000.TE electronically?

You can replace form CO-1000.TE with an email containing:

- information identifying you;
- information identifying your client and the person authorized to sign on your client's behalf;
- the amounts in Part 2 of form CO-1000.TE.

My client does not have Internet access or is confined to their home. Can I use something other than an electronic signature for form TP-1000.TE-V? Updated

In this specific case, we will not require a signature. However, you are still responsible for giving your client the necessary information so they can consent to you filing their income tax return online.

Note that we will carry out checks later to ensure that your client authorized you to file their return online. We may then require your client to sign their return.

Also note that accredited tax preparers and professional representatives must meet the high standards of integrity that the public is entitled to. If you fail to meet this obligation, your accreditation may be withdrawn.

### **Form CO-1000.TE**

What if I do not have the technology for electronic signatures or the person authorized to sign on behalf of my client is unable to sign form CO-1000.TE electronically? Updated

You can replace form CO-1000.TE with an email containing:

- the name of your business in My Account for professional representatives;
- the name of your client's corporation and the name of the person authorized to sign for your client;
- your client's taxable income (line 299);
- your client's income tax and other taxes payable (line 438);
- the balance payable or refund claimed (line 441).

To keep your and your client's data secure, do not include your client's identification number, their Québec enterprise number (NEQ) or your NetFile Québec number in any correspondence with your client.

Note that we will carry out checks later to ensure that your client authorized you to file their return online. Also note that accredited tax preparers and professional representatives must meet the high standards of integrity that the public is entitled to. If you fail to meet this obligation, your accreditation may be withdrawn.

[COVID-19: FAQ for Individuals](#) (updated May 20)

## Revenu Québec

This page presents answers to the most **frequently asked questions** we have received in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. We hope they give you the information you need.

For information about **important deadlines** you need to meet to fulfill your tax obligations, see [COVID-19 Summary Table: Deadlines for Individuals](#).

For information about COVID-19 relief measures, see [Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#).

## Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW)

Am I eligible for the IPREW? Updated

To be eligible under the program, you must meet all of the following conditions:

- You work part-time or full-time in one of the [essential service](#) sectors during the program period.
- You earn [eligible work income](#) of \$550 or less per week (self-employment income is not eligible).
- You earn at least \$5,000 in eligible employment income for 2020 (self-employment income is not eligible).
- You have a total annual income of no more than \$28,600 for 2020 (not counting assistance received under the IPREW and your spouse's income).
- You are at least 15 years old or turn 15 in at least one week covered by the IPREW (if you turn 15 between March 15 and July 4, 2020, you are eligible for the IPREW only as of the week you turn 15);
- You were resident in Québec on December 31, 2019, and plan to reside in Québec throughout 2020.

## Salary adjustments, bonuses and assistance that may affect IPREW eligibility

### Salary adjustment: Minimum wage increase effective May 1, 2020

The minimum wage increased from \$12.50/hour to \$13.10/hour, effective May 1, 2020. If your eligible employment income is still \$550 or less per week despite the new minimum wage, **you remain eligible for the IPREW** provided you meet all of the other conditions. However, if the new minimum wage pushes your eligible employment income over \$550 for a given week, **you are not eligible for the IPREW for that week**.

### Emergency childcare educators and support staff

You can receive IPREW benefits if you worked in an emergency childcare service that remained open during the stay-at-home order, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. In addition, you can receive IPREW benefits for all weeks

in the program period, even for weeks during which the childcare service is no longer considered an emergency service after your region's stay-at-home order is lifted.

However, if you did not work in an emergency childcare service that remained open during the stay-at-home order, you are not covered by the IPREW for work done in an emergency childcare service after your region's stay-at-home order is lifted.

### Employer bonuses

If you receive a bonus from your employer and your eligible employment income, including this bonus, is no more than \$550 per week, **you are still eligible for the IPREW**, provided you meet the other conditions.

### Bonus for farm workers

If you are a farm worker who receives a bonus of \$100 per week from the Québec government, **do not include it** in your employment income. However, you must include it in your total income.

### Programs and assistance

If you receive amounts under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) or the temporary aid for workers program for a week included in the period from March 15 to July 4, 2020, **you are not eligible for the IPREW** for that week.

Note that **you are still eligible for the IPREW** even if your employer receives assistance under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

### Retirement income

When you apply for the IPREW, be sure to include your retirement income (if you receive any) when calculating your total annual income.

How can I apply for the new assistance available to essential workers?Updated

Beginning May 19, 2020, you can apply for the IPREW in [My Account for individuals](#) and use the online service to manage your IPREW information as well as view and modify your benefits applications.

If you are unable to register for My Account for individuals, you can still [apply for IPREW benefits](#) online. However, you must register with My Account for individuals in order to use the online service for [managing your IPREW information](#).

Note that you must also be registered for direct deposit to receive your payments as quickly as possible. If you are not registered for direct deposit, you will receive the total amount you are eligible for in a single cheque at the end of the 16-week program period. If you apply after the 16-week program period, we will issue the cheque once your application is processed.

How much can I receive under the IPREW and when will payments be made?Updated

Under the IPREW, eligible workers may receive up to \$1,600 in addition to their regular salary or wages.

The program pays \$100 each week for up to 16 weeks of eligible work, retroactive to March 15, 2020. If you apply between May 19 and 22, 2020, the first payment will be made between May 27 and 29. Payments will then be made every two weeks.

For example, an essential worker who applies for the program between May 19 and 22, 2020, and who has been working since March 15, 2020 and intends to continue working for at least 16 weeks will receive \$1,600, paid as follows:

- Between May 27 and 29: \$1,000 for the period from March 15 to May 23
- June 10: \$200 for the period from May 24 to June 6
- June 23: \$200 for the period from June 7 to June 20
- July 8: \$200 for the period from June 21 to July 4

What if my wages change during the year and my total annual income ends up being more than the maximum eligible amount?

Revenu Québec will make adjustments as needed when processing income tax returns for 2020, including recovering any overpayments that were made.

If, at the end of the year, your total annual income is more than the maximum eligible amount, contact Revenu Québec. If you were eligible when you applied for assistance, Revenu Québec will recover only the amount that was overpaid to you, penalty-free.

### Penalty

In the case of fraudulent claims, Revenu Québec can recover any financial assistance granted and apply a penalty equal to 50% of the amounts paid.

### Income tax return

What is the deadline for filing my income tax return?

The deadline for filing your income tax return for 2019 has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.

What is the deadline for paying an income tax balance for 2019?

For individuals and individuals in business, the deadline for paying an income tax balance for 2019 has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

### Note

If you received a notice of assessment for the 2019 taxation year showing that you have until April 30, 2020, to pay the balance due, note that this information is no longer up to date. You now have until **September 1, 2020**, to pay the balance.

What's happening with instalment payments?

If you are required to make instalment payments, the June 15 payment can be made as late as **September 1, 2020**.

Should I wait to file my income tax return?

If you expect to receive a refund, you should file your return right away to get it as soon as possible.

I have already filed my income tax return. Will it be processed? If so, how long will it take?New

Yes. Revenu Québec is continuing to process income tax returns. Although the time it takes can vary, we aim to process your return within **14 working days** if it is filed online.

You can track the status of your return in [My Account for individuals](#) or using the [Refund Info-Line](#) service.

Please note that we are prioritizing personal income tax returns involving a refund.

Will I be charged a late-filing penalty if I can't file my income tax return by June 1, even if income tax balances are not due before September 1, 2020?New

Since the deadline for paying an income tax balance has been postponed to September 1, 2020, you will not be charged a late-filing penalty if you file your income tax return by **September 1, 2020**. However, you should still file your income tax return promptly to receive the amounts you are entitled to.

## Tax credits and social programs

My daycare is closed, but I'm still getting advance payments of the tax credit for childcare expenses. What do I do?

You have three options:

1. Reduce the number of days. You will receive smaller advance payments for the rest of the year.
2. Stop the payments. When your daycare reopens, you can apply to have your advance payments resume.
3. Do nothing. Your advance payments will continue unchanged, but you will have to pay back any overpayment you received when you file your income tax return in spring 2021.

See the example below.

- Your initial application concerned only one child for a period of 52 weeks.
- Your childcare service is closed for 7 weeks (from March 16, 2020, to May 1, 2020).
- You receive payments of \$450 per month.

If you choose option 1 (reduce the number of days), **your payments for the rest of the year will be reduced** until the end of the year. If this change takes effect on April 15, 2020, your monthly payments will therefore decrease, as of May 1, 2020, by roughly \$300 per month until December.

If you choose option 3 (do nothing), **you will have to repay the excess amounts you received during the year** (approximately \$700) when you file your 2020 income tax return in spring 2021.

Please use My account for individuals to make your changes. To register or log in, see [My Account for individuals](#).

## Note

Since we are currently operating with reduced staff, we cannot make these changes over the phone.

I receive advance payments of the tax credit for home-support services for seniors but did not file my application to renew the payments by the deadline. Since I'm self-isolating, how can I continue to receive advance payments?

If your application to renew advance payments of the tax credit for home-support services for seniors was due March 17, 2020, or later, Revenu Québec is giving you extra time to file your application. We are following the health crisis closely and will determine a new deadline at a later date.

You will continue to receive your advance payments in the meantime. If your application period expired and you are unable to send us your renewal information, we will use the information from last year's application to ensure you continue to receive payments.

If you already have all the documents you normally need to renew your application and can easily send them to us, please do so.

Note that if we learn that you are no longer eligible for advance payments, we will take action accordingly.

I receive payments under the shelter allowance program. Should I be worried that I have to renew my payments in the next few months?

No. To make things easier for you in the short- and medium-term, you have an additional two months to file your renewal application.

You now have until December 1, 2020, to file your application with Revenu Québec.

I've lost my job. What will happen to my advance payments of the work premium?

It depends on your situation:

- If you have lost your job permanently, contact Revenu Québec to have your payments stopped. If they are not, you will have to repay the overpayments to Revenu Québec when you file your 2020 income tax return.
- If you have lost your job temporarily (3 or more weeks), you have two options:
  - Do nothing. Your advance payments will continue, but you will have to repay the overpayments to Revenu Québec when you file your 2020 income tax return.
  - Contact Revenu Québec to have your payments stopped.

Is Revenu Québec still making solidarity tax credit payments? Updated

Yes. In accordance with the law, Revenu Québec will pay the solidarity tax credit on the usual dates. For individuals who are unable to file their 2019 income tax return on time, the solidarity tax credit will be calculated using their 2018 income tax return and the information in Revenu Québec's files. The individuals in question will continue to receive payments until September 2020, unless Revenu Québec determines that they are no longer entitled to them.

Will my solidarity tax credit payments still be used to repay my debts?

Beginning in May 2020, payments of the solidarity tax credit will generally no longer be used to repay debts. This measure is temporary. An end date will be determined over the next few months based on how the current situation evolves. Note that this measure does not apply to support debts.

### Employment expenses related to teleworking

As a salaried employee, can I deduct certain employment expenses related to teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes. As long as your employer does not reimburse you for them, you can deduct:

- expenses related to supplies used for your work, such as:
  - paper, pencils and ink cartridges,
  - Internet fees, provided they are billed according to your use;
- some expenses related to a home office space where you carry out your employment activities over 50% of the time (which should be the case in the current context).

These expenses include:

- some expenses related to supplies used directly for your employment activities in a home office space in a dwelling you **own** (heating, electricity, cleaning products, lighting accessories and minor repairs).

Note that you cannot deduct an amount for the rental value of your home workspace.

- Some expenses related to a home office space in a dwelling you **rent**, including:
  - expenses related to supplies used directly in your home office space for employment activities (heating, electricity, cleaning products, lighting accessories and minor repairs),
  - a reasonable part of your rent related to the home office space.

Whether you own or rent the dwelling where your home office space is, you must use a reasonable basis for calculating office space expenses. For example, you could use the proportion of the office space's surface area versus your home's total surface area.

You must also take other possible uses of the home office space into account, such as your personal or business use of the space, or its use for other employment.

For example, if the office space accounts for 25% of your home's total surface area and you use the office space 80% of the time for employment activities, you can deduct the following:

- 20% (25% x 80%) of supplies used in the office space, and
- 20% of your rent (if you rent your home).

If the office space is used for employment activities 100% of the time, you can use only its surface area to determine the portion of expenses to deduct (25% in the example given above). This percentage applies to both the supplies used for employment activities and, if you rent your home, the amount of rent you can deduct.

See the table below for an overview of the rules for each type of expense.

<b>Supplies you use directly for employment activities</b>	<b>Eligible amounts related to an office space in a home you own</b>	<b>Eligible amounts related to an office space in a home you rent</b>
<b>Yes</b> (paper, pencils, ink cartridges, etc.)	<b>Yes</b> , for supplies used (heating, electricity, cleaning products, lighting accessories and minor repairs)	<b>Yes</b> , for supplies used (heating, electricity, cleaning products, lighting accessories and minor repairs)
<b>Yes</b> (Internet fees if they are billed according to use)	<b>No</b> (the workspace's rental value)	<b>Yes</b> (a reasonable portion of the rent related to the home office space)

When will I be able to deduct my employment expenses related to teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic?

You will be able to deduct these employment expenses in your 2020 income tax return.

How will I be able to deduct employment expenses related to teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic?

To deduct these employment expenses, you will have to file the following forms with your income tax return:

- form TP-64.3-V, *General Employment Conditions* (**duly completed by your employer**);
- form TP-59-V, *Employment Expenses of Salaried Employees and Employees Who Earn Commissions*, or a detailed statement of your expenses.

Can my employer sign form TP-64.3-V, *General Employment Conditions*, electronically?

As a relief measure during the health crises, Revenu Québec will allow employers to complete and sign form TP-64.3-V electronically and email a copy to the employee.

Revenu Québec will except the following types of electronic signatures:

- a digital certificate (for example, a digital certificate produced using a specialized tool);
- a scanned hand-written signature (meaning an image of a signature);
- a signature made using an input tool such as a stylus or mouse.

## Electronic signatures

Can I sign form MR-69-V electronically?

Yes, until **September 1, 2020**. However, the signature must meet the general requirements of specialized tools.

What types of electronic signatures will Revenu Québec accept?

We will accept the following types of electronic signatures:

- a digital certificate (for example, a digital certificate produced using a specialized tool);
- a scanned hand-written signature (meaning an image of a signature);
- a signature made using an input tool such as a stylus or mouse.

