

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Supports for people

Federal Supports for People		
Support	Description	Expected launch
Employment Insurance (EI)	<p>Canadians who are eligible for Employment Insurance will continue to apply for and receive EI benefits.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/results/employment-insurance.html#a1</p>	Effective March 15, 2020
Improved access to Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefit	<p>For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved_access_employment_insurance_sickness_benefit</p>	Effective March 15, 2020
Temporary minimum unemployment rate for EI program	<p>Canada has announced that a minimum unemployment rate of 13.1% will be applied temporarily for all EI economic regions across Canada. When individuals begin transitioning off of the CERB back to EI regular benefits at the end of August, those living in EI regions with an unemployment rate lower than 13.1% will have their EI benefits calculated on the basis of the 13.1% rate, while individuals living in regions with a higher unemployment rate will have their benefits calculated using the actual rate for that region.</p> <p>This temporary measure will establish minimum entry requirements for EI eligibility across the country for Canadians to access the income support they need in light of the continued economic impacts of COVID-19. This change is intended to help eligible Canadians transition from emergency income measures back into the EI system and into the labour force</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-temporarily-sets-a-minimum-unemployment-rate-for-the-employment-insurance-program.html</p>	Effective August 9, 2020
Temporary measures to help Canadians access EI benefits more easily	<p>To help individuals qualify with a minimum of 120 hours of work, EI claimants will receive a one-time insurable hours credit of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 insurable hours for claims for regular benefits (job loss) 	

Added August 12

Added August 26

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 480 insurable hours for claims for special benefits (sickness, maternity/parental, compassionate care or family caregiver) <p>The hours credit will also be made retroactive to March 15, 2020 for claimants who were looking to transition early from the CERB to EI maternity, parental, compassionate care, family caregiver or work-sharing benefits but could not establish their EI claim due to insufficient hours. For these claimants, the qualifying period will also be extended.</p> <p>The hours credit will be available for new EI claims for one year, in recognition that labour market conditions remain uncertain and will take time to stabilize.</p> <p>In addition, Canada will introduce a minimum benefit rate of \$400 per week (or \$240 for extended parental benefits), and a minimum of 26 weeks of regular benefits.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html</p>	
Added August 26	<p>EI Fishing Benefit</p> <p>The Government is also implementing temporary measures to support self-employed fish harvesters who rely on EI fishing benefits in the off-season. These measures will allow EI fishing benefits for these workers to be calculated using either their actual fishing earnings for their current claim, or their fishing earnings from their claim for the same season from the previous year, whichever is higher.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html</p>	
Added August 26	<p>EI Premium Rate Freeze</p> <p>To support Canadian businesses and workers through the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is freezing the EI premium rate for employees at the 2020 level of \$1.58 per \$100 of insurable earnings for two years. The rate for employers, who pay 1.4 times the employee rate, will also remain unchanged at \$2.21 per \$100 of insurable earnings.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html</p>	

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<p>Added August 26</p> <p>New Recovery Benefits</p>	<p>Canada Recovery Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$400/week for up to 26 weeks for workers not eligible for EI who have stopped working due to COVID or have had a reduction in their income due to COVID • Had employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or 2020 • Have not quit job voluntarily • Must apply after every 2-week period and attest continued eligibility • Must be looking for work and must accept work when it is reasonable to do so • Benefit is taxable • Claimants must repay \$0.50 of the benefit for each dollar of their annual net income ABOVE \$38,000 in the calendar year. <p>Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500/week for up to two weeks for one year for workers unable to work because they are sick or must self-isolate • Had employment income of at east \$5,000 in 2019 or 2020 • Workers cannot claim the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and receive other paid sick leave for the same benefit period • Workers would apply after the one-week period for which they are seeking income support • Benefit is taxable <p>Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500/week for up to 26 weeks per household for caregivers unable to work for at least 60% of their normally scheduled work within a given week because they must care for a child under 12 or a family member with a disability or a dependent. • Must be employed or self-employed on the day immediately preceeding the period for which application is made • Must have earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 or 2020 • Must not be in receipt of other paid leave or other benefits for the same week • Benefit is taxable 	<p>Effective September 27 2020 (pending assent)</p>

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	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html	
Canada Emergency Response Benefit	<p>This benefit replaces both the Emergency Support Benefit and the Emergency Care Benefit. Applicants will receive \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks. As of June 16, the CERB has been extended for an additional 12 weeks for a maximum eligibility period of 28 weeks.</p> <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers (aged 15+ and who made at least \$5000 from employment in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to application) who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are living in Canada; and • have stopped or will stop working for reasons related to COVID-19, or because they are unable to work due to illness, or because they lost their employment for other reasons beyond their control; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ if submitting for their first benefit period, have stopped or will stop working for at least 14 consecutive days within the 4 week benefit period; or ○ if filing for a subsequent benefit period, did not receive any employment or self employment income for the period for which they previously claimed the benefit and do not expect to receive any employment or self employment income in the 4 week benefit period; recipients must re-attest eligibility every 4 weeks • have not quit their job voluntarily • are not receiving nor applied for the CERB from the CRA, nor are they receiving Employment Insurance benefits for the same benefit period • have had their EI benefits run out since January 1, 2020 • are currently making less than \$1000 per month • are seasonal workers who collect EI for part of the year and whose seasonal work has been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 <p>Federal EI benefits and CERB are not stackable. If benefits for Canadians currently in receipt of EI totals less than \$500 per month, those individuals will receive a CERB top-up.</p>	<p>Applications available via CRA website April 6</p> <p>Funds received within 10 days of application</p> <p>Payments retroactive to March 15, 2020</p> <p>Payments available until October 3, 2020</p>

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	<p>Canadians who have recently applied for EI will have their applications automatically transferred to the CERB.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E01COAA</p> <p>You can find detailed instructions for applying for the CERB, including images, here (note: this is not a government resource): https://socialinnovation.org/csi-supports-cerb-application-walk-through/?fbclid=IwAR3qzAIPZy0fJ0a4din5CaxguKRN9JGeF_GQfFWPfeEpn9FGx8yIk0XFTQ</p>	
Canada Emergency Student Benefit	<p>Canada has introduced the Canada Emergency Student Benefit to support students, those who are beginning school in September, and those who graduated in December 2019. Eligible students will receive \$1250 per month from May to August 2020. This amount will increase to \$2000 per month for students with dependants or who have a disability.</p> <p>Students who have a job but are making less than \$1000 per month are also eligible for the CESB.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/support-for-students-and-recent-graduates-impacted-by-covid-19.html</p>	Applications open May 15, 2020 through CRA
Financial support for seniors	<p>Seniors who qualify for Old Age Security (OAS) will be eligible for a one-time, tax-free payment of \$300, and those eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will receive an extra \$200. Those eligible for both will receive \$500. Payment will be automatic for eligible recipients, with no application required.</p> <p>The direct supports will be worth \$2.5 billion and are expected to help 6.7 million older Canadians.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html</p>	
Essential Worker Wage Enhancement	<p>Canada is introducing a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top-up to the salaries of low-income workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19 by the provinces and territories. The Government of Canada will cover a portion of the cost of providing temporary financial support to essential workers who make less than \$2,500 a month, including those working in long-term care facilities.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/expanding-access-to-the-canada-emergency-response-benefit-and-proposing-a-new-wage-boost-for-essential-workers.html</p>	TBD

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Enhanced Canada Summer Jobs Program	<p>The Canada Summer Jobs program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15-30. Temporary changes to the program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can receive up to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee • an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021 • allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services • allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html</p>	<p>Employer applications now closed</p> <p>Job seekers can find CSJP jobs on Job Board</p>
Increased Canada Child Tax Benefit	<p>The Government is proposing to increase the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts, only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by \$300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately \$550 on average; these families will receive an extra \$300 per child as part of their May payment. In total, this measure will deliver almost \$2 billion in extra support. Individuals are encouraged to file their income tax before the new June deadline to ensure their CCB credit is calculated appropriately.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit</p> <p>https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA</p>	May 2020
GST Credit	<p>Qualifying low- and modest-income families will receive a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax Credit. This will double the maximum annual GST payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.</p> <p>Qualifying adults will now receive the GST credit in April, instead of May. There is no need to apply; payment is automatic for eligible individuals and couples.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html</p>	April 9, 2020
Extra time to file income taxes and pay taxes owing	<p>The Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#extra_time_income_taxes</p> <p>https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA</p>	For individuals, filing due date is deferred to June 1, 2020; May 1, 2020 for trusts

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		Amounts owing are deferred until after August 31, 2020
Mortgage support	<p>The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is providing increased flexibility for homeowners facing financial difficulties to defer mortgage payments on homeowner CMHC-insured mortgage loans. CMHC will permit lenders to allow payment deferral beginning immediately.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#mortgage_support</p>	Application opened March 19
Increased goods and services tax credit	<p>The Government is proposing to provide a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC). This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples. Individuals are encouraged to file their income tax before the new June deadline to ensure their GST credit is calculated appropriately.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increased_goods_services_tax_credit</p>	By May 2020
Enhancement to Reaching Home Initiative	<p>Providing the Reaching Home initiative with \$157.5 million to continue to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding could be used for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#enhancing_reaching_home_initiative</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html</p>	
Support women's shelters and sexual assault centers	<p>The Government of Canada is supporting women and children fleeing violence, by providing up to \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centres to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities. This includes funding for facilities in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>On-reserve and self-governing First Nations communities, as well as Inuit Nunangat Regions will receive funding directly from ISC. Métis will receive funding through existing mechanisms. Regional, urban, and off-reserve Indigenous organizations will apply through a call for proposals.</p>	A call for proposals is available at sac-is.gc.ca

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	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#support_women_shelters_and_sexual_assault_centers	
New Indigenous Community Support Fund	<p>The Government of Canada is providing \$305 million for a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#indigenous_community_support_fund</p> <p>https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198</p>	
Supporting preparedness in First Nations and Inuit Communities	<p>The Government of Canada is providing \$100 million to support a range of federal health measures, including support for preparedness in First nation and Inuit communities. These funds will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to identified needs to update and activate pandemic plans • support an effective allocation of public health and primary health care capacity to respond to the pandemic • align response efforts with scientific evidence as determined by a medial officer of health • address immediate needs in the short term <p>https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1584819394157/1584819418553#b</p>	
Indigenous Community Support	<p>Canada has announced an investment of \$650 million to help Indigenous communities cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this, \$285 million is new funding to support rapid public health responses in Indigenous communities faced with an outbreak of the virus.</p> <p>A further \$270 will be invested to increase the on-reserve income assistance program to ensure families who rely on this program don't have to choose between food and rent during the crisis.</p> <p>Canada will spend \$44.9 million over five years to build 10 shelters in First Nations communities and two in the territories to help women and children fleeing violence.</p>	
Supporting families choosing to stay on the land	<p>The Government of Canada is providing \$2.6 million to help Indigenous families who are choosing to stay on the land as part of the territory's response to COVID-19. This fund will support families who would not otherwise be able to be on the land because of the financial burden of acquiring</p>	