How should I authorize my tax preparer to file my income tax return online if I do not have Internet access, I am not comfortable using an electronic signature or I am a senior in self-isolation?

If you are unable to sign form [TP-1000.TE-V](#), *Online Filing of the Personal Income Tax Return by an Accredited Person*, electronically, your preparer can still file your income tax return online with your consent. Note that we may later require you to sign the form.

This **only** applies to form TP-1000.TE-V.

## Recovery of tax debts

What if I have a tax debt or Revenu Québec is garnishing my bank account?

We notified financial institutions that Revenu Québec has granted a release of garnishments on current bank accounts for tax debt so that everyone can get the government assistance they are entitled to (such as the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Québec's Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW)). If amounts are still being seized from your account, contact your financial institution. If they are unable to address all of your concerns, you can call us at 1 866 832-6816.

Note that garnishments that cover investment accounts (including RRSPs) will not be not released unless the garnishment covers bank accounts and investment accounts simultaneously. In addition, if legal proceedings were started to liquidate investment accounts, the garnishment on these accounts will be maintained. For information specific to your situation, call us at 1 866 832-6816.

## Data security

How can I protect myself from scammers who are using the COVID-19 crisis for phishing and identity theft?

Scammers are taking advantage of the current COVID-19 crisis to contact you in various ways to obtain personal information.

The *phishing* fraud technique is used by ill-intentioned people who send mass emails or texts that seem to come from a known organization or business. The fraudulent emails or texts encourage you to click on links or to open attachments, allowing the scammers to steal your personal information. Phishing may also involve installing malicious software on your electronic devices, such as your computer, laptop, tablet or cellphone.

Typical examples of emails or texts that may be sent during the current COVID-19 crisis are:

- "If you'd like the latest COVID-19 pandemic update, click here."
- "To receive the COVID-19 related benefit, click here."

Be on your guard, as the consequences of responding to a fraudulent message can be significant, ranging from unauthorized use of your confidential information to theft of your information or identity. The access or theft is used to commit fraud.

To learn more about protecting yourself against these scams, see [Data Security](#). Remember to always use caution online.

What should I do in case of fraud or identity theft?

If you believe that you have been the victim of identity theft or a scam, [contact us](#) so that we can put additional measures in place to protect your personal information.

For more information about what to do if you have been scammed or your identity has been stolen, see [Identity Theft in Brief!](#) on the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec website.

## Others

If I need to get in touch with you, can I go to one of your offices?

Most of our offices are closed indefinitely to help government-wide efforts to prevent the coronavirus from spreading and protect the health and safety of our clients and employees.

**As of Wednesday, April 1, 2020**, the following offices will be open:

- Laval (5, Place-Laval, bureau 147)
- Longueuil (825, rue Saint-Laurent Ouest)
- Montréal-Est (Village olympique, pyramide Est, bureau 4000, 5199, rue Sherbrooke Est)
- Montréal-Ouest (3300, boulevard de la Côte-Vertu, 2<sup>e</sup> étage, Saint-Laurent)
- Québec City (3800, rue de Marly, Québec)

Business hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday. Note that we have indefinitely suspended all individual appointments. To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, security personnel will be onsite to manage access and ensure that visitors comply with social distancing and infection control guidelines.

We recommend that you use our online services in [My Account for individuals](#) or [My Account for businesses](#). If necessary, you can send us [secure email](#) or call our client services toll-free at one of the following numbers:

Individuals: 1 800 267-6299

Businesses: 1 800 567-4692

Solidarity tax credit and advance payments: 1 855 291-6467

What can I do in My Account for individuals?

You can use [My Account for individuals](#) to do a number of things, such as change the information for your advance payments of the tax credit for childcare expenses or view your notices of assessment.

See also [COVID-19: FAQ Concerning Support Payments](#) (May 6)

[Relief Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#) (update June 1)

Revenu Québec has introduced relief measures to make life easier for individuals and businesses affected by the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19.

For information about **deadlines** you need to meet to fulfill your tax obligations, see [COVID-19 Summary Table: Deadlines for Individuals](#) and [COVID-19 Summary Tables: Deadlines for Businesses](#).

## Payments

### Measures for individuals

- For individuals and individuals in business, the deadline for paying income tax, contributions or the annual registration fee for the enterprise register related to the 2019 income tax return has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.
- If you are required to make instalment payments, the payment normally due on June 15, 2020, is now due by **September 1, 2020**.

### Measures for trusts (other than a specified investment flow-through entity [SIFT entity])

- The deadline for paying income tax or the annual registration fee for the enterprise register related to the 2019 income tax return has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.
- If a trust is required to make instalment payments, the payment normally due on June 15, 2020, is now due by **September 1, 2020**.

### Measures for corporations and SIFT entities

Instalments and income tax balances that would have been due in the period between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, are now payable by **September 1, 2020**.

### Mining tax

The deadline for paying mining tax has been extended to **September 1, 2020**, as it has been for income tax and instalment payments.

### Logging tax

The deadline for paying logging tax that would normally fall between March 17, 2020, and August 31, 2020, has been extended to September 1, 2020.

## Note

The payment of balances and instalments has not been deferred for the compensation tax for financial institutions, the tax on capital for insurance corporations or the tax on capital for life insurance corporations.

## Extended deadlines

### Measures for individuals

- The deadline for filing the personal income tax return has been extended from April 30, 2020, to **June 1, 2020**.
- The deadline for filing the 2019 income tax return of a person who died in 2019 before December 1, 2019, has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.
- If an individual or their spouse carried on a business in 2019, the deadline to file their 2019 income tax return remains **June 15, 2020**.

### Measures for corporations

The deadline for filing the corporation income tax return has been extended. If the normal deadline falls in the period:

- from March 17 to May 31, 2020, the deadline has been extended to **June 1, 2020**;
- from June 1 to August 31, 2020, the deadline has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

## Measures for trusts (including SIFT entities) Updated

- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on December 31, 2019, has been extended to **May 1, 2020**.
- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from January 1 to March 1, 2020, has been extended to **June 1, 2020**.
- The filing deadline for the trust income tax or information return of a trust whose taxation year ended on a date that falls in the period from March 2 to May 31, 2020, has been extended to **September 1, 2020**.

The extended deadlines also apply to SIFT entities.

## Measures for partnerships (including SIFT entities) Updated

Partnerships that would normally file the *Partnership Information Return* (TP-600-V) during the period from:

- March 17 to March 31, 2020, now have until **May 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- April 1 to May 30, 2020, now have until **June 1, 2020**, to file the return;
- May 31 to August 31, 2020, now have until **September 1, 2020**, to file the return.

The extended deadlines also apply to SIFT partnerships.

## Recovery measures

### Employer-executed garnishments and formal requests to pay suspended Updated

On March 17, 2020, we stopped sending employers income seizure by garnishment notices and formal requests to pay regarding tax debts.

If you are an employer carrying out such garnishment notices or formal requests to pay, please **suspend them until further notice**. Do not withhold or remit the amounts in question unless we instruct you otherwise. **This measure took effect on April 17, 2020.**

Please note that this suspension is temporary and not a full release of these obligations.

In addition, only seizure by garnishment notices and formal requests to pay issued for tax debts are suspended; **garnishments for support payments are still in force and must still be carried out.**

### Release of garnishment notices sent to financial institutions

On March 17, 2020, Revenu Québec stopped issuing financial institutions seizure by garnishment notices for tax debts.

In addition, during the week of April 6, 2020, Revenu Québec notified financial institutions that the Minister has released all active seizures issued before March 17, 2020, **except** those that exclusively cover investment accounts.

The release frees bank accounts so that funds can be deposited into and withdrawn from them, giving everyone access to any government assistance they are entitled to.

Note that only seizure by garnishment notices issued for tax debts have been released; **garnishments for support payments are still in force and must still be carried out.**

### Payment agreements

We have also suspended our recovery measures and extended the usual duration of tax-debt payment agreements.

## Other measures

Various deadlines have also been extended until June 1, 2020, for all taxpayers Updated

Tax laws and regulations set out numerous deadlines for taxpayers to exercise their rights, provide information, send documents or make an election. If taxpayers fail to meet these deadlines, they may sometimes be unable to exercise their rights or they may sometimes incur a penalty or interest, depending on the type of obligation and the extent of the omission.

Revenu Québec has extended to **June 1, 2020**, all administrative deadlines (other than the deadlines already extended to other specific dates for certain returns) that would **normally fall in the period from March 17 to May 31, 2020**.

### Note

If you are applying for a refund and the application deadline falls within the period mentioned above, we must receive your application on **or before June 1, 2020**. Simply mailing it by June 1, 2020, is insufficient. To ensure that you meet the deadline, use our [online services](#). If you believe you cannot make the deadline, [contact us](#) so we can work out a solution.

This does not apply to the payment of various consumption taxes, contributions or source deductions.

The extension covers the following:

- corporation income tax returns
- elections under Québec tax laws or regulations, such as rollovers (excluding QST elections, which are harmonized with the GST);
- tax credit applications requiring supporting documents (12-month time limit);
- refund applications for GST/HST, QST, the fuel tax and the tobacco tax;
- information request response times;
- mandatory or preventive disclosure of aggressive tax planning;
- applications under the Québec education savings incentive (QESI) (90-day time limit);
- etc.

Revenu Québec **has also extended to September 1, 2020**, most administrative deadlines that would **normally fall in the period from June 1, 2020, to August 31, 2020**. This extension does not apply to mandatory or preventive disclosures of aggressive tax planning or returns for which the deadline has already been extended to another specific date.

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## GST/HST and QST returns

The deadline for remitting net GST/HST and QST has been extended to **June 30, 2020**, for all returns to be filed between March 27 and June 1, 2020. The same applies to instalment payments.

In light of the federal Minister of Finance's announcement on March 27, 2020, and in order to harmonize the QST system with the GST/HST system, the filing deadlines remain unchanged. Persons who are able to do so must file their GST/HST and QST returns by the normal deadlines to facilitate tax compliance and administration.

However, because of the current situation, no late-filing penalty will be charged if the returns are filed no later than June 30, 2020.

For returns whose filing deadlines fall after June 1, 2020, the filing and payment deadlines stipulated in tax legislation will apply.

## Tax on lodging

The usual April 30, 2020, deadline for the first calendar quarter of 2020 has been extended to **July 31, 2020**, for both filing the return and remitting the related tax.

### Other taxes, source deductions and employer contributions

The current relief measures do not apply to other Québec taxes, source deductions or employer contributions, which continue to have the same filing and payment obligations.

#### Information return for charities and other donees

The deadline for filing the *Information Return for Registered Charities and Other Donees* ([TP-985.22-V](#)) has been extended to **December 31, 2020**, for registered charities that are required to file the return between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020.

This measure also applies to other donees that are required to file form TP-985.22-V during the same period.

#### Advance payments of the tax credit for home-support services for seniors

Seniors who receive this tax credit and normally would have filed an application to renew their advance payments on March 17, 2020, or later now have extra time to file their renewal applications. We are following the health crisis closely and will determine a new deadline at a later date.

Advance payments of this tax credit will continue in the meantime.

Note that if we learn that an individual is no longer eligible for the tax credit or if the individual requests an adjustment, we will take action accordingly.

#### Shelter allowance program

To ensure program beneficiaries do not have to do anything in the short- and medium-term to continue receiving the allowance, the deadline to apply for renewal of the allowance has been extended by two months.

You therefore have until **December 1, 2020**, to file a shelter allowance renewal application with Revenu Québec.

#### Objecting to a notice of assessment

If you want to file a notice of objection and the time limit expires in the period between March 13, 2020, and June 29, 2020, the time limit has been extended to **June 30, 2020**.

#### Appeals

An appeal before the Court of Québec is brought by an application in accordance with the contentious proceedings governing actions and applications in civil matters. In accordance with Order 2020-4251 of the Chief Justice of Québec and the Minister of Justice, the time limits for filing appeals before the Court of Québec are suspended from March 15, 2020, until the health emergency is lifted. This suspension applies to:

- appeals before the Court of Québec;
- summary appeals before the Small Claims Division of the Court of Québec;
- applications for review of a decision by the Minister not to extend the deadline for filing a notice of objection;
- applications to extend the deadline for filing an appeal or summary appeal.

#### Administrative steps taken by Revenu Québec

- We are prioritizing personal income tax returns involving a refund.

- We are processing applications for business tax credits and tax refunds faster.
- We have suspended our audit activities, except in exceptional, high-risk situations, such as those involving fraud or the expiry of a time limit. We may then initiate or complete an audit. We will also process recourses initiated by clients. We will only contact clients if it is necessary to process a refund claim. Note that we have not suspended our activities related to the fight against aggressive tax planning.
- We are allowing tax preparers to use an electronic signature on forms that their clients must sign.
- The information sessions usually held in-person with individuals and businesses are now being held by phone.
- Our assistance program for small and medium-sized businesses is available by phone.

### Support payments

In accordance with the law, Revenu Québec will continue to collect support.

The 30-day time limit for appealing a decision by the Minister regarding a notice of contestation has been suspended until the health emergency is lifted (Order 2020-4251 dated March 15, 2020).

### Unclaimed property

- If the debtor or holder of unclaimed property carries on a business or is a legal person, the annual deadline for remitting unclaimed property to the Minister of Revenue (which corresponds to the end of the first quarter following the end of the fiscal period during which the property became unclaimed) has been extended to **August 31, 2020**. No late-remittance interest or penalty will be charged for property that became unclaimed in a fiscal period ending in the period from December 17, 2019, to May 30, 2020, provided the property is remitted to Revenu Québec **before September 1, 2020**.
- The 10-year limit for recovering amounts under \$500 from the Minister of Finance has been suspended until the health emergency is lifted (Order 2020-4251 dated March 15, 2020).