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	<p>necessary provisions, such as wood and fuel, food, First Aid equipment, transportation and other items suitable to their situation and culture.</p> <p>This fund will be administered by the Northwest Territory government through their existing partnerships with regional and community-based Indigenous governments.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html</p>	
Enhanced support for Kids Help Phone	<p>As a result of school closures and reduced access to community resources, Kids Help Phone is experiencing increased demand for its 24/7 confidential online, telephone, and text counselling services across Canada. The Government of Canada will give \$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide young people with the mental health support they need during this difficult time.</p> <p>In addition, Canada has launched a customized crisis texting service for children and youth of Canadian Armed Forces members. Military children and youth with cell phones can access this service by texting the keyword CAFKIDS at 686868 for service in English or the keyword JEUNESFAC at 686868 for support in French</p> <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/29/prime-minister-announces-support-vulnerable-canadians-affected-covid https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/news/2020/04/new-crisis-texting-service-for-children-and-youth-of-military-families-across-canada.html</p>	Available now
Wellness Together Canada	<p>The Government of Canada has launched a portal dedicated to mental wellness on Canada.ca/coronavirus and the Canada COVID-19 app. Wellness Together Canada will connect Canadians to peer support workers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for confidential chat sessions or phone calls.</p> <p>https://ca.portal.gs/</p>	April 15, 2020
Funding for Nutrition North Canada	<p>The Government of Canada will provide an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies so families can afford personal hygiene products and nutritious food.</p> <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/14/prime-minister-announces-health-and-social-support-northern https://www.nutritionnorthcanada.gc.ca/eng/1415385762263/1415385790537</p>	
Enhanced funding for food banks	<p>The Government of Canada has announced new funding to help food banks and local food organizations deliver food to vulnerable populations. Of the \$100 million investment, \$50 million is going to Food Banks Canada; \$20 million will be divided between the Salvation Army, Second</p>	

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	<p>Harvest, Community Food Centres Canada, and Breakfast Club of Canada; and \$30 million will go to local-level organizations focused on food insecurity.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html</p>	
Enhanced Services for Seniors through United Way Canada	<p>The Government of Canada will contribute \$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.</p> <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/29/prime-minister-announces-support-vulnerable-canadians-affected-covid</p>	
New Horizons for Seniors Program	<p>Identified organizations who will receive funding under the 2019-2020 New Horizons for Seniors Program community-based stream will be able to use their funding to provide immediate and essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19. Activities can start immediately and can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting seniors in staying connected with their community and family by providing electronic devices, virtual activities and remote tutorials; • supporting the delivery of food and medication to self-isolated seniors at home; • assisting seniors to undertake essential activities, such as visits to the doctor; • hiring staff to replace a loss of a senior volunteer due to the outbreak; and • providing information to seniors regarding how to care for themselves during the pandemic. <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/new-horizons-for-seniors-program-projects-can-now-be-used-for-covid-19-support.html</p>	
Eased rules for Registered Retirement Income Funds	<p>The Government of Canada is reducing required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020, in recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors' retirement savings. This will provide flexibility to seniors that are concerned that they may be required to liquidate their RRIF assets to meet minimum withdrawal requirements. Similar rules would apply to individuals receiving variable benefit payments under a defined contribution Registered Pension Plan.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#eased_rules_registered_retirement_income_funds</p>	Effective immediately

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	https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA	
Moratorium on repayment of Canada Student Loans	The Government of Canada is placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#canada_student_loans	Effective immediately
Expansion of bursaries and scholarships for students	Canada is investing over \$291 million to extend scholarships, fellowships, and grants to support student researchers and graduate students. The government will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • double 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 Dependants would also be doubled. • broaden eligibility for student financial assistance by removing the expected student's and spouse's contribution in 2020-21 • enhance the Canada Student Loans Program by raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21 from \$210 to \$350 • extend expiring federal graduate research scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and supplement existing federal research grants by providing \$291.6 million to the federal granting councils. In addition, the government intends to enhance work opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows through the National Research Council of Canada https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/support-for-students-and-recent-graduates-impacted-by-covid-19.html	
Canada Student Service Grant	The new Canada Student Service Grant 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 Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/support-for-students-and-recent-graduates-impacted-by-covid-19.html	
Support for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation students	Canada is investing \$75.2 million to increase support for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation students by increasing existing distinctions-based support for students pursuing post-secondary education. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/support-for-students-and-recent-graduates-impacted-by-covid-19.html	

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Find financial help during COVID-19	<p>Canada has developed a web-based benefits finder tool, “Find financial help during COVID-19”, on canada.ca/coronavirusbenefits, to help people living in Canada determine which government benefits programs best meet their needs.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat/news/2020/05/government-of-canada-launches-online-tool-find-financial-help-during-covid-19-to-assist-canadians-in-accessing-financial-support.html</p>	May 22, 2020
Social Development Partnership Program – Disability Component	<p>Canada has announced an additional \$1.1 million in funding to support national disability organizations through the Social Development Partnership Program - Disability Component to enhance their communications and engagement activities to better address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities. Supporting the disability community to maintain communications and engagement during the pandemic will allow organizations to create a barrier-free, multi-lingual experience for persons with disabilities and ensure they receive accessible and relevant information to support them during this time.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/national-disability-organizations-receive-additional-funding-to-support-and-enhance-accessible-communications-and-engagement-activities-related-to-.html</p>	
National Workplace Accessibility Stream	<p>Canada has invested \$15 million to create a National Workplace Accessibility Stream through 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/06/05/new-supports-canadians-disabilities-address-challenges-related-covid</p>	

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Assistive Technologies	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$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 <p>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.</p> <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/06/05/new-supports-canadians-disabilities-address-challenges-related-covid</p>	Call for Proposals closed in January 2020
Surplus Food Rescue Program	<p>The Surplus Food Rescue Program is a \$50 million initiative which will help to support Canada’s food system, food processors, and food producers, and distributors to help ensure food availability for all Canadians.</p> <p>Funding will be used to help manage and redirect existing surpluses to organizations addressing food insecurity and ensure that these surplus products are not wasted. The Surplus Food Rescue Program has two core objectives:</p>	Applications now open