### COVID-19 Pandemic - The government is granting a credit to businesses for their contribution to the Health Services Fund

QUÉBEC CITY, April 30, 2020 /CNW Telbec/ - Following the implementation of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Québec government is announcing today that it will grant employers a credit on contributions to the Health Services Fund for employees on forced leave. This additional assistance, which offsets costs not covered by the federal government measure, will be in force for the entire duration of the 12-week wage subsidy, which now extends from March 15 to June 6, 2020. The credit will have an estimated impact of \$113 million for the Québec government for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The terms and conditions of the measure can be consulted in the Information Bulletin published by the Ministère des Finances at: [http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Bulletins/en/BULEN\\_2020-7-a-b.pdf](http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Bulletins/en/BULEN_2020-7-a-b.pdf)

### Reminders

This new measure rounds out those already implemented since the outset of the pandemic:

- the Concerted Action to Maintain Employment Program (CAMEP);
- the Panier Bleu (blue basket) initiative to promote local purchasing;
- the Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW);
- the wage enhancement for health and social services personnel;
- the emergency assistance program for small and medium businesses;
- a temporary hourly increase of \$4 in the wages of orderlies in the private sector;
- the temporary aid for workers program (TAWP);
- the concerted action for businesses program (PACTE);
- Revenu Québec's increased flexibility for individuals and businesses;
- the six-month suspension of all student loans payments;
- a 25% reduction, in 2020, in the mandatory withdrawal amount from a registered retirement income fund (RRIF);
- the \$45-million investment to support the recruitment of farm workers;
- participation in the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program.

"We share with the federal government the objective of keeping in employment as many workers as possible during the critical period of the pandemic to support businesses affected by the crisis. For this reason, in order to complement the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, we are offering businesses a contribution credit to the Health Services Fund."

Eric Girard, Minister of Finance

**Related link:**

For information on COVID-19 and all the assistance programs offered, please visit [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus).

**Revenu Québec News Release 2020-04-30: [Credit for Contributions to the Health Services Fund in Respect of Employees on Paid Leave Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)** [see now [Information Bulletin 2020-8: Extension of the credit on employers contribution to the health services fund in respect of employees on paid leave and other measures relating to various fiscal time limits, May 29 and COVID-19 Pandemic - The government is extending a support measure for businesses and modifying certain tax deadlines affecting trusts and corporations, May 29](#)]

Employers that are eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and that have an establishment in Québec can apply for a credit for contributions to the health services fund in respect of employees on paid leave due to the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of twelve weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

The amount of the credit for contributions to the health services fund will be equal to the total amount of the contribution to the health services fund paid by an employer on the salary and wages paid to employees on paid leave during a week included in the period that starts on March 15, 2020, and ends on June 6, 2020.

Employees who do not do any work during a given week but are still remunerated by their employer are considered to be on paid leave during that week.

**Application for the credit for contributions to the health services fund**

The application for the credit for contributions to the health services fund must be filed with Revenu Québec at the same time as the *Summary of Source Deductions and Employer Contributions* (RLZ-1.S-V or RLZ-1.ST-V) for 2020.

The application must be accompanied by documents and information that will help Revenu Québec determine the amount of the credit for contributions to the health services fund to which the employer is entitled.

**Reduction of periodic payments of the contribution to the health services fund**

Employers can reduce the amount of the periodic payment of the contribution to the health services fund they are required to remit to Revenu Québec after April 30, 2020, by the amount of the credit for contributions to the health services fund related to the salary or wages paid to employees on paid leave before the deadline for making the periodic payment, as long as that amount was not used to reduce another periodic payment.

**Reduction of the contribution to the health services fund for the creation of specialized jobs**

Employers that are eligible, for 2020, for both the credit for contributions to the health services fund and the reduction of the contribution to the health services fund for the creation of specialized jobs will have to deduct the portion of an employee's salary or wages used to calculate the credit for contributions to health services fund from the eligible salary or wages used to calculate the reduction of the contribution to the health services fund for the creation of specialized jobs.

**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2020-4 (March 18, 2020): Postponement of Payments**

**POSTPONEMENT AFTER AUGUST 31, 2020 OF THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS PAYABLE PURSUANT TO VARIOUS TAX PROVISIONS**

As part of the publication of the Information Bulletin 2020-31, the Ministère des Finances du Québec announced the postponement to June 1, 2020 of the personal income tax return filing-due date for the 2019 taxation year and the postponement to May 1, 2020 of the income tax return filing-due date for certain trusts for the 2019 taxation year.

It also announced the postponement to July 31, 2020 of the payment of certain amounts payable pursuant to various tax provisions, especially in respect of individuals and businesses.

Moreover, the Department of Finance Canada made public the same day [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses](#).

The measures that the Department of Finance Canada announced concerning the income tax return filing-due date for individuals and certain trusts are analogous to those announced by the Ministère des Finances du Québec on March 17, 2020. However, the Department of Finance Canada is allowing taxpayers to postpone after August 31, 2020 the payment of income tax payable starting March 18, 2020 and before September 2020.

Consequently, in harmonization with the postponement that the Department of Finance Canada announced, the postponement of the payment of certain tax instalments and tax balance payable granted pursuant to the Québec taxation system will be extended.

Accordingly, the date of July 31, 2020 mentioned in the Information Bulletin 2020-3 respecting the postponement of the payment of certain tax instalments and the tax balance payable will be replaced by the date of August 31, 2020. Moreover, the tax balance and contributions of an individual mentioned in the Information Bulletin 2020-3 for the 2019 taxation year due not later than April 30, 2020 can be paid after August 31, 2020. The same applies to the tax balance of a trust for the 2019 taxation year due not later than March 30, 2020. [emphasis added]

### **INFORMATION BULLETIN 2020-3 (March 17, 2020): Postponement of Personal Tax Payments**

#### **POSTPONEMENT OF THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURN FILING-DUE DATE FOR THE 2019 TAX RETURN AND OTHER POSTPONEMENT MEASURES**

In conjunction with the measures that the government has adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this information bulletin is announcing the postponement to June 1, 2020 of the personal income tax return filing-due date for the 2019 taxation year and the postponement to May 1, 2020 of the income tax return filing-due date of certain trusts for the 2019 taxation year.

It is also announcing the postponement to July 31, 2020, of the payment of certain amounts payable by individuals, trusts and corporations pursuant to tax provisions.

For information concerning the matters dealt with in this information bulletin, contact the Secteur du droit fiscal, de l'optimisation des revenus et des politiques locales et autochtones at 418 691-2236.

The English and French versions of this bulletin are available on the Ministère des Finances website at [www.finances.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca).

#### **POSTPONEMENT OF THE INCOME TAX RETURN FILING-DUE DATE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CERTAIN TRUSTS AND PAYMENT BY INDIVIDUALS AND TRUSTS OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS PAYABLE**

Québec tax legislation stipulates that an individual subject to Québec income tax in a given taxation year must file with Revenu Québec for that taxation year an income tax return not later than April 30 of the following year. If an individual or his or her spouse operates a business or is responsible for a family-type resource<sup>1</sup> or an intermediate resource,<sup>2</sup> his or her income tax return for the taxation year must instead be filed not later than June 15 of the following year.

Moreover, every individual must pay the Minister of Revenue, for each taxation year, not later than the balance-due date applicable, i.e. April 30 the following year in the case of individuals, the amount by which the individual's tax payable for the year exceeds the aggregate of all amounts deducted or withheld in respect of his income for the year and of all other amounts paid or deemed to be paid to the Minister on or before that date as partial payment of the individual's tax payable for the year.

In the same way, certain individuals must pay the following contributions not later than April 30 in the year following that in respect of which a payment for the year must be made: contributions to the Québec Pension Plan (QPP) in respect of self-employed earnings or earnings from activities as a family-type resource or an intermediate resource; contributions to the Québec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) as self-employed persons or persons responsible for a family-type resource or an intermediate resource; the contributions of individuals to the Health Services Fund (HSF) payable on total income for the year; contributions to the Québec prescription drug insurance plan.

As a rule, a trust that is subject to Québec income tax for a given taxation year must file a Trust Income Tax Return if it has tax payable for the year. If the trust has tax payable, the balance of tax must be paid within the time limit granted to file the return, usually within 90 days of the end of the taxation year.

Furthermore, both individuals and trusts (other than specified investment flow-through trusts) may be subject to the payment of tax instalments payable four times a year, i.e. on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15.

To offset the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government believes that the application of certain measures pertaining to personal income tax must be immediately suspended to enable individuals to benefit from their liquid assets in the coming weeks to cope with unforeseen expenses that may arise during this period.

*Postponement of the income tax return filing-due date for individuals and certain trusts for the 2019 taxation year and payment of any tax balance on the income of individuals or trusts due for the 2019 taxation year*

For individuals whose tax return filing-due date, for the 2019 taxation year, is April 30, 2020, the government is announcing that this date will be postponed to June 1, 2020.

For trusts (other than specified investment flow-through trusts) whose tax return filing-due date, for the 2019 taxation year, is March 30, 2020, the government is announcing that this date will be postponed to May 1, 2020.

The government is also announcing that any balance of tax for individuals in respect of the 2019 taxation year, which would be due not later than April 30, 2020, can be paid not later than July 31, 2020. In the same way, the tax balance of a trust (other than a specified investment flow-through trust) in respect of the 2019 taxation year that would be due as of the date of publication of this information bulletin can be paid not later than July 31, 2020.

What is more, payments by individuals of contributions to the QPP, the QPIP, the HSF and the Québec drug insurance plan in respect of 2019 taxation year, and that should otherwise be made not later than April 30, 2020, can be made not later than July 31, 2020.

Moreover, for greater clarity, this announcement does not modify the rules governing the filing of income tax returns by individuals who operate a business, including their spouses' income tax returns and those of individuals responsible for a family-type resource or an intermediate resource. Only the date on which the tax balance and contributions for the 2019 taxation year may be paid is postponed to July 31, 2020.

*Postponement of the payment by individuals or trusts of the tax instalment due on June 15, 2020*

As a corollary to the postponement until July 31, 2020 of the payment by individuals and trusts of tax balances for the 2019 taxation year, the payment not later than June 15, 2020 of the tax instalment for the 2020 taxation year by an individual or a trust (other than a specified investment flow-through trust) can be paid not later than a date subsequent to July 31, 2020 that the Ministère des Finances will announce later. Clarifications will be announced at a later day concerning the payment of this tax instalment.

Additionally, this announcement does not modify the rules governing the calculations to determine the amount of the tax instalment normally due on June 15, 2020 and the amount of the tax instalments payable on September 15 and December 15, 2020. The same is true of the other conditions of application of tax instalments.

**POSTPONEMENT OF THE PAYMENT BY CORPORATIONS OF TAX INSTALMENTS AND REMAINDER OF TAX PAYABLE**

A corporation subject to Québec tax for a taxation year must, almost without exception, pay either monthly or quarterly tax instalments for the year. Moreover, such a corporation must pay the remainder of its tax payable for a taxation year not later than the balance-due day applicable to it for the year, that is, the last day of the period of two months that ends after the end of this taxation year. Failure by a corporation to pay its tax instalments on the dates stipulated and to pay the remainder of its tax payable for a taxation year not later than two months after the end of the year brings with it the obligation to pay interest.

Events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic could impact the liquid assets of corporations. In order to immediately support them, certain payments of tax instalments and remainder of tax payable for a taxation year will be postponed for corporations, without interest, in accordance with the terms and conditions mentioned below.

More specifically, a corporation that would otherwise be obliged to pay an amount as a tax instalment not later than a date falling within the period that begins on the date of publication of this information bulletin and ends on July 31, 2020 may pay such an amount not later than a subsequent date that the Ministère des Finances will make public.

The calculation methods respecting tax instalments will not be modified. Only the date on which the tax instalment amount may be paid will be postponed.

In the same way, a corporation in respect of which the balance-due day applicable to it for a taxation year will fall within the period that begins on the date of publication of this information bulletin and ends on July 31, 2020, may pay the remainder of its tax payable for this taxation year not later than a subsequent date that the Ministère des Finances will make public.

The rules applicable to corporate tax return filings, especially the filing-due date of such returns, will not be modified. Only the date on which the remainder of tax may be paid will be postponed.

Details will be announced later concerning the terms of payment of tax instalments and the remainder of tax payable by a corporation whose payment may thus be postponed.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF THE PAYMENT BY SPECIFIED INVESTMENT FLOW-THROUGH (SIFT) TRUSTS OR PARTNERSHIPS OF TAX INSTALMENTS AND REMAINDER OF TAX PAYABLE

A trust or a partnership that is a specified investment flow-through (SIFT) trust or partnership subject to Québec income tax for a taxation year must, almost without exception, pay monthly tax instalments for the year. Furthermore, the SIFT trust or partnership must pay the balance of its tax payable for a taxation year not later than the balance-due day applicable to it for the year. Failure by a SIFT trust or partnership to pay its tax instalments on the dates stipulated and to pay its remainder of tax payable for a taxation year not later than the balance-due day applicable to it for the year brings the obligation to pay interest.

Following the example of the additional time period granted to corporations to pay certain tax instalments and the remainder of tax payable, deferment of the payment of certain tax instalments and the remainder of tax payable for a taxation year will also be granted to SIFT trusts and partnerships, without interest, according to the terms and conditions indicated below.

Accordingly, a SIFT trust or partnership that would otherwise be obliged to pay an amount as a tax instalment not later than a date falling within the period that begins on the date of publication of this information bulletin and ends on July 31, 2020 can pay such an amount not later than a subsequent date that the Ministère des Finances will make public.

The calculation methods respecting tax instalments will not be modified. Only the date on which the tax instalment amount may be paid will be postponed.

In the same way, a SIFT trust or partnership, for a taxation year, in respect of which the balance-due day applicable to it for the taxation year will fall within the period that begins on the date of publication of this information bulletin and ends on July 31, 2020, can pay the remainder of its tax payable for this taxation year not later than a subsequent date that the Ministère des Finances will make public.

The rules applicable to tax return filings or the filing of the information return of SIFT trusts or partnerships will not be modified. Only the date on which the remainder of tax may be paid will be postponed.

Details will be announced later concerning the terms of payment of tax instalments and the remainder of tax payable by a SIFT trust or partnership whose payment may thus be postponed.

1 According to the Act respecting health services and social services (CQLR, chapter S-4.2), family-type resources fall into two categories: foster families and foster homes. One or two persons receiving in their principal place of residence a maximum of nine children in difficulty entrusted to them by a public institution in order to respond to their needs and afford them living conditions fostering a parent-child relationship in a family-like environment may be recognized as a foster family. One or two persons receiving in their principal place of residence a maximum of nine adults or elderly persons entrusted to them by a public institution in order to respond to their needs and afford them living conditions as close to a natural environment as possible may be recognized as a foster principal place of residence.

2 An intermediate resource is a resource that is operated by a natural person as a self-employed worker or by a legal person or a partnership and is recognized by an agency (now called: integrated health and social services) for the purpose of participating in the maintenance of users otherwise registered for a public institution's services in the community or in their integration into the community by providing them with a living environment suited to their needs, together with the support or assistance services required by their condition.

### Other

- [Backgrounder: CED financial support for SADCs and CAEs](#) (June 10, 2020);
- [COVID-19 Pandemic - The government is moving ahead to July 1, 2020 the reduction of the school tax \(June 10\)](#);
- [Développement économique régional - Fonds locaux d'investissement : 100 M\\$ de plus pour stimuler l'économie des régions](#) (June 9, 2020);
- [Projet de loi sur la relance économique du Québec - Le gouvernement propose des mesures pour atténuer les effets de la pandémie et relancer rapidement l'économie québécoise](#) (June 3, 2020);
- [Extension of the Credit for Contributions to the Health Services Fund Announced in the Tax News Article of April 30, 2020](#) (June 2);
- [Pandémie de COVID-19 - Près de 400 M\\$ pour relancer le milieu culturel](#) (June 1);
- [Information Bulletin 2020-8: Extension of the credit on employers contribution to the health services fund in respect of employees on paid leave and other measures relating to various fiscal time limits, May 29](#);
- [COVID-19 Pandemic - The government is extending a support measure for businesses and modifying certain tax deadlines affecting trusts and corporations](#) (May 29);
- [Gradual resumption of Court of Québec activities](#) (Court of Québec) (May 28);
- [Resumption of court activities](#) (Court of Appeal of Québec) (May 28);
- [Pandémie de COVID-19 - PACME : les entreprises invitées à contacter les promoteurs collectifs](#) (May 27) (the maximum \$100M of funding that is available for businesses under PACME has been allocated – some funding is still available for “collective promoters,” such as employers’ associations, workers’ associations and certain community organizations);
- [Secteur forestier - Québec accélère les versements du Programme de remboursement pour des coûts de chemins multiresources](#) (May 26) (the government announced a modification of the Programme de remboursement pour des coûts de chemins multiresources (PRCM) this year, payments will be accelerated to provide 60% on meeting the eligibility requirements, 30% on filing the work progress report and 10% on completion of the work);
- [Return filing deadline extended for some corporations and trusts](#) (May 25);
- [Revenu Québec to Maintain Solidarity Tax Credit Payments Until September 2020](#) (May 15);
- [Pandémie de COVID-19 - Le ministre Jean Boulet bonifie de 50 millions de dollars le PACME et invite les entreprises à miser sur la force d'une approche collective](#) (May 15);
- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 - Le premier ministre François Legault annonce l'octroi de primes pour les travailleurs de la santé qui œuvrent à temps plein pour lutter contre le virus](#) (May 7);
- [News Release 2020-05-08: Transfer of Some CSPQ Activities to Revenu Québec Deferred](#) (available on Taxnet Pro);
- [News Release 2020-04-24 : COVID-19 pandemic - The Québec government supports and contributes to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program announced by the federal government](#);

- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 - Le gouvernement du Québec annonce la reconduction des primes offertes au personnel de la santé concerné jusqu'au 31 mai](#) (April 23) (bonus for health care workers);
- [COVID-19 pandemic - A more effective placement service for employers and employees in priority sectors](#) (April 21);
- [Revenu Québec Invites Workers to Take the First Step in Applying for Assistance Under The Incentive Program To Retain Essential Workers \(IPREW\)](#) (April 21);
- [Rétention des travailleurs essentiels - Revenu Québec invite les travailleurs à commencer dès maintenant les démarches relatives à leur inscription au Programme incitatif pour la rétention des travailleurs essentiels \(PIRTE\)](#) (April 21) (the government has opened employer registration for the PIRTE; employees will be able to register starting May 19);
- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 - Le gouvernement du Québec investit 45 millions de dollars pour appuyer le recrutement de travailleurs agricoles](#) (April 17);
- [COVID-19 pandemic - Minister Jean Boulet Announces Deferral until September 1, 2020 of Payments to the Registraire des entreprises](#) (April 16);
- [Mesures d'assouplissement temporaires concernant la gestion administrative des régimes complémentaires de retraite](#) (April 16) (the deadline for various filing obligations related to supplemental pension plans will be extended by three months, and the deadline to file an annual information return for a voluntary RSP is deferred to Sept. 30, 2020);
- [Quebec Municipalities during COVID-19: what are they doing to support you?](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business);
- [Pandémie de COVID-19 - Le gouvernement du Québec annonce le lancement du Programme actions concertées pour le maintien en emploi \(PACME\)](#) (Worker training subsidy – will reimburse employers for 100% of their expenses – for instructors, materials, and management – to establish certain training programs for workers, in addition to a wage subsidy of up to \$25 per hour for 25% to 100% of total hours paid for workers participating in training programs), April 6 (see also KPMG, “[COVID-19 — Quebec to Reimburse Training Expenses](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash-Canada* No. 2020-37, April 8);
- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 - Lancement du greffe numérique de la Cour d'appel](#) (Court of Appeal - Electronic filing), April 7;
- News Release 2020-04-03: [Low-income workers in essential sectors will receive \\$100 per week](#);
- [Pandémie de la COVID-19 - Québec annonce deux mesures économiques destinées au secteur forestier](#) (April 7);
- A six-month moratorium has been put in place for the repayment (principal and interest) of loans already granted through the [FLI](#). Interest accrued during this period will be added to the loan balance (this measure is in addition to the moratorium already in place under most investment policies in effect, which can be as long as 12 months);
- [Province announces supports for post-secondary students](#) (April 14). See also the Government of Québec's “[Repayment of a student loan](#)” web page and Federal News Release 2020-04-22: [Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#);
- News Release 2020-03-27: COVID-19 – The Québec government announces new measures to help individuals and businesses;
- News Release 2020-03-20: The Québec government will harmonize its measures with two federal government assistance measures announced yesterday (see also KPMG, “[COVID-19 – Quebec Harmonizes with Federal Measures](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-19, March 20);
- KPMG, “[Quebec Delays Tax Deadlines in Light of COVID-19 Issues](#)”, *TaxNewsFlash Canada*, No. 2020-13;
- On March 22, [Hydro-Québec](#) announced that, starting March 23, it will suspend the application of charges for unpaid invoices for all its customers (individuals and businesses) until further notice;
- [revenuquebec.ca/en/fair-for-all/helping-you-meet-your-obligations/income-tax-assistance-volunteer-program/](#);
- [Quebec: COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

## British Columbia

### [COVID-19 Updates: Provincial Tax & Revenue Changes \(Last updated May 19\)](#)

The B.C. government is bringing financial relief for people and businesses as we address the effects of COVID-19.

This page contains updates to provincial tax and revenue changes and will be updated as information becomes available. Subscribe to this page to stay informed.

Last updated: May 19

**On this page:**

- [B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers](#)
- [Deferred Tax Payments](#)
- [Delayed PST Budget 2020 Tax Changes](#)
- [Delayed Carbon Tax Increase](#)
- [Reduced School Tax Rates for Businesses](#)
- [Postponed Property Tax Late Payment Penalties for Businesses](#) **Added May 19**
- [Support for Local Governments](#)
- [Enhanced B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit](#)
- [Suspended Debt Collection](#)

### ***Application for B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers***

**You can apply now** for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, a tax-free, one time \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19.

[Find out if you're eligible, what you need to apply, and how to apply.](#)

Information added on repayments of the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers and how they can be made. **Updated May 13**

### ***Deferred Tax Payments***

Effective immediately, B.C. is extending filing and payment deadlines for the following taxes.

### **Employer Health Tax**

- [File and pay your employer health tax](#) **Updated March 25**

### **Logging Tax**

- [Logging tax](#) **Updated April 29**

### **Sales Taxes**

- Provincial sales tax (including municipal and regional district tax\*)
- Carbon tax
- Motor fuel tax
- Tobacco tax

See the following notices for more information:

- [Notice 2020-002, COVID-19 Sales Tax Changes \(PDF\)](#) for general sales tax information **Updated April 22**
- [Notice 2020-003, Multijurisdictional Vehicles - COVID-19 Update \(PDF\)](#) for information about temporary measures to support the commercial transport industry **New Notice May 4**

\*Municipal and regional district tax (MRDT) is the additional [2 or 3% tax on accommodation](#).

### ***Delayed PST Budget 2020 Tax Changes***

The following tax changes announced in [Budget 2020](#) will be postponed until further notice:

- Eliminating the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners
- Expanded registration requirements for Canadian sellers of goods, along with Canadian and foreign sellers of software and telecommunication services

### ***Delayed Carbon Tax Increase***

[Carbon tax rates](#) will remain at their current levels until further notice. The tax measure announced in [Budget 2020](#) aligning the carbon tax rates with the federal carbon pricing backstop is also postponed until further notice.

See [Notice 2020-002, COVID-19 Sales Tax Changes \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

### ***Reduced School Tax Rates for Businesses***

[School tax](#) rates for commercial properties are reduced for the 2020 tax year.

- [Classes 4, 5 and 6](#) will be reduced by 50%

On April 16, 2020, the school property tax was lowered again and [classes 7 and 8](#) are now included. Overall, the commercial property tax bill for most businesses will be reduced by 25% on average.

### ***Postponed Property Tax Late Payment Penalties for Businesses***

Rural property tax due dates have not changed.

For rural area properties, late payment penalties for [classes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8](#) are postponed to November 3, 2020. Learn more about [important property tax dates](#) for rural area properties.

For municipal property tax due dates and penalty dates, please contact your municipality or review your tax notice.

### ***Support for Local Governments***

Support for local governments so they can meet their operational costs and required remittances to regional districts, regional hospital districts, TransLink and transit authorities, BC Assessment, the Municipal Finance Authority and other taxing authorities.

- Authorized to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves to help pay for operating expenses, such as employee salaries
- Provincial school tax remittances are delayed until the end of the year
- Greater flexibility to carry debt for an additional year

### ***Enhanced B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit***

An additional one-time payment will be made in July 2020 on top of the regular [climate action tax credit](#) amount for qualifying individuals and families. **New page March 31, 2020**

The previously scheduled credit increase effective July 2020 remains the same.

### ***Suspended Debt Collection***

Most debt collection activities are suspended until further notice. If you need help with arranging flexible payment options or with your account, staff are available to assist you.

To contact us or for information on payment options, refer to your Statement of Account.

### ***[COVID-19 Supports for Businesses \(Last updated: June 8\)](#)***

The Provincial and Federal government along with the private sector are providing a wide-range of supports for businesses in British Columbia affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This list of supports may not be comprehensive and is subject to change. Please contact support providers directly for eligibility and application details.

[B.C.'s Restart Plan](#) lays out a series of steps that businesses can take to safely operate and reduce COVID-19 transmission. Employer guidelines, best practices and other resources are available from [WorkSafeBC](#).

### **On this page:**

- [Credit and financing options](#)

- [Rent support](#)
  - [Wage support](#)
  - [Changes to taxes](#)
  - [Other supports available to businesses](#)
  - [Pivoting your business operations](#)
  - [Supporting individuals](#)
- 

## Credit & Financing Options

### *Banks and Credit Unions*

Banks and credit unions have partnered with the Federal government to offer flexible financing solutions including interest-free loans.

#### Speak to Your Lender

Banks and credit unions are working with small business banking customers to provide flexible financing solutions such as:

- Payment deferrals
- Reduced interest rates on credit cards
- Temporary limit increases

#### Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

Provides interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible small businesses and not-for profits.

- Includes a loan forgiveness amount of 25%, up to \$10,000, if repaid on or before December 31, 2022
- Eligibility for CEBA has expanded to allow more small businesses to qualify, including sole-proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll
- Contact your bank or credit union to learn more

#### Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)

Helps businesses in all sectors and regions obtain financing during the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs are available at banks and credit unions.

#### **Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:**

Provides loans to small and medium enterprises co-lent from the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and the Federal government.

- Loan amounts vary based on business revenues
- Eligibility has been extended to all legal businesses, including cannabis businesses and those in the hospitality sector operating bars and lounges

#### **Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:**

Provides [new credit and cash flow term loans](#) of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium enterprises from Export Development Canada (EDC).

- Support is available to both exporting and non-exporting companies
-

**BDC's Mid-Market Financing Program:**

Provides [commercial loans from \\$12.5 million to \\$60 million](#) to medium-sized businesses whose credit needs exceed what is already available through the BCAP and other measures.

- BDC anticipates that qualifying companies will have annual revenues exceeding about \$100 million
- More details will be made available soon

**EDC's Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program:**

Provides [new operating credit and cash-flow loans](#) from \$16.75 million to \$80 million to companies with revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million.

- Includes a 75% guarantee from EDC guarantee
- Expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada
- More details will be made available soon

**Additional Credit and Financing Options**

Additional credit and financing options are available to select businesses and sectors, and businesses that are not eligible for other Federal programs.

**Community Futures Emergency Loan Program**

Provides interest-free loans of up to \$40,000, with up to \$10,000 forgivable if repaid before December 31, 2022, to small and medium size businesses in rural communities.

- Businesses must be ineligible for CEBA and BCAP, established before March 1, 2020, and be a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, social enterprise, or other similar organization
- Contact your local Community Futures office to learn more

**Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**

Provides loans to businesses outside of the Community Futures regions that are ineligible for CEBA.

- Sole proprietorships and not-for profits are not eligible for RRRF.
- Applications are assessed as they are received, with funding subject to availability.
- Two loan options are available to qualifying businesses:
  - **Funding requests up to \$40,000:** Interest-free loans of up to \$40,000, with up to \$10,000 forgivable if repaid before December 31, 2020
  - **Funding requests over \$40,000:** Interest-free loans of up to \$1 million, with no scheduled monthly repayments required until after December 31, 2022

**Support for Indigenous Businesses**

Short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions offered through Aboriginal Financial Institutions to support small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses.

**Farm Credit Canada (FCC)**

FCC is offering loan payment deferrals and other financing products to the agriculture and food industry. Contact FCC to learn more.

### Large Employer Financing Facility (LEEFF)

Provides bridge financing to Canada's largest employers in order to keep their operations going during the pandemic. For eligibility details and to apply, visit the Canada Enterprise Emergency Funding Corporation's website.

### Rent Support

The Federal and provincial governments have launched the Canada Commercial Rent Assistance program to temporarily reduce rent for qualifying small business tenants.

#### Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

[CECRA offers forgivable loans](#) to eligible commercial property owners to help reduce rent in April, May, and June by at least 75% for qualifying small business tenants.

- CECRA includes a moratorium on commercial evictions during the months of April, May, and June
- Applications for CECRA are now open May 25
- Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines

### Wage Support

The Federal government has developed and enhanced programs to help employers avoid layoffs and rehire employees.

#### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

A 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is available to qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

- This helps businesses keep and return workers to the payroll
- Organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10% of remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to before June 20, 2020

#### Changes to the Summer Jobs Program

Temporary changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help employers hire summer staff and provide young Canadians access to the jobs they need during COVID-19.

- Changes include an increase to the wage subsidy and an extension to the end date for employment

#### Employment Insurance (EI) Work Sharing Program

The EI work sharing program provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers

- Eligibility of these agreements has been extended to 76 weeks, eligibility requirements have been eased, and the application process has been streamlined

#### Temporary Foreign Workers

The Federal government is providing \$50 million to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers put in place the measures necessary to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period required for everyone arriving from abroad.

- Employers will receive \$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker to ensure that mandatory 14-day isolation period requirements are fully met

## Changes to Taxes

Some provincial and federal taxes have been deferred, delayed or reduced.

### Federal Taxes

The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer, until August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020.

### Provincial Taxes

Effective immediately, many [provincial tax filing and payment deadlines](#) are deferred to September 30, 2020

### B.C. Relief for Commercial Property Owners and Tenants

B.C. relief is available for [Commercial Property Owners and Tenants](#)

- The school property tax rate for commercial properties will be reduced to achieve a commercial property tax bill reduction of 25% on average, providing up to \$700 million in relief
- This enhances the 50% reduction to the provincial school property tax rate originally announced for classes 4, 5 and 6
- Late payment penalties for commercial properties (classes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8) have been postponed to October 1, 2020

## Other Supports & Resources Available to Businesses

Additional support is available to businesses from governments and the private-sector.

### Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force

Through the Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force, the B.C. government is working with representatives from the business community, labour, First Nations, and the non-profit sector to look at the economic impacts of COVID-19 and work towards a strong recovery for B.C.

### BC Hydro

BC Hydro is providing residential and commercial customers the option to defer bill payments or arrange flexible payment plans with no penalty for up to three months.

### FortisBC

FortisBC's customer Recovery Fund is supporting residential customers and small businesses impacted by COVID-19 with bill deferrals, interest free repayment schedules and bill credit.

### ICBC

ICBC customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.

#### Support for Employers

- WorkSafeBC is postponing the reporting and payment deadlines to June 30, 2020 for employers who report and pay on a quarterly basis. Employers who report and pay on an annual basis may defer until March 2021
- Premiums on wages paid to furloughed workers of employers receiving Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies will be waived. This change will be retroactive to March 15, 2020 and continue for the duration of the CEWS program

#### Support for Regional Businesses

- Small businesses operating in rural communities may also check with their local Community Futures office for emergency loans and business advice
- Direct, one-on-one service delivery programs to help the tourism sector and other enterprises with rapid recovery have been developed in collaboration with Island Coastal Economic Trust, Tourism Vancouver Island and Innovation Island Technology Association
- The Columbia Basin Trust will provide low-interest loans through the new Small Business Working Capital Loan program to local small businesses in the Columbia Basin to help them meet their immediate needs. They will also increase support to existing programs

#### Support for Young Entrepreneurs

The Federal government is providing \$20.1 million in support which allow Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.

#### Free Webinars from Small Business BC

Small Business BC is offering a free webinar, Get Online with Shopify, for businesses to learn how to build an online presence and engage with customers and continue to grow your business.

### **Pivoting Your Business Operations**

Small Business BC provides practical ideas and inspiration to help you manage your business through this uniquely challenging time. More opportunities to pivot your business operations include:

#### Support from Local Organizations

Participate in “buy local” and business support campaigns such as the Small Business BC Marketplace. Contact local business organizations such as your Chamber of Commerce for more information.

#### B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program

Agriculture, seafood, and food processing businesses in B.C. that have had their revenues decreased by at least 30% as a result of COVID-19 may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in business planning services and coaching for individuals, and up to \$20,000 for groups from a qualified business consultant, to develop an immediate and long-term recovery plan.

#### Expansion of Patio Areas

Food-primary, liquor-primary and manufacturer licensees such as wineries, breweries and distilleries may apply through a simplified online process to temporarily expand their service areas.

#### Supply medical products and services to support COVID-19 response

Businesses are asked to contact the Province of B.C. or the Government of Canada if they can supply products and services, or rapidly scale up production or re-tool their manufacturing lines to develop products, that that will help in the fight against COVID-19.

#### B.C. Restaurant Alcohol Delivery

Licensed restaurants are now temporarily allowed to use servers with a Serving it Right certificate to deliver liquor products alongside the purchase of a meal.

#### Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Manufacturing

Distillers in British Columbia are temporarily authorized to manufacture alcohol-based hand sanitizer to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### BC Farmers' Markets Online

The B.C. government is providing \$55,000 to the BC Association of Farmers' Markets to help member markets move to an online model to continue providing consumers with locally grown and prepared food products.

### Supporting Individuals

British Columbians affected by the COVID-19 pandemic can rely on income supports, tax relief and direct funding. Read the full list of federal and provincial financial benefits to determine your eligibility.

#### Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the Federal government will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19.

#### B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers

The [B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers](#) provides a one-time \$1,000 payment to people whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19. B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit are eligible.

#### Support for Renters

- The [BC Temporary Rental Supplement Program](#) provides temporary relief for eligible renters of up to \$500/month for four months
- While B.C.'s emergency order is in place, government is [imposing a moratorium on evictions \(with some exceptions\) and placing a freeze on new annual rent increases by landlords](#)
- Renters in some parts of B.C. can receive emergency help for rent payments and one-time interest-free loans through [BC Rent Bank](#)

#### Support for Students

- The Canada Emergency Student Benefit will provide students and new graduates who are not eligible for the CERB \$1,250 a month or \$1,750 a month for eligible students with dependants or disabilities from May to August 2020
- The Federal government is placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans
- The B.C. government has [frozen B.C. student loan payments](#) for six months

- Students attending B.C.'s 25 public post-secondary institutions, who are experiencing emergency financial pressures, will benefit from a one-time investment of \$3.5 million in emergency financial assistance

### Support for Fish Harvesters

The Federal government has announced the Fish Harvester Benefit which provides income support to self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons crew who cannot access the CEWS, and who have experienced fishing income declines of greater than 25% in the 2020 tax year. The benefit covers 75% of fishing income losses beyond a 25% income decline threshold, up to a maximum individual entitlement of \$847 per week for up to 12 weeks.

### Enhanced Credits and Benefits

- The Federal government has enhanced the [Canada Child Benefit \(CCB\)](#) with a maximum annual payment amount increased by up to \$300 per child as part of their May payment
- In July 2020, eligible families will receive up to \$564 and eligible individuals will receive up to \$218 through an enhanced [Climate Action Credit](#) payment

### Provincial Child Care Supports

Provincial child care supports include the Temporary Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers.

### Support for Seniors

Required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) will be reduced by 25% for 2020. Additionally, the Federal government is providing a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

## **[B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers](#)**

**Apply now** for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, a tax-free, one time \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19.

- [Find Out If You're Eligible](#)
- [What You Need To Apply](#)
- [Apply Now](#)
- [Repayments](#)
- [Find Out About Other Benefits](#)

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### ***Find Out If You're Eligible***

To be eligible for the emergency benefit, you must:

- Have been a resident of British Columbia on March 15, 2020
- Meet the eligibility requirements for the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#)
- Have been approved for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, even if you haven't received a federal benefit payment yet
- Be at least 15 years old on the date you apply
- Have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return
- Not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance
- Not be incarcerated in a provincial or federal correctional facility for a period of 90 days or longer that includes March 15, 2020

If you're eligible for and receive at least one Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) payment and then return to work, you may still be eligible for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, provided you are not required to repay the CERB benefit. You must still meet all other eligibility criteria above.

If you receive a B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers payment and we later determine that you were not eligible for it, you may be required to repay it with penalties and interest. Learn more about [repayments](#).

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## ***What You Need To Apply***

### **Your Social Insurance Number**

When you apply, we'll need your Social Insurance Number (SIN), Individual Tax Number (ITN), or Temporary Tax Number (TTN) to verify your eligibility.

### **Your direct deposit information**

The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers will only be issued by direct deposit, ensuring you receive the benefit as soon as possible.

Obtain your direct deposit information before the application period begins. The image below shows how to find the relevant numbers on a cheque.

[Graphic not reproduced, see PDF]

If you don't use cheques, contact your financial institution to get the numbers. It's important to enter your bank account information correctly.

The \$1,000 payment will be made by direct deposit to your personal bank account within 10 business days.

### **An approved Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

If you haven't applied for the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) yet, you must apply for it now as this is one of the eligibility requirements for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers.

If you became eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) regular or sickness benefits due to COVID-19 **on or after March 15, 2020**, your EI claim may have been automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. If you're not sure, you can confirm by calling Service Canada at 1-833-699-0299.

## ***Apply Now***

You have until December 2, 2020 to apply. You can expect to receive payment within 10 business days after your application is approved.

We'll notify you by email when your payment has been processed.

Documentation isn't required when you apply. However, all applications will be verified and we may ask you for proof of your eligibility at a later date.

### **Online applications**

You can apply online starting May 1, 2020. Applying online is safe, secure and only takes minutes.

- You can apply anytime, from anywhere, using any device, including your smart phone
- Applying online is the fastest way to get your benefit
- Your personal information is protected and secure when you apply

### **Application Tips**

- When you enter your address, you'll be asked for a valid postal code. If the application doesn't find a verified address for you, click or tap the red "Unverified" button to continue.
  - If your mailing address and residential address are the same, you can choose to continue with both addresses unverified.
-

- When you enter your bank account number, enter only the numbers. Do not add dashes, dots or other other characters.

### Telephone applications

You can apply by telephone with the help of our agents starting May 4, 2020. This option is for people who don't have internet access or have other accessibility needs.

If you apply by phone, we will complete the application with you over the phone and give you a confirmation number when you're done.

We anticipate high call volumes and strongly recommend applying online if you can.

Call us Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm:

- [1-855-955-3545](tel:1-855-955-3545) (within BC only)
- [1-778-309-4630](tel:1-778-309-4630) (outside B.C.)

### Beware of Fraud

If we need to contact you about your application, we'll quote the confirmation number you received when you completed your application. We'll never contact you about your application by text message or ask you to provide your Social Insurance Number over the phone or by email. If you're not sure, call or email us directly.

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### Repayments

Reasons you might need to repay the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers could include:

- You applied for the worker benefit and later realized you weren't eligible
- You didn't apply for the worker benefit and you received a payment in error
- You received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit but you weren't eligible for it and had to repay it
- You received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and were later transferred to another program such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and had to repay the CERB in full

If you need to repay the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers, here's how.

The fastest and easiest way is to have your financial institution return the payment. You will need to provide your financial institution with:

- the deposit date
- the deposit amount (\$1,000)
- the payor name "Prov of BC"
- the account number that the payment was deposited into

If your financial institution can't return the payment, you can mail us a cheque made payable to the Minister of Finance to:

B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers  
Ministry of Finance  
PO Box 9471 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9N9

If you send us a cheque, include either:

- Your confirmation number from your application, or
- If you didn't apply for the worker benefit and received a payment in error, a note that states you didn't apply for the benefit

If your cheque is from a different account from the one the payment was deposited into, also include the account information where the payment was deposited so we can mark the payment as returned.

### ***Find Out About Other Benefits***

The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers is designed to complement other [federal and provincial supports](#) available for people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you haven't applied for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit yet, find out about the [federal benefit](#).

### **News Release 2020-04-23: [Applications for B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers to open May 1](#)**

[See [Online applications open for B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers](#) (May 1, 2020) – “Applying online is the fastest, easiest way to receive the benefit. To apply, British Columbians with their social insurance number and direct deposit information can go to: [www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit](http://www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit)”]

“This benefit is further help for British Columbians who are worried about paying their bills and making ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Carole James, Minister of Finance. “During these uncertain times, we want to get through this together by helping displaced workers support themselves and their families.”

The BCEBW is a one-time, tax-free \$1,000 payment for British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most people who are eligible for the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) are also eligible for the BCEBW, including those who have run out of employment insurance (EI) benefits and subsequently qualify for the CERB.

To be eligible for the BCEBW, people must: 1) have been a resident of British Columbia on March 15, 2020; 2) meet the eligibility requirements for the CERB; 3) have been approved for the CERB, even if they have not received a benefit yet; 4) be at least 15 years old on the date of application; 5) have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return; and 6) not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance.

Starting May 1, applications can be made online, at any time, and a link to the application portal will be available at: [www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit](http://www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit). Also starting May 1, people can call 778 309-4630 or toll-free within B.C. at 1 855 955-3545, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific time) for general support or questions. Applications over the phone will begin on May 4. Payments will start to go out within days of application. While there may be minor delays during the initial surge, government staff will be working to quickly process payments.

The benefit is part of the Province's \$5-billion [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) to provide income supports, tax relief and direct funding for people and businesses, and to support the services people count on.

The action plan builds on the federal government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan and delivers other key supports for people, including:

- enhancing the B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit to provide up to \$218 per adult and up to \$64 per child in July 2020;
- introducing a rental supplement of \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents and \$500 per month for eligible households with dependents;
- providing an emergency \$300 per month for the next three months to individuals receiving income assistance or disability assistance and who are not eligible for EI or the CERB;
- freezing all B.C. student loan repayments, interest free, until Sept. 30, 2020;
- halting all evictions due to non-payment of rent for the duration of this emergency;
- delaying several tax filing and payment deadlines for income tax, the employer health tax, provincial sales tax, municipal and regional district tax, motor fuel tax, carbon tax and tobacco tax;
- reducing the school property tax rate for commercial properties to achieve an average 25% reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses; and
- changing the Employment Standards Act to ensure immediate job-protected unpaid leave for workers affected by COVID-19, so they can stay home as needed.