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance to organizations serving vulnerable populations to acquire and process surplus commodities and food that would otherwise be lost or destroyed and distribute them to populations in need. • Connect surplus food commodities to vulnerable populations to avoid food waste. <p>https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agricultural-programs-and-services/surplus-food-rescue-program/?id=1591298974329</p>	
Extension of layoff recall period	<p>Canada has announced changes to extend time periods for temporary layoffs to allow employers more time to recall laid-off employees. The temporary changes will help protect the jobs of federally regulated private-sector employees and support employers facing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>Prior to these changes, employers could temporarily lay-off their employees for up to three months if no notice with a recall date was provided, or for a period of up to six months if they provided a notice with an expected recall date, before the lay-off became a termination. The amendments, which are set out in the Canada Labour Standards Regulations, temporarily extend these time periods by up to six months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For employees laid off prior to March 31, 2020, the time period is extended by six months or to December 30, 2020, whichever occurs first. • For employees laid off between March 31, 2020, and September 30, 2020, the time period is extended until December 30, 2020, unless a later recall date was provided in a written notice at the time of the layoff. <p>These changes do not apply to employees who are covered by a collective agreement that contains recall rights.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/the-government-of-canada-temporarily-extends-time-periods-given-to-employers-to-recall-employees-laid-off-due-to-the-covid-19-pandemic.html</p>	Effective June 22, 2020
Green jobs for youth	<p>Canada has announced \$15.8 million to create green jobs and training opportunities for Canadian youth (ages 15-30) in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology sectors. The</p>	Applications now open

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected launch</i>
	<p>funding is part of the \$9-billion Government of Canada COVID-19 response for students announced by the Prime Minister on April 22, 2020.</p> <p>Organizations will provide 500 green job internships, ranging from six to 12 months in length, for youth to gain valuable on-the-job experience and explore careers in the natural resources sectors.</p> <p>https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/climate-change/canadas-green-future/green-jobs/87</p>	
Support for safer supply pilot project in BC	<p>Canada has announced approximately \$2 million in funding for a pilot project within Island Health. The innovative project will provide pharmaceutical-grade medication as an alternative to the toxic illegal drug supply for people in Cowichan Valley who have not responded to other forms of treatment for opioid use disorder.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/07/government-of-canada-supports-safer-supply-pilot-project-in-bc.html</p>	
Measures to support international students during COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International student approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020 are exempt from travel restrictions. They must have a credible plan to quarantine for 14 days. • Students can continue working on- or off-campus if they study permit allows it. • Students already in Canada will not lose their post-graduation work permit if more than 50% of program is completed online, studies are reduced, or they must take a break from studies as a result of classroom restrictions. • Until August 31, 2020, international students can work more than 20 hours/week off-campus if employed in an essential service or function. • Students beginning a new program in 2020 can begin classes online from abroad, provided they can complete at least 50% of their program in Canada. • Students starting a program in the spring, summer, or fall semester won't have time deducted from the length of their post-graduation work permit for studies completed from outside Canada until the end of 2020. <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/07/measures-to-support-international-students-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html</p>	
Support for essential air access to remote communities	<p>Canada has announced new measures to support essential air access to remote communities. These include:</p>	

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for People		
Support	Description	Expected launch
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to ensure continuity of service for at least six months. Establishing a \$75-million funding program for the federal contribution for the first six months and maintaining these essential services through an investment of up to \$174 million over 18 months, if needed. <p>Additional funding will depend on the needs of communities and the pace of recovery of air travel into remote communities. Under these agreements, the provinces and territories would determine minimum essential services to remote communities and administer a program with air operators to deliver the required level of essential services. A fixed funding amount will be allocated to each jurisdiction that has remote communities based on historical passenger volumes.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-announces-new-measures-to-support-essential-air-access-to-remote-communities.html</p>	
<p>Added August 26</p> <p>Support for mental health and wellness in Indigenous communities</p>	<p>Canada has announced \$82.5 million in mental health and wellness supports to help Indigenous communities adapt and expand mental wellness services, improving access and addressing growing demand, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The funding will help partners and communities to adapt mental wellness services to the current COVID-19 context, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> expanding access to culturally appropriate services such as on the land activities, community-based health supports and mental wellness teams; adapting mental health services, such as virtual counselling, to meet increased demand; and supporting Indigenous partners in developing innovative strategies to address substance use and to improve access to treatment services. <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-is-responding-to-immediate-indigenous-mental-wellness-demands-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html</p>	

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Updated August 18	<p>State of Emergency Extended</p> <p>The B.C. government has formally extended the provincial state of emergency, allowing Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response.</p> <p>The state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on September 1, 2020, to allow government to continue to take the necessary actions to keep British Columbians safe.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0038-001339</p>	
Added August 21	<p>Public Safety Measures</p> <p>Police and other provincial enforcement officers are being given the ability to issue \$2,000 violation tickets for owners or organizers contravening the provincial health officer's (PHO) order on gatherings and events.</p> <p>They will also be able to issue \$200 violation tickets to individuals not following the direction of police or enforcement staff at events or who refuse to comply with requests to follow PHO orders or safe operating procedures, or respond with abusive behaviour.</p> <p>Effective immediately, these new measures are enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act (EPA) in ongoing support of B.C.'s COVID-19 response and Restart Plan.</p> <p>In addition to enabling action from police, the Province is enlisting compliance and enforcement staff from provincial ministries to support enforcement and help issue tickets for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes liquor, cannabis and gaming inspectors, community safety unit inspectors and conservation officers.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0046-001568</p>	Effective August 21, 2020
	<p>BC Emergency Benefit for Workers</p> <p>The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to people who lost income because of COVID-19. B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Emergency Care Benefit, or the new federal Emergency Support Benefit are eligible</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW</p>	Applications open in May 2020
	<p>B.C. COVID-19 Temporary Pandemic Pay</p> <p>Temporary pandemic pay supports health, social services and corrections employees delivering in-person, front-line care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes employees delivering a range of health and social services to people most vulnerable to COVID-19, where maintaining physical distancing is difficult or impossible.</p>	Eligible workers will receive a lump-sum payment retroactive to March 15, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>To receive temporary pandemic pay, an employee must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been working straight-time hours at any point during the 16-week period starting on March 15, 2020, at the height of the Province’s response to the pandemic • Casual and on-call workers who have worked straight- time hours during this period are also eligible • Work in an eligible sector, workplace and role delivering in-person, front-line care in health, social services and corrections • Provide additional support and relief to front-line workers by working in ways that directly serve vulnerable populations • <p>Temporary pandemic pay is not dependent on whether there is a COVID-19 outbreak in the workplace location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded management staff, fee-for-service providers or employees on leave are not eligible • <p>No application is required. Government provides the funds to employers, who are then responsible for distributing the funds to eligible employees in the coming weeks as lump-sum payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not a wage increase • Pandemic pay will be distributed as lump-sum payments, so people should not expect to see the funds on every paycheque • The timing and frequency of the lump-sum payments may vary between employers • The payment does not impact eligibility for Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/temporary-pandemic-pay</p>	
Updated August 17	<p>Disability and income assistance supplement</p> <p>B.C. has announced \$300 in monthly financial aid for people on disability and income assistance as well as seniors who receive the B.C. Senior’s Supplement for the months of April through August. 250,000 British Columbians are eligible for the monthly benefit. The temporary crisis supplement will now continue until December.</p>	<p>First benefit to be paid April 22, 2020</p>

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>Individuals who are receiving federal EI or the CERB/CESB <i>as well as</i> income assistance or disability assistance are not eligible for the \$300 supplement.</p> <p>CERB, CESB and EI are temporarily exempt, meaning they will have no effect on your <i>regular</i> income assistance or disability assistance.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/covid</p>	
Job-protected leave	<p>An employee can take unpaid, job-protected leave related to COVID-19 if they're unable to work for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are following the instructions of a medical health officer or the advice of a doctor or nurse • They are in quarantine or self-isolation and are acting in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the Quarantine Act (Canada), guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control or guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada • Their employer has directed them not to work due to concern about their exposure to others • They need to provide care to their minor child or a dependant adult who is their child or former foster child for a reason related to COVID-19, including a school, daycare or similar facility closure • They are outside of BC and unable to return to work due to travel or border restrictions <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/time-off/leaves-of-absence#covid19</p>	Effective immediately, retroactive to January 27, 2020
Temporary Layoff Period	<p>The Province has extended the temporary layoff period to 24 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons.</p> <p>Previously under the Employment Standards Act, a temporary layoff longer than 13 weeks in any 20-week period was considered a permanent layoff. With a permanent layoff, employers are required to provide employees with written working notice of termination and/or pay severance to qualifying employees, based on their length of service. Now, temporary layoffs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic can be extended to 16 weeks, if the employee agrees.</p>	Effective May 5, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>This change to the Employment Standards Act aligns B.C.'s temporary layoff provisions with the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit period. The federal period provides 16 weeks of financial support, allowing employees to take full advantage of those benefits.</p> <p>It also allows employees to keep their job, even if they are not working, for 16 weeks of temporary layoff. Employers will be able to quickly resume operations should the public health emergency end within that time.</p> <p>The COVID-19 emergency temporary layoff provisions are not intended to be permanent and will be repealed when no longer needed.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/termination#laying-off</p>	
Climate Action Tax Credit	<p>A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid for moderate to low-income families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adult will receive up to \$218.00 (increased from \$174.00) • A child will receive \$64.00 (increased from \$51.00) <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#CATC</p>	Benefit will be paid in July 2020
Temporary Rent Supplement	<p>The B.C. government is offering up to \$500 in rent supplements for each of the next three months to help people stay in their homes as their income is affected by COVID-19. The new fund is reserved for people with low to moderate incomes who have lost their jobs, had hours cut, or are confined at home due to the virus threat. Layoff notices or other documentation will be required. The funds will be paid directly to landlords on behalf of renters to ensure landlords continue to receive rental income during the pandemic. The supplement has now been extended to the end of August 2020.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0050-000669 https://bchousing.org/bctrs</p>	<p>Applications are now open at the link provided</p> <p>Supplement available for April-August 2020</p>
Temporary freeze on rent increases	<p>The B.C. government is applying for a rent freeze effective April 1, 2020. The purpose is to provide security for renters, who will be able to stay in their homes without fear of increasing rents during this emergency. The rent freeze is being continued until December 2020.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0048-000561</p>	Retroactive to March 1, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People