*Learn More:*

To review BCEBW eligibility and subscribe for notification when the application process opens online, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit](http://www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit)

## Other

- B.C.'s [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) (updated regularly);
- [Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media - COVID-19: In Court Measures During the Pandemic](#) (June 5, 2020);
- [BC strengthens federal commercial rent program](#) (June 1);
- [File and Pay Your Logging Tax](#) (updated May 29);
- [File and Pay Your Employer Health Tax](#) (updated May 25);
- [One-Time Enhanced July 2020 Payment for the Climate Action Tax Credit](#) (May 21);
- [Remote execution of legal documents allowed during pandemic](#) (May 20);
- [Pandemic pay supports front-line health, social service workers](#) (May 19);
- [New programs support jobs, clean up environment](#) (May 13);
- [Government creates COVID-19 temporary layoff period](#) (May 4)
- [Government takes action to help forest sector keep doors open](#) (April 30);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Rent relief on the way for B.C. small businesses](#);
- [COVID-19 Updates: Provincial Tax & Revenue Changes](#);
- [Notice 2020-002: Covid-19 Sales Tax Changes](#) (Revised April 22);
- [Companies, societies, cooperatives now able to meet electronically](#) (April 22);
- [New COVID-19 supports for businesses, local governments](#) (April 16);
- [COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information](#) (April 15);
- [Defer Your Property Taxes](#) (April 14);
- [Financial Supports in Response to COVID-19](#) (April 8);
- [Civil Resolution Tribunal extends deadlines, waives fees for those struggling financially during pandemic](#) (April 8);
- [New emergency supports for province's most vulnerable](#) (April 2);
- [Province provides emergency fund for children with special needs](#) (April 8);
- [Agricultural sector support news release](#) (March 22);
- [COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

## Alberta

### **Alberta Corporate Tax Act – Special Notice Vol. 5 No. 57: *Extension to Alberta Corporate Income Tax Return (AT1) Filing Deadline***

Last updated: May 28

NOTE: This special notice is intended to explain legislation and provide specific information. Every effort has been made to ensure the contents are accurate. However, if a discrepancy should occur in interpretation between this special notice and governing legislation, the legislation takes precedence.

Further to the tax relief measures set out in Special Notice Vol. 5 No. 56, *Deferral of Corporate Income Tax Payments*, the Government of Alberta has announced additional tax relief measures in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the deferral of Alberta corporate income tax payments to August 31, 2020, these additional measures recognize the exceptional circumstances and challenges Alberta businesses are facing during this time.

The filing deadline for an Alberta Corporate Income Tax Return (AT1) has been extended to: 1) June 1, 2020 for an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline after March 18 and before June 1, 2020, and 2) September 1, 2020 for an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline in June, July or August 2020. If a filing deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday, an AT1 is considered filed on time if it is filed on the next business day on which TRA's offices are open. For

example, because May 31, 2020 is a Sunday, an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline on that day will be considered filed on time if it is received by TRA on Monday, June 1, 2020. Therefore, the filing deadline for an AT1 that would otherwise have a filing deadline of May 31, 2020 is extended to September 1, 2020. Alberta will not assess a late-filing penalty with respect to an AT1 otherwise due during these deferral periods if the AT1 is filed on or before the respective extended deadline noted above.

Furthermore, the filing deadline for a Notice of Objection (Form AT97) that would otherwise have a filing deadline after March 18 and before June 30, 2020 is extended to June 30, 2020. For example, normally a Notice of Objection must be filed within 90 days from the date of mailing of the respective Notice of Assessment. However, during this deferral period, a Notice of Objection that would otherwise be due on or after March 18, 2020 will be accepted as being filed on time if it is received by TRA on or before June 30, 2020.

#### Additional Information

For additional information on Alberta's corporate income tax program, refer to the Corporate Income Tax page of our website.

For additional information on filing a Notice of Objection, refer to Information Circular CT8, Objections and Appeals.

For additional information on COVID-19, refer to the COVID-19 info for Albertans page of our website.

#### Contact Information and Useful Links

Email TRA: [TRA.Revenue@gov.ab.ca](mailto:TRA.Revenue@gov.ab.ca) Visit our website: [tra.alberta.ca](http://tra.alberta.ca) Subscribe to receive email updates: [tra.alberta.ca/subscribe.html](http://tra.alberta.ca/subscribe.html) TRA Client Self-service (TRACS): [tra.alberta.ca/tracs](http://tra.alberta.ca/tracs)

#### **Corporate Income Tax Special Notice Vol. 5–56: *Deferral of corporate income tax payments* (updated April 3, 2020)**

NOTE: This special notice is intended to explain legislation and provide specific information. Every effort has been made to ensure the contents are accurate. However, if a discrepancy should occur in interpretation between this special notice and governing legislation, the legislation takes precedence.

#### ***Description***

The Government of Alberta announced new business tax relief measures on March 18, 2020 in response to the current oil price shock and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alberta businesses with corporate income tax balances that become owing on or after March 18, 2020, or installment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020, can defer making these payments until August 31, 2020. Alberta will waive penalties and interest that would otherwise be payable in respect of these payments.

(See related tab for an additional measure announced April 2, 2020: special notice Vol. 5 No. 57 : Extension to Alberta corporate income tax return (AT1) filing deadline.)

#### ***Details***

The Government of Alberta announced new business tax relief measures on March 18, 2020 in response to the current oil price shock and the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures recognize the cash flow challenges Alberta businesses are facing in these exceptional economic circumstances and will supplement similar relief announced by the Government of Canada.

Alberta businesses with corporate income tax balances that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 or installment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020, can defer making these payments until August 31, 2020. Alberta will waive penalties and interest that would otherwise be payable in respect of these payments.

Alberta will also modify the provincial corporate income tax audit and collection practices during Alberta's Public Health Emergency (COVID-19).

This deferral measure is not available in respect of tax balances or installment payments coming due during this period for which payments were made to government prior to March 18, 2020.

#### Additional Information

For additional information on COVID-19, refer to the COVID-19 coronavirus info for [Albertans page](#) of our website.

For complete information on Alberta's corporate income tax program, refer to the [Corporate Income Tax page](#) of our website.

### **[COVID-19: Support for Businesses](#)**

#### ***Small business advice***

Talk to a small business advisor at [Business Link](#) to get free advice, coaching and information on COVID-19 resources and supports. [Submit your question online](#) or contact them directly:

#### ***Tax changes***

##### ***Corporate income tax changes***

[Alberta corporate income tax](#) balances and instalment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 are deferred until August 31, 2020 to increase employers' access to cash so they can pay employees, address debts and continue operations.

Due dates for filing corporate income tax returns due after March 18, 2020 and before June 1, 2020 have been extended to June 1, 2020.

##### ***Education property tax deferral***

[Education property tax rates](#) will be frozen at last year's level – reversing the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020. Collection of non-residential education property tax for businesses will be deferred for 6 months, or both municipal and education property tax are deferred for a shorter time that is of equivalent benefit. Municipalities are expected to set education property tax rates as they normally would, but defer collection. Commercial landlords are encouraged to pass savings on to their tenants through reduced or deferred payments to help employers pay their employees and stay in business. Businesses capable of paying their taxes in full are encouraged to do so. This will assist the province in supporting Albertans through the pandemic. Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to education property tax deferrals.

##### ***Payment deferrals***

###### ***WCB premium payment deferral***

Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer [WCB premium](#) payments until 2021.

- For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021 – saving businesses \$350 million.
- Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due.

Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.

- [WCB: COVID-19 employer fact sheet](#) (PDF, 59 KB)

### ***Utility payment deferral***

Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments until June 19, 2020 to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider. This program is available to Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19, such as those who have lost their employment or had to leave work to take care of an ill family member. Call your utility provider directly to arrange for deferral on all payments until June 19, 2020.

Learn more about the [utility payment deferral](#).

### ***Tourism levy deferral***

Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until August 31 for amounts that become due to government on or after March 27, 2020. Payments deferred until August 31 will not be subject to penalties or interest. Hotels and other lodging providers are still expected to file returns, as required by legislation, and must collect the tourism levy from guests staying at their properties during this period. Learn more about the [tourism levy](#).

### **Banks and credit unions**

Credit unions:

Business members should contact their credit union directly to work out a plan for their personal situation.

ATB Financial

ATB small business customers can:

- apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to 6 months
- access additional working capital for ATB customers

Other ATB business and agriculture customers can access support on a one-on-one basis.

Further solutions are being considered at this time.

### ***Federal government programs***

...

### ***Business continuity plans***

Employers should consider their [business continuity plan](#) (PDF, 319 KB) and how COVID-19 could impact their workplace. To prepare, make plans to:

- protect employees
- limit spread in workplaces
- ensure continuity of critical services if staff are ill or self-isolating
- explore alternate working arrangements, such as:
  - working from home or remotely
  - doing work that doesn't require contact with other people

**Related**

- [COVID-19 info for Albertans](#)
- [Supports for Albertans](#)
- [COVID-19 orders and legislation](#)
- [Restrictions on businesses](#)
- [Restrictions on gatherings](#)
- [Guidance for workplaces](#)

**Other**

- [COVID-19 support for employers and employees](#);
- [COVID-19 supports for Albertans](#);
- [Alberta leads country supporting economic relaunch](#) (new relaunch supports and commercial tenancy measures to help Alberta's small- and medium-sized businesses during economic relaunch) (June 5);
- [Supporting Alberta's agriculture industry](#) (May 12);
- [Supporting Alberta's businesses through relaunch](#) (May 11);
- [Relief for the child care sector](#) (May 6);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Rent relief for Alberta's small businesses](#);
- IFTA special notice Vol. 10 No. 4: *Extension of quarterly tax return filing deadline* (Alberta will not assess a late-filing penalty with respect to an IFTA Quarterly Tax Return for the first calendar quarter of 2020 if it is received by TRA on or before June 30, 2020) (April 17);
- Notice regarding TRA forms (2020-04-15) – COVID-19 response: TRA's online services and special notices: "In order to reduce the necessity for taxpayers and tax preparers to meet in person, TRA will recognize electronic signatures. This administrative measure applies to all prescribed forms administered by TRA, including the Alberta Consent Form (AT4930)";
- [Boosting charitable donations during COVID-19](#) (the province is launching a charitable giving matching donation program to increase support to charities responding to COVID-19) (April 12);
- [Protecting jobs, providing economic relief for energy sector, Economic Recovery Council, \\$2 billion investment in job creation](#) (April 9);
- BLG, "[Emergency legislative amendments to support Alberta's oil and gas sector](#)" (April 8);
- [Relief for forest companies affected by COVID-19](#) (April 4);
- The Government announced on March 17, 2020, that it is implementing a six-month, [interest free moratorium on Alberta student loan payments](#);
- [Alberta: COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

**Manitoba****News Release 2020-05-29: [Province Continues Measures for Manitobans Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic](#)**

*Deferred Tax Filing Deadlines, Postponed Eviction Hearings and Rent Freeze Support Manitoba Businesses, Tenants: Fielding*

The Manitoba government is once again extending measures aimed to help residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced today.

"Manitoba's small- and medium-sized businesses continue to face a challenging economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and we want to help them further by giving them more time to submit provincial taxes," said Fielding. "As we enter Phase Two of restoring services across Manitoba and more businesses reopen, we want to provide them with some additional financial flexibility."

After extending the April and May filing deadlines for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000, the province is now extending the deadlines for June as well. Businesses will now have up to three

additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax.

Fielding noted in the last two months, deferred retail sales and payroll tax deferrals resulted in an estimated \$10.8 million savings to Manitoba businesses.

The province is continuing to postpone non-urgent eviction hearings and suspending any rent increases scheduled to take effect in June. The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) and Residential Tenancies Commission (RTC) will continue to postpone all hearings for non-urgent matters to halt evictions, and all scheduled hearings are delayed to protect Manitobans from evictions during the pandemic, with certain exceptions to deal with urgent issues that involve the health and safety of tenants. Eviction orders will only be issued to address issues affecting health and safety including unlawful activities.

“We continue to balance safety concerns with support for renters facing economic hardship or needing to self isolate due to COVID-19,” said Fielding. “The Residential Tenancies Branch remains available to resolve urgent situations involving health and safety for landlords and tenants.”

Fielding noted the RTB also recognizes landlords are experiencing financial challenges as some tenants are unable to pay full rent. After June 30, the branch plans to schedule hearings to adjudicate landlord applications for orders of possession on a priority basis. Hearings will be scheduled based on the order in which the applications are received. Landlords and tenants are encouraged to contact the RTB for information by telephone at 204-945-2476 or (toll-free) at 1-800-782-8403 and by email at [rtb@gov.mb.ca](mailto:rtb@gov.mb.ca).

Information on filing requirements is available at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html).

A comprehensive list of Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at: <https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.

### **[News Release 2020-05-16: Government announces new Manitoba Works Capital Incentive to support renewed economic growth](#)**

Program Supports Potential \$392-Million Private Capital Project From Starlight Developments in Downtown Winnipeg:  
Eichler

The province is unveiling the Manitoba Works Capital Incentive, a new approach to tax increment financing (TIF) that levers incremental education property tax rebates to stimulate economic growth and job creation, Economic Development and Training Minister Ralph Eichler announced today.

“This new program in Manitoba’s investment support tool kit will bring business investment and jobs to the province, and help achieve the objectives set out in the provincial *Economic Growth Action Plan*,” said Eichler. “The Manitoba Works Capital Incentive demonstrates that our province continues to be open for business during these challenging economic times.”

The Manitoba Works Capital Incentive also encourages business development during the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. A new or existing business interested in getting established or expanding in Manitoba may apply to the program if: **1)** the business is prepared to make a minimum capital investment of \$10 million to a specific property, which will be designated for tax increment financing benefits; **2)** a minimum of 65 per cent of total project costs are from private sources; and **3)** there is demonstrable potential to create and/or maintain jobs in Manitoba, or the new business activity will have a substantial and measurable net economic benefit to the province.

The first project to be announced under the program will lever a potential \$392-million private capital investment and create 450 new jobs to redevelop the Portage Place mall in downtown Winnipeg, through a rebate of up to \$28.7 million over 20 years. The Starlight Developments project will convert Portage Place into a mixed-use complex that includes student housing as well as larger-family Indigenous student housing, retail and services, and will transform its street presence to become more connected to the surrounding area while increasing safety.

The Manitoba Works Capital Incentive carries no risk in that it provides no up-front money to the developer, and the province pays only what is collected in incremental education property tax as a result of the development.