Added
August
16

<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Rent repayment framework	<p>The moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent is lifted as of September 1, 2020. Renters in arrears from rent due during the specified period of March 18 to Aug. 17 will have until at least July 2021 to pay back any rent they owe, with the first repayments not starting until October at the earliest.</p> <p>The rental framework will protect renters by ensuring they cannot be evicted for a missed or late rent payment from March 18 to Aug. 17, unless a renter defaults on their repayment plan.</p> <p>The repayment instalments must begin at least 30 days after the date the plan is given by the landlord to the renter. It also must give renters until July 2021 for the final repayments to be made, unless the landlord and renter agree to a longer period. Similarly, while it will be paid in equal instalments, renters and landlords have the option of agreeing to smaller amounts being paid each month in the beginning of the repayment process. Each monthly instalment must be paid on the same date the rent is due.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0094-001527#:~:text=Renters%20in%20arrears%20from%20rent,until%20October%20at%20the%20earliest.</p>	October 1, 2020
Temporary freeze on evictions	<p>As of July 2, 2020, a landlord can now issue a Notice to End Tenancy for any reason (other than unpaid or late payment rent).</p> <p>Landlords with existing orders for eviction can take them to the courts beginning July 2, 2020, for enforcement and can enforce a writ order effective immediately.</p> <p>As of Sept 01, 2020, B.C. will be modifying the rental and tenancy changes introduced due to COVID-19. As of Sept 01, 2020 the ban on evictions for non-payment of rent will be lifted. However, back-due rent from the pandemic will be repaid through a framework that will allow flexible instalment payments through to July 2021. Rent increases will continue to be restricted until December 2020.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/covid-19</p>	Effective immediately
Additional measures to protect the health	These will include:	Effective March 25, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
of renters and landlords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing landlords to restrict the use of common areas by tenants or guests to protect against the transmission of COVID-19. • Note: landlords may now access rental units with 24 hours notice, and noticed may be served through personal service. <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0048-000561</p>	
Tenancy agreement changes for renters experiencing violence	<p>There are existing provisions under the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) that allow a renter, or their dependent, who has been a victim of family violence to end a tenancy agreement early without financial penalty. Changes are being made to the RTA to include all renters experiencing violence within or outside of the home. If staying in the rental home threatens their own safety or the safety of another occupant, such as a roommate, they will now be eligible to end their tenancy.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0060-000973</p>	In effect May 30, 2020
Temporary suspension of evictions in BC Housing	<p>BC Housing has put in place a temporary moratorium on evictions of tenants in subsidized and affordable housing during the COVID-10 outbreak. Until further notice, BC Housing contractors must not issue any Notice to End Tenancies for non-payment of rent.</p> <p>https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>	Effective immediately
Temporary rent adjustment for BC Housing	<p>Rent-Geared-to-Income tenants, subsidized through an agreement with BC Housing, can apply for a rent re-calculation. Any tenant whose household income is in full, or in part, from employment can apply for a rent adjustment if they experience a reduction or loss of employment income as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>	Effective April 1, 2020
Moratorium on repayment of B.C. student loans	<p>B.C. student loan payments are automatically frozen for six months.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports</p>	Effective March 30, 2020
BC Hydro bill deferral and credit	<p>Customers can defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty through the COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program</p> <p>https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2020/bill-relief-covid-19.html</p>	March 13, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	Residential customers who have lost jobs or had wages reduced as a result of COVID-19 will receive a non-repayable credit worth three times their average monthly bill over the past year. https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2020/covid-19-updates.html	
BC Hydro crisis grants	Customers experiencing job loss, illness or lost wages due to COVID-19 can access grants up to \$600 to pay their hydro bills through the Customer Crisis Fund https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/customer-crisis-fund.html	Pre-existing fund
ICBC payment deferral	Customers on a monthly payment plan who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 may defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/contact-us/Pages/covid-19.aspx	March 24, 2020
Enhanced MSP coverage	To assist BC residents during the COVID-19 environment, the Chair of the Medical Services Commission has made the following decisions regarding MSP coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSP coverage wait period will be waived for those who are returning from impacted areas and intend to stay in BC. • MSP Beneficiaries who are out of the province and unable to return may be provided with temporary coverage. • For those who are in the province with an expired work or study permit, a period of temporary MSP coverage may be provided. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents	Effective immediately
211 phone line expanded to northern B.C.	The province has expanded the 211 phone line for community services to match seniors who need help coping with COVID-19 isolation with volunteers who can help. The 211 service is now available to people in northern B.C. http://www.bc211.ca/	
Increased funding for Better at Home program	The province will increase funding for the Better at Home program, which helps seniors remain independent at home and stay connected with their community. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/seniors/health-safety/health-care-programs-and-services/better-at-home	
Increased funding for food banks	The province announced \$3 million in emergency funding to help struggling food banks keep up with the surge in demand due to COVID-19. Food Banks British Columbia will distribute the money to	

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	food banks province-wide, so the centres can buy and distribute food, pay employees and cover other costs essential to the delivery of their food programs.	
Transit Fares and Passes	BC Transit and Translink had suspended fare collection during the initial phase of the response to COVID-19, since the beginning of June fare collection has resumed. https://www.bctransit.com/covid19	
Enhanced Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund	Government is providing an additional \$1.5 million to supplement the Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists Indigenous students who are experiencing an unexpected financial emergency that may affect their ability to finish their studies. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0022-000623	
Emergency supports for students	B.C. will invest \$3.5 million in emergency financial assistance for students attending B.C. public post-secondary institutions. The funding will support domestic B.C. students experiencing a COVID-19 related emergency that could affect their ability to finish their studies and handle expenses. The assistance is non-repayable and can be used to help with a broad range of costs and expenses. Students can access these funds through their school's financial aid office. Institutions will determine the specific amount a student can receive based on their individual needs. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0018-000615	
New funding to support post-secondary students and faculty	\$2.175M in new funding will better support post-secondary students and faculty with \$1.5 million shared by 20 public-post-secondary institutions to build supports for those with cognitive, mental health, or physical disabilities. \$275,000 will go to BCcampus for online resources on well-being and they will run webinars through 2021. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0038-001289	
Child care support for parents	Essential service workers requiring temporary emergency child care for children ages 0-5 years old can request emergency child care. Parents caring for their children at home will not be required to pay child care provider fees. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-response-covid-19/child-care-response-covid-19-parent#essential-child-care	Emergency child care applications now open
Emergency Relief Supports	The Ministry of Children and Family Development is establishing an Emergency Relief Support Fund for children and youth with special needs and their families. The fund will provide a direct payment	

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>of \$225 per month to eligible families over the next three months (to June 30, 2020). Support has now been extended to September 30, 2020.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0043-000650?fbclid=IwAR2sc4t6YWV7qf0scgU2wBiZTv_n8lKnlnwBa7ixBPBnzLwKtCet3O_fgl4</p>	
Spaces for vulnerable people to self-isolate	<p>The province is partnering with local governments, non-profits and the hotel industry to support British Columbians who need a place to self-isolate. So far, more than 900 spaces have been secured across 23 sites including hotels, motels and community centres throughout B.C.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0019-000644</p>	
Shelter and supports for people living in major encampments	<p>The Province is working with the cities of Vancouver and Victoria to transition people living in major outdoor encampments into safe, temporary accommodations with wraparound supports to protect their health and safety in the overlapping COVID-19 and overdose crises.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/M128-2020.pdf https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>	
Safe spaces for people leaving violence	<p>As of today, the Province has secured nearly 300 additional spaces in communities throughout B.C. for people leaving violent or unstable situations, with more spaces to come. These are in addition to more than 100 transition houses and safe homes that the Province funds on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>If you or someone you know is experiencing violence or abuse, please contact VictimLinkBC at 1 800 563-0808 or by email: VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0020-000656</p>	April 30, 2020
Virtual supports for individuals	<p>B.C. seniors, adults, youth, post-secondary students, and frontline health care workers experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic can get help through virtual services. To support British Columbians of all ages during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province is expanding existing mental health programs and launching new services. Services include specialized supports for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare workers • Youth • Students and educators, including LGBTQ2S+ supports • Parents • Seniors • Victims of family or sexual violence 	April 9, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples • Everyone <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19</p>	
Rural, remote, and Indigenous communities framework	<p>A new collaborative framework will help ensure people living in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in B.C. have access to critical health care they can count on to meet their unique needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future.</p> <p>The framework outlines immediate actions to improve health-care services and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved medical transportation options to larger centres, including flight and ambulance; • housing options for people looking to self-isolate near their families while remaining in their home communities; • new and faster COVID-19 testing technology; • culturally safe contact tracing that respects privacy in small communities; • access to Virtual Doctor of the Day, a program that connects First Nations members and their families in remote communities to a doctor or nurse practitioner using videoconferencing; • options for accommodation near larger centres with more medical services; and • increased mental-health supports in communities. <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0020-000725</p>	
Enhanced funding for Community Living BC (CLBC)	<p>The Province will distribute emergency funding through Community Living BC (CLBC) to ensure people with developmental disabilities stay supported and safe during the pandemic. Up to \$35.6 million will be available for three months from CLBC to support service providers to continue delivering residential services, including group homes, home sharing and supported independent living.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0013-000730</p>	<p>Funding requests begin April 27, 2020</p> <p>Funds are available retroactive to April 1, 2020</p>
CommunityLINK	<p>The Government of B.C. provides \$53.2 million through CommunityLink annually for the province's 60 school districts to support vulnerable students with services that include meal programs. These resources are being mobilized to ensure that students who normally receive meals at school</p>	Ongoing

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<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>continue to have them at home. Families in need are receiving weekly grocery hampers, food boxes, bagged lunches, grocery store gift cards, and vouchers to help meet nutrition needs.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/communitylink</p>	
Enhanced support for Family Caregivers of B.C.	<p>The Province is doubling this year's funding for Family Caregivers of British Columbia to \$1 million to support both caregivers and seniors. Family Caregivers of BC. Is a not-for-profit organization that supports people who are caring for loved ones, family or friends. With a network of local agencies throughout B.C., Family Caregivers of B.C. will increase the capacity of its helpline and offer a number of virtual connections that can bring caregivers together.</p> <p>Seniors and people who are caring for elderly loves ones, family or friends in need of support can call 211 or 1-877-520-3267.</p> <p>https://www.familycaregiversbc.ca/</p>	
Connecting British Columbia: Funding to improve rural internet connectivity	<p>To help communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, targeted funding will give people in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in British Columbia access to faster internet services.</p> <p>The \$50-million Connecting British Columbia program now includes a funding stream to help internet service providers with immediate network equipment upgrades to rapidly improve capacity and internet speeds in underserved communities throughout the province.</p> <p>Internet service providers throughout the province can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 – or 90% of their expenses – to cover the cost of equipment, including antennas, electronics or other types of devices that relate to the performance or range of their network.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CITZ0008-000751</p>	<p>Applications are now being accepted</p> <p>Providers must complete projects by June 30, 2020</p>
Smartphones to connect vulnerable people	<p>Vulnerable people, including people experiencing homelessness, will have better access to services through smartphones distributed by the social service organizations that support them.</p> <p>Through the Homelessness Community Action Grant program and a partnership with 7-Eleven, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) has been able to secure 3,500 smartphones to be distributed by community organizations who provide services and support for vulnerable people.</p>	distribution ongoing

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<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>The smartphones can connect to Wi-Fi and include a pre-loaded \$10 7-Eleven data card, so people have instant access to internet.</p> <p>https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2017-2021/2020SDPR0028-000858.htm</p> <p>If you are an organization that works directly with vulnerable or “at risk” populations, please do not hesitate to contact SPARC BC by email at smartphones@sparc.bc.ca</p>	
2020 Northern Capital Planning Grant	<p>This grant provides \$50 million directly to local governments to help address their infrastructure needs as they prepare for major resource and economic development.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019MAH0053-000495</p>	
B.C. Northern Healthy Communities Fund	<p>The government is investing \$25 million to help communities prepare for major economic development. The fund will be administered through the Northern Development Initiative Trust. The fund will be available to local governments, First Nations and non-profits in the region to support local delivery of critical services, such as mental health care, housing and child care.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019MAH0053-000495</p>	
Free, live coding workshops for kids	<p>Now available on Keep Learning BC, Canada Learning Code offers free, live workshops that students and educators can access that help students as young as nine years old learn how to code in different forms. This includes creating websites, online games and generative art, among others. In addition, Canada Learning Code is also planning a virtual coding conference that students will be able to take part in this summer.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0035-000929</p>	
B.C. Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector	<p>The new B.C. Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector will showcase current job vacancies throughout the province, including those for crop and seafood harvesters, food processing and farm workers, agrologists, large machinery operators and marketing specialists. The site also has sector-specific information and guidance to support businesses as they adapt their recruitment and human resource management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The connector site will also provide information and context about the opportunities that exist within the different regions of B.C.’s agriculture, seafood and food processing businesses and will highlight the available jobs.</p>	Available now