Historically, Manitoba used TIF to promote investment in community revitalization projects, among other uses. In December 2018, the province began refocusing the program toward economic development and moving to increase transparency with a whole-of-government approach to project reviews. The new Manitoba Works Capital Incentive framework provides clear parameters and aligns with the province's mandate to champion Manitoba as an ideal location for business investment and expansion.

The government has committed to phase out education property tax in order to relieve property owners of this burden and to align Manitoba with other provinces. Rebates provided through the Manitoba Works Capital Incentive will support significant development during the phase-out period and will provide a competitive tax advantage to stimulate economic growth, the minister added.

### **News Release 2020-04-22: Province to Provide \$120 Million of Support to Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Harmed by COVID-19**

#### ***Manitoba Businesses are Struggling, We Want to Support Them: Pallister***

The Manitoba government is providing up to \$120 million to support Manitoba's small and medium-sized businesses that are facing significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Premier Brian Pallister announced today.

"Manitoba's small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of our economy. They are struggling right now and we want to support them," said Pallister. "Our government has been listening and working diligently with chambers of commerce across the province, business and retail councils, industry and trade associations and various stakeholders to identify where the greatest need is and to maximize the recovery opportunities for Manitoba's business sector."

The Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP) is available to any of the approximately 120,000 businesses in Manitoba who have fallen into a gap in failing to qualify for the various federal government assistance programs and wage subsidies created because of COVID-19. If one in six businesses have fallen into that gap that would mean approximately 20,000 Manitoba businesses would be entitled to this support, the premier noted. [See [Province Opens Online Intake for \\$120-Million Manitoba Gap Protection Program](#) (May 1, 2020)].

The province will advance each eligible business the non-interest bearing forgivable MGPP loan of \$6,000, for a total of up to \$120 million. The loan will be forgiven on Dec. 31, 2020, if the recipient attests at that time the business has not received any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account, as well as sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic. If the applicant has received benefits under a federal COVID program, then the loan will be added to the recipient's 2020 tax bill.

"We are acting on the advice from industry and are committed to working in partnership with our municipal and federal governments and various associations that are impacted by this pandemic so we'll make the right decisions, in the right way, at the right time to maximize our recovery efforts for the benefit of all Manitobans," said Pallister.

To be eligible for the MGPP funding, a business must:

- 1) have been operational on March 20, 2020, the date the Manitoba government declared a provincewide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act because of COVID-19;
- 2) have temporarily ceased or curtailed operations as a result of a COVID-19 public health order and have been harmed by the health order;
- 3) be registered and in good standing with the Manitoba Business and Corporate Registry;
- 4) have not qualified for federal government COVID-19 grant support; and
- 5) have an email address and a bank account.

For more information:

- Public information, contact Manitoba Government Inquiry: 1-866-626-4862 or 204-945-3744.
- Media requests for general information, contact Communications Services Manitoba: 204-945-3765.
- Media requests for ministerial comment, contact Communications and Stakeholder Relations: 204-945-4916.

## **News Release 2020-03-22: Manitoba Government Extends Tax Payment Filing Deadlines for Businesses**

Extension Could Help More Than 20,000 Manitoba Businesses Cope with Impacts of COVID-19: Pallister

The province is extending tax filing deadlines for businesses impacted by COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister and Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced today.

“Manitoba businesses are facing a challenging economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and we want to help them out by giving them more time to submit provincial taxes,” said Pallister. “Some businesses may need access to these extra funds and we want to provide them with that flexibility. The allowance is one of several measures our government has introduced to help Manitobans cope during this trying and uncertain time.”

The province will extend the April and May filing deadlines for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000. It is estimated this could help more than 20,000 businesses in Manitoba, the premier noted. Businesses will have up to two additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax.

“This extension gives small and medium businesses a two month breather to deal with COVID-19,” said Fielding. “This global pandemic is impacting all Manitobans and while we focus our resources and energy on the health of Manitobans, we must be mindful of the financial toll the pandemic is having on businesses and families. Over 95 per cent of Manitoba business are small or medium sized, and they need government support through this difficult time.”

The minister noted the department will work with businesses regarding flexible repayment options above the \$10,000 cap.

Further information regarding filing requirements will be available Monday on the Manitoba Tax Publications page on the Finance Taxation website at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html).

For more information: Public information, contact Manitoba Government Inquiry: 1-866-626-4862 or 204-945-3744. Media requests for general information, contact Communications Services Manitoba: 204-945-3765. Media requests for ministerial comment, contact Communications and Stakeholder Relations: 204-945-4916.

## **News Release 2020-04-03: [Province Announces Over \\$100 Million in Support and Relief for Manitoba's Fight Against COVID-19](#)**

Manitoba Protection Plan Ensures Government Can Respond Quickly and Effectively to Needs of Manitobans: Pallister

The Manitoba government is announcing new measures in the Manitoba Protection Plan to provide extra support and relief to homeowners and businesses, and to enhance health preparedness for new medical equipment and shelter space in the fight against COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister announced today.

“Our government’s number one priority during this global pandemic is keeping Manitobans safe and ensuring our health-care system is there for us and our loved ones,” said Pallister. “We must protect our most valuable service – our health-care system – and protect our most vulnerable people, our senior citizens, our homeless, those faced with threats of violence and those who are facing new financial challenges.”

...

### **Cash Flow Tax Relief**

Today's measures will provide immediate relief to Manitobans facing financial challenges by deferring provincial fees and charges, the premier noted. As part of the Manitoba Protection Plan, the province is providing the following protections for the next six months until Oct. 1:

- instructing Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) to not charge interest or penalties in the event that Manitobans are unable to pay at this time;
- instructing MPI to relax ordinary practices on policy renewals and collections;
- instructing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores;
- supporting Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to do the same and asking WCB to extend relief from penalties for late payments;
- directing Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas to not disconnect customers during these times; and
- working with municipal partners to ensure municipalities do not charge interest on provincial education taxes and school division fees and the province is encouraging municipalities to do the same with respect to their own taxes and will start discussions to support implementation.

The government is also deferring provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to Aug. 31 and has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until Oct. 1, should the federal government agree, the premier added.

The new measures are in addition to the recently announced two-month deferral for small businesses that remit up to \$10,000 in Manitoba payroll tax or \$10,000 in sales tax. This will result in \$80 million in deferred remittance to the province....

#### Other

- [Stakeholder consultation determines \\$120 million risk recognition program for Manitobans](#) (June 2, 2020);
- Information Notice 20-02: [Deadlines to appeal tax assessments suspended](#) (May 26);
- News Release 2020-05-29: [Deferred Tax Filing Deadlines, Postponed Eviction Hearings and Rent Freeze Support Manitoba Businesses, Tenants](#);
- News Release 2020-05-19: [Additional relief for tourism industry](#);
- News Release 2020-05-12: [Province increases investment to \\$10 Million for Green Team projects](#);
- News Release 2020-05-05: [Province Investing \\$45 Million for Manitoba Seniors to Lessen Financial Burden Posed by COVID-19 Pandemic](#);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Manitoba to Join Ontario in Treatment of Emergency Benefit As Income](#);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Province Announces Up to \\$120 Million for Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Plan](#);
- [Manitoba Public Insurance to Issue Rebate Cheques to Policyholders](#) (April 23);
- [Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba Returns \\$37-Million Surplus to Provide Financial Relief to Employers](#) (April 21) (employers will receive a credit based on 20% of their 2019 premium);
- [Fuel Notice 20-04 - IFTA - Extended Due Date \(April 20\)](#);
- [Province Announces up to \\$1 Billion to Support COVID-19 Fight](#) (April 15) (the pandemic-related spending is requested to be allocated as follows: \$500M for the Health Services Insurance Fund, \$400M for the internal service adjustments appropriations of government (i.e. to new COVID-19 pandemic-related costs across the whole of government), and \$100M for emergency expenditures);
- [Manitoba Government Introduces Amendments to Strengthen The Emergency Measures Act](#) (April 15);
- [Province creates new \\$5 million fund for research projects related to COVID-19](#) (April 8);
- [Student Loan Repayments Suspended to Lessen Cost Burden during Pandemic](#) (April 7);
- [RST Notice 20-03: Government Extends Tax Deadlines](#) (RST returns for businesses with monthly RST remittances of \$10K or less per month that would normally be due on April 20 and May 20 are now due on June 22, 2020. For businesses that file on a quarterly basis having a due date of April 20, the due date is extended to June 22, 2020. Businesses entitled to these extensions are also exempt from late-filing penalties and interest in respect of the March 20 filing if the business files before June 22, 2020);
- [HE Notice 20-01: Tax Filing Deadline Extension](#) (Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy (also known as HE Levy) returns for small and medium businesses with monthly HE Levy remittances of no more than \$10,000

per month that would normally be due on April 15th and May 15th will now be due on June 15, 2020) (March 2020);

- [Manitoba to postpone eviction hearings and freeze rent increases](#) (March 24);
- [Manitoba implementing \\$27.6-million plan to support child care for essential workers](#) (March 20);
- [Manitoba: COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

## Saskatchewan

### News Release 2020-05-08: [Emergency Support Program For Saskatchewan Small Businesses Extended](#)

Today, the Government of Saskatchewan announced the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) program will be extended to the month of May for businesses that are required to remain closed or substantially curtail operations after May 19, 2020.

“While the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan is now underway, we are still very much dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic, so we need to be methodical in how we implement each phase of the plan in our province,” Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. “We want to be flexible and responsive with the program and make sure we provide timely support for businesses so they can utilize this funding where it will provide the most benefit for them. We will continue working closely with our business community on this, and other measures, right through each critical phase of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.”

Businesses will not need to reapply to the program. Businesses that qualify for the program will automatically receive a second payment after May 19. Launched on April 13, 2020, the SSBEP program is a \$50 million program providing financial support to small and medium businesses that have had to temporarily close or substantially curtail their operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible applicants receive a payment of 15 per cent of their sales revenue from April 2019 or February 2020, up to \$5,000, to help businesses with expenses including fixed costs such as rent. To date, the SSBEP has processed more than 4,700 applications and provided more than \$15 million in support to Saskatchewan businesses.

For more information and the SSBEP application, businesses can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses).

### News Release 2020-04-09: [Emergency Support Program For Saskatchewan Small Businesses](#)

Saskatchewan small businesses will receive additional provincial support to help deal with current COVID-19 challenges through the new Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP). The \$50 million program will provide financial support to small and medium-sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have heard from our business community and understand the unprecedented challenges that they are facing,” Premier Scott Moe said. “Our government is providing critical support for businesses that have had to fully or partially close their doors to protect public health and reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is a significant first step in our economic recovery efforts and we are committed to continuing to work with businesses through this uncertain time.”

The SSBEP provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19. Grants will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business’ monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000.

To give maximum flexibility to businesses, the grant is not dedicated to specific cost pressures. Through the consultation process, many businesses made it clear they are facing acute cash flow pressures in the immediate term due to fixed overhead costs, such as rent and lease payments. The SSBEP will help businesses address these immediate pressures.

To be eligible for the SSBEP, a business must: 1) have been fully operational on February 29, 2020; 2) have ceased or curtailed operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health order; 3) have less than 500 employees; and 4) commit to reopen business operations following the cancellation of the COVID-19 public health order. The development of SSBEP is

the result of extensive consultations with the business community since COVID-19 restrictions began. The program was designed to be simple and provide businesses with timely access to funding.

The Government of Saskatchewan will be requesting that the federal government exempt the SSBEF from business income for tax purposes.

The SSBEF supplements previously announced supports for businesses, including waiving penalties and interest charges for three months for late PST returns, zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for all Crown utilities, and waiving Workers Compensation Board premium penalties until June 30, 2020.

“COVID-19 is having a significant impact on business and our economy,” Regina and District Chamber of Commerce CEO John Hopkins said. “We applaud the Government of Saskatchewan for introducing the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment and for hearing our concerns about the lack of business cash flow because of COVID-19. Many businesses are facing critical decisions about the future and the need for cash flow now to help with expenses like rents or leases. The reality that the payment will be expedited is also vital at this time of need and we commend the government for its understanding of the plight of business.”

“CFIB is pleased the Government of Saskatchewan has heard the concerns of the business community and appreciates this support, which will help to address immediate cash flow issues businesses are dealing with,” CFIB Vice-President Western Canada and Agri-business Marilyn Braun-Pollon said. “The flexibility and timeliness of this funding will help businesses allocate the dollars as needed during this difficult time.”

“Our members are experiencing significant cash flow issues as the result of this pandemic and we appreciate the provincial government stepping up with this new program,” North Saskatoon Business Association Executive Director Keith Moen said. “This funding will provide some much needed support for businesses to help with these challenges.”

Further details and applications will be available on April 13. For more information, businesses can visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses).

## **News Release 2020-03-20: Premier Announces Financial Support Plan For Saskatchewan Employers And Employees**

Today, Premier Scott Moe announced a significant financial support plan for Saskatchewan employers and employees hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this time of great uncertainty, it is of the utmost importance that Saskatchewan people know their government is here to provide support,” Moe said. “This plan supports businesses and employees. Most importantly, it supports the opportunity to come back to work when we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis.”

The financial support plan outlines a number of mechanisms for reducing costs for businesses and individuals, providing support to self-employed individuals not covered by new federal support measures, and establishes a Business Response Team designated to support Saskatchewan businesses during this time of uncertainty.

### *Self-Isolation Support Program*

Administered by the Ministry of Finance, the Self-Isolation Support Program will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900. The Self-Isolation Support Program is targeted at Saskatchewan residents forced to self-isolate that are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. The program is designed to ensure that all Saskatchewan residents are covered by either a federal or provincial program to ensure no one is faced with choosing to work instead of protecting their family and community from COVID-19 by self-isolating.

The program is anticipated to cost a total of \$10 million and will mostly benefit self-employed residents of Saskatchewan that meet the following eligibility criteria: 1) They have contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms; 2) They have been in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19; 3) They have recently returned from international travel and have been required to self-isolate; AND 4) If they are not eligible for compensation including sick leave, vacation leave

from their employer, If they do not have private insurance covering such disruptions, If they are not covered by other programs such as federal employment insurance that has been updated.

#### *Three Month PST Remittance Deferral and Audit Suspension*

Effective immediately, Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges. Over the course of three-months; government estimates a potential deferral of up to \$750 million in PST collections. Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected.

At this time, audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and minimize the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel.

#### *Crown Utility Interest Deferral Programs*

Earlier this week, government announced a crown utility interest deferral program waving interest on late bill payments for up to six months. Effective immediately, the crown utility interest deferral program is available to all crown utility customers.

#### *Student Loan Repayment Moratorium*

Effective immediately, a six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place, mirroring a similar federal provision. This provides individuals with student loans immediate relief, and comes at a \$4 million cost to the provincial government.

#### *Changes to Employment Standard Regulations*

In addition to changes made to changes to The Saskatchewan Employment Act that introduced a new unpaid public health emergency leave and removed the 13-week employment requirement to access sick leave and the requirement for a doctor's note to access sick leave, The Employment Standard Regulations have been amended to: 1) Ensure that during a public emergency, businesses will not have to provide notice or pay in lieu of notice when they lay-off staff if it is for a period of 12 weeks or less in a 16-week period. 2) And if an employer lays off employees periodically for a total of more than 12 weeks in a 16-week period, the employees are considered to be terminated and are entitled to pay instead of notice as outlined in the Act. This will be calculated from the date on which the employee was laid off.

These amendments create a balance for employers and employees where the difficult decision may be made to lay-off employees due to public health emergencies. In this circumstance, employees would have immediate access to new federal employment insurance programs, while keeping employers financially stable to ensure employees have a job to return to.

#### *Business Response Team to be Established*

To provide support to Saskatchewan businesses seeking to navigate the uncertain conditions caused by COVID-19, the Government of Saskatchewan will be establishing a single window information webpage for businesses to access information and receive timely updates on provincial support initiatives. This will be complemented by the establishment of a Business Response Team, led by the Ministry of Trade and Export Development, which will work with businesses to identify program supports relevant to particular businesses. Once the Business Response Team has been established, contact information will be communicated to the public, and to local chambers of commerce for dissemination to chamber membership.

### **Information Notice IN 2020-03: Notice to Businesses Regarding Penalty and Interest on Late Returns Due to COVID-19 [Revised April 2, 2020]**

NOTICE TO BUSINESSES REGARDING PENALTY AND INTEREST ON LATE RETURNS DUE TO COVID-19

Effective immediately, the following assistance is provided to Saskatchewan businesses that are unable to submit their Provincial Sales Tax (PST) returns due to cash flow concerns related to impacts of COVID-19.

- Tax returns must still be filed each month/quarter (with or without payment) if you are able to do so.
- Monthly filers may defer payment of amounts due for February, March and April 2020 reporting periods to July 31, 2020.
- Quarterly filers may defer payment of amounts due for the January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 reporting period to July 31, 2020.
- Businesses are not required to submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges for these returns.
- Full payment or a payment arrangement must be in place by July 31, 2020 in order to qualify for the automatic deferral and waiver of penalty and interest.
- Payment arrangements may be made by submitting a request electronically through the Saskatchewan eTax Services (SETS) located at sets.saskatchewan.ca, or by contacting us by email at sasktaxinfo@gov.sk.ca or at the address noted below.
- Relief is not provided in relation to other tax types at this time.

Please note the easiest and quickest way to file most provincial tax returns is to use SETS located at sets.saskatchewan.ca and send payment electronically.

At this time, audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and minimize the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel.

For additional information regarding financial support for businesses (provincial and federal), and for other information related to COVID-19, please visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus).

## Other

- Saskatchewan [Support for Businesses](#) and [Support for Workers](#);
- [Government To Provide Relief Measures For Mining Industry](#) (June 5, 2020);
- [Temporary Wage Supplement Program Being Expanded To Include More Workers](#) (June 4);
- [Applications Now Open For Temporary Wage Supplement For Lower-Income Workers At Essential Care Facilities](#) (May 15);
- [Temporary Wage Supplement For Lower Income Essential Workers For Vulnerable Citizens](#) (April 30) (“Workers helping Saskatchewan’s vulnerable citizens through the COVID-19 pandemic will have their salaries topped up by a cost-shared \$400 per month temporary wage supplement);
- [Agristability interim payments increased for Saskatchewan producers](#) (April 24);
- [Province Announces Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#) (April 23);
- [Saskatchewan Launches Business Response Team](#) (March 23);
- [Emergency Support Program For Saskatchewan Small Businesses](#) (April 9);
- [Premier Announces Financial Support Plan For Saskatchewan Employers And Employees](#) (March 20);
- [Saskatchewan: COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business).

Note: Saskatchewan is scheduled to table a budget on June 15.

## New Brunswick

### COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses

#### How we are supporting New Brunswick companies

As the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) continues around the globe, the Government of New Brunswick recognizes the outbreak will continue to have impacts on New Brunswick businesses.

On March 24, The Government of New Brunswick announced assistance to support New Brunswick businesses. The assistance will support our economy, help keep our workers employed, and enable businesses to continue to operate. The assistance is complimentary to existing federal and partner institution support and is targeted to specifically address impacts associated with COVID-19. The province will continue to monitor economic impacts and respond proactively to the needs our businesses and our employers.

## What we are doing

### Working capital for NB small business owners

- Small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for working capital loans up to \$100,000 through the [NB Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program](#).
- Accessible to small businesses employing 1 to 49 employees, including sole proprietors/self-employed, with sales of less than \$10 million in the most recent fiscal year.
- Examples of sectors that would benefit from this support include restaurants, full time & seasonal tourism operations, service sectors, and self-employed business owners impacted directly by the pandemic.
- The loans are funded by Government of New Brunswick and are administered by the Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC). Applications can be completed on [online](#).

### NB Business working capital above \$100,000

- Opportunities New Brunswick is making available working capital loans to assist employers respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19.
- Working capital in excess of \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million is available.
- Examples of sectors that would benefit from this support are manufacturing and processing industries, information technology and related sectors, business-to-business service sectors engaged in export, or import replacement activities, and cultural enterprises.
- Business can apply directly to [Opportunities New Brunswick](#).

### Community Investment Fund COVID-19 Relief:

- The Government of New Brunswick has included a new category into the Community Investment Fund to assist in providing relief to non-profits in New Brunswick being impacted by COVID-19.
- This funding is available for small to medium-sized non-profits in the form of a grant between a minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$10,000.
- Application forms and the updated Community Investment Fund Guidelines are available [here](#).

### Deferring interest and principal payments on existing loans:

- As an immediate measure, and on a case-by-case basis – the Government of New Brunswick will defer loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans.
- This support will enable businesses to have immediate relief if they are experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19.
- This assistance is available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan.

### Waiving late penalties on property taxes:

- Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19. See [Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program](#),

## What other support is available?

[WorkSafeNB](#) has announced assessment premiums related to employer payrolls for March, April and May will be deferred for three months without interest charges.

The [Government of Canada](#) also announced an Economic Response Plan to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period.

Federal supports for businesses include those directed at avoiding layoffs, access to credit, supporting financial market liquidity and more time to pay their income taxes, and are detailed [online](#).

For more information contact Service Canada at 1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232).

The federal government is also:

- Waiving the one-week waiting period for people who are in quarantine or have been directed to self-isolate and are claiming Employment Insurance sickness benefits. Information on eligibility criteria and the application process can be found [here](#).
- Enhancements to the Work-Sharing Program to help employers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19, and their workers. Information on the Work-Sharing Program can be found [here](#).

Canada's regional development agencies, including the [Atlantic Opportunities Agency](#), have support available for small or medium-sized businesses impacted by the sudden shifts in the economy. For more information, contact ACOA at 1-800-561-4030.

## Answering your questions

We are committed to helping the business community find the information they need.

Visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource for common questions and resources businesses need. Check back regularly for updates.

### Contact us directly:

Businesses with questions they cannot find answered on our dedicated website are invited to contact the Business Navigator Service, by emailing [nav@navnb.ca](mailto:nav@navnb.ca), or calling 1-833-799-7966.

## Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program

### Overview

The Province is offering a Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program for business property owners that have been financially affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Penalty relief on the current year levy will be available for eligible businesses for the months of June and July 2020. Eligible businesses will receive a credit on their property tax account. The deadline to apply for the program is July 31, 2020.

### Eligibility

To qualify for the Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program, a business must have operations in New Brunswick, be registered with Service New Brunswick and; experienced an undue economic hardship directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic and are unable to pay their property taxes by May 31, 2020.

Examples of economic hardship:

- Excessive business revenue loss / cashflow reduction.
- Temporary business closure.

**Important:** Payment of your property tax is required by May 31st, 2020, all businesses who have the ability to pay should do so by this date. Penalties accrued on prior year arrears are not eligible for relief under the program.

The Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program is not available for the following classes of properties:

- Properties receiving the full residential tax credit.
- Properties for which the owner has made the property tax payments to the financial institution holding their mortgage.
- Properties owned by Government (at all levels) and by Crown Corporations.
- Properties classified as vacant land, wood lots, parking, landfill and utilities.

## Description

The penalty on overdue accounts is applied on the first of each month at the rate of 0.7591% and calculated on the outstanding balance.

Examples:

- Annual 2020 levy (Balance Due)  $\$10,000 \times 0.7591\% = \$79.51$  for the first month.
- Annual 2020 levy (Balance Due)  $\$55,000 \times 0.7591\% = \$417.51$  for the first month.

## APPLICATION

Applications for the program will be available June 1, 2020. Please check back then.

## INQUIRIES

Should you require further information on this program, please contact Finance and Treasury Board, Revenue Administration Division at 1-800-669-7070

## See Also:

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses](#);
- [Business Property Tax Penalty Relief Program](#);
- [Proposed property tax reductions will not proceed due to impact of COVID-19](#) (May 27, 2020);
- [Fiscal and economic update](#) (May 21);
- [No new cases of COVID-19; top-up funding for front-line workers](#) (May 20);
- [COVID-19 job protection measures put in place](#) (April 30) (“Details on job protection for workers [are available online](#). Job protection provisions are not related to Employment Insurance (EI), and one does not necessarily influence the other. Questions about EI benefits can be directed to the [federal government](#)”);
- [Relief on co-pay for drug plans](#);
- [Child care for those who lost income and essential workers](#);
- [One-time income benefit for unemployed workers](#);
- [COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business);
- [Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#).

## Nova Scotia

- News Release 2020-06-11: [Province invests in new businesses, innovation](#);
- News Release 2020-06-04: [Support for agriculture sector dealing with COVID-19](#);
- News Release 2020-05-27: [Province Invests \\$230 Million to Stimulate the Economy and Create Jobs](#);
- News Release 2020-05-07: [New Program Gives Health-care Workers Up to \\$2,000 Bonus](#);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Province Announces Credit, Cash, Support Package for Small Businesses](#);
- [Measures to Help Citizens, Businesses Affected by COVID-19](#) (April 2 – announced a new \$20M Worker Emergency Bridge Fund and \$20M to fund the Small Business Impact Grant – eligible small businesses and social enterprises will receive a grant of 15 per cent of their revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5K);
- <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support>;
- [COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business);
- [Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#).

**PEI**

- News Release 2020-05-07: [Province announces support for essential workers, small business and fisheries](#);
- News Release 2020-04-24: [Government provides further financial updates](#) (April 24);
- [Province announces supports for tourism industry, expansion of Island producers initiative](#) (April 16, 2020);
- [Province announces supports for post-secondary students](#) (April 14) (the wage subsidy for student positions available from the Employment Development Agency and from Skills PEI will be increased from 50% to 75% of wages) (see also Federal News Release 2020-04-22: [Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#));
- [Province provides COVID-19 economic update, confirms property tax relief](#) (property tax and fee payments are deferred until December 31, 2020, property assessment appeal deadlines for the 2020 assessment year are extended to December 31, 2020, interest on all past due property tax amounts for tax year 2020 are waived, tax sale processes for the remainder of 2020 are suspended, mailing of provincial tax bills for 2020 is delayed until June 2020);
- [Province Announces COVID-19 Special Situations Fund](#) (April 2 – \$1M to fund a one-time payment of \$1K to residents who have lost income due to COVID-19, but are not eligible for other federal and provincial funding support);
- [Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed](#);
- [Emergency Working Capital Financing](#);
- [Finance PEI](#);
- [Province announces additional supports for individuals and families](#);
- [Province announces more financial support for Islanders](#);
- [COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business);
- [Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#)

**Newfoundland & Labrador**

- [Public Advisory: Further Extension of Tax Return Filing Deadlines](#) (June 8);
- [Minister Osborne Announces Residential Construction Rebate](#) (June 3);
- [Provincial government announces support for businesses impacted by COVID-19](#) (May 6);
- [Compensation available for private sector employers with staff that had to self-isolate due to COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) (April 29);
- [Changes to Credit Union Regulations Help Businesses Access Federal Relief](#) (April 24);
- [Public Advisory: Changes Made to Tax Return Filing Deadlines and Remission of Interest and Penalties](#) (April 7);
- [Premier Ball Announces Support for Community-Based Organizations; COVID-19 relief measures for your business](#) (Canadian Federation of Independent Business);
- [Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 – Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#)

**Northwest Territories**

- [Caroline Wawzonek: Setting the Stage for the Finalizing Budget 2020, May 27](#);
- [GNWT Provides Funding for Low Wage Workers](#);
- [News Release 2020-05-11: \\$4 million Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development \(SEED\) program budget to focus on business recovery](#);
- [News Release 2020-05-06: Minister of Education, Culture and Employment announces Income Assistance Exemptions for Residents and Students](#);
- [News Release 2020-05-06: COVID-19 funding made available to Community Futures Development Corporations to support clients](#);
- [News Release 2020-03-30: Supporting people, businesses and communities in response to COVID-19](#);
- [News Release 2020-04-15: New temporary regulation allows tenants to defer their rent with landlord's knowledge](#).

**Yukon**

- [Disability Services families to receive additional support](#) (June 2, 2020);
- [Essential workers to receive income support from Government of Yukon \(May 22\)](#);

- [Government of Yukon extends support to Yukon businesses \(May 20\);](#)
- [Canada Emergency Response Benefit to be exempted from Yukon Social Assistance \(April 28\);](#)
- [Property tax payment deadline extended to September 2 \(April 23\);](#)
- [News Release 2020-04-09: Yukon businesses to receive relief funding;](#)
- [News Release 2020-05-05: New support available for Yukon's aviation industry](#)

## Nunavut

- [Nunavut Essential Workers Wage Premium \(May 31\);](#)



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