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	The B.C. Farm, Fish and Food Job Connector site can be found at: www.bcagjobs.gov.bc.ca	
24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line	<p>A new 24/7 helpline for clinicians will provide health-care providers around British Columbia with live, in-the-moment addiction medicine support, while they are treating patients.</p> <p>The 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line was launched on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, by the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU). The support line is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide rapid response for time-sensitive clinical substance-use inquiries. Addiction medicine experts provide telephone consultation to physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and pharmacists who are involved in addiction and substance-use care, treatment and recovery in British Columbia.</p> <p>Clinicians can reach the 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line and speak to an Addiction Medicine Specialist by calling 778 945-7619.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0030-001073</p>	June 16, 2020
New Foundry centres	<p>Youth around British Columbia and their families will have faster, easier access to mental health and substance use services and supports with eight new Foundry centres to be developed in Burns Lake, Comox Valley, Cranbrook, Langley, Squamish, Surrey, Port Hardy and Williams Lake.</p> <p>The new locations, as with all Foundry centres, will offer increased access to integrated health and wellness services for young people aged 12 to 24 in both rural and urban communities. Each centre will offer primary care, youth and family peer supports, walk-in counselling, mental health and substance use services, and social services all under one roof, making it easier for youth to get help when they need it.</p> <p>https://foundrybc.ca/</p>	
BC Summer Reading Club goes virtual	<p>For the first time, the public libraries' BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC) is being offered virtually to young readers and their families, thanks to a \$65,000 investment from the Government of British Columbia.</p> <p>This literacy program is usually offered in person. This year, as work continues to flatten the curve of COVID-19, young readers will be able to follow their passion for reading and still participate by registering and tracking their progress online. The BC SRC is a free literacy program offered through</p>	Registration opens June 15, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>B.C.'s 71 public libraries to children ages 5-14. Children and families can access the new website until the end of September.</p> <p>https://bcsrc.ca/</p>	
Investments in long-term care facilities for safer visits	<p>The Province is providing more than \$160 million for facilities to hire up to three full-time equivalent staff in each of B.C.'s 680 long-term care homes and seniors' assisted living residences, including both public and private facilities. This could total as many as 2,040 additional staff dedicated to ensuring infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19 are followed to support safe visitation.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0211-001207</p>	Changes will begin to take place in July
Youth Community Partnership (YCP)	<p>BC has announced a new \$5-million Youth Community Partnership program to engage youth to work on community service projects so they can help their communities "build back better." Communities around B.C. can apply to fund a community-service project of their choosing – like trail building, beach clean-up or invasive species removal, upgrading local parks or working for a local charity. In turn, they provide skills and work experience to young people who are unemployed, between 15-29 years of age, through the project. Applicants can receive grants of up to \$10,000 per youth for projects running up to 16 weeks. The youth then receive a training stipend of up to \$2,000 per four-week period (to a maximum of \$8,000) for work between June and October 31.</p> <p>Participants can also receive wraparound supports like bus passes, child care, work boots and personal protective equipment for the work, which will incorporate physical distancing and include no more than 10 youth per project.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0036-001185#:~:text=Engaging%20youth%20to%20work%20on,million%20Youth%20Community%20Partnership%20program</p>	Applications open June 29, 2020
BC Early Years Professional Development Hub	<p>The BC Early Years Professional Development Hub is a shared platform where ECL professionals at any stage of their career can come together in virtual discussion forums, learn from each other and take courses from a distance. All ECL professionals will have access to the hub, including early childhood educators (ECEs), ECE assistants, and responsible adults (RAs) working throughout the province.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0065-001172</p>	Available now

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
New and expanded substance use teams	<p>The initiative will provide \$4.27 million in annual funding, for 2020-21, to regional health authorities across the province for new and enhanced team-based substance use care. The new integrated teams and resources will work to address gaps in areas of the province where existing substance use services are not meeting needs. They will also include a focus on supporting groups who are experiencing high rates of harm related to substance use.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0035-001268</p>	
New treatment and recovery beds	<p>The Province is investing \$16 million to support new treatment and recovery beds and to support existing services that have been challenged by COVID-19. Increased access to treatment and recovery services will help more people living with addictions during two public health emergencies – the overdose crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Because the cost per bed differs based on its location and type of services provided, this funding is estimated to add 50 to 70 new publicly funded beds to help more people over the next three years.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MMHA0034-001246</p>	
Digital marketing training	<p>The Digital Marketing Bootcamp was developed in partnership with the B.C. government and Alacrity Canada. This online course is based on a pilot program that took place in late 2019 and early 2020. Almost 45 people participated in the pilot program, with a job placement rate of 85%.</p> <p>There are up to 500 spaces available in the Digital Marketing Bootcamp. The bootcamp is open to businesses and employed and unemployed British Columbians, with priority given to employers and individuals impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Registration is open until July 31, 2020, with the course starting on Aug. 4, 2020. The course will run for six weeks. To register, visit: www.alacritycanada.com/learn</p>	Registration open until July 31, 2020
Court backlog response	<p>The Province has appointed six new provincial court judges to help reduce court backlogs caused by COVID-19. In addition, BC's courts are now using enhanced cleaning, new courtroom layouts, physical distancing protocols and verbal health screening prior to entry.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0051-001405</p>	July 13, 2020

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Provincial Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Funding for health education for in-demand jobs	<p>BC has announced more than \$4.4 million for health profession-related education and training at B.C. post-secondary institutions. Programs include training for health-care assistants, anesthesia assistants, mental health and community support workers and programs for nurses. These one-time investments allow government to respond to local and emerging needs and are in addition to ongoing support of health-care education programs at post-secondary institutions throughout B.C.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AEST0042-001361</p>	
Free day passes for provincial parks	<p>To help people stay active and safe in six of B.C.'s most popular provincial parks, government is introducing a new, free day-use pass pilot program. Beginning Monday, July 27, 2020, people can get a free BC Parks day-use pass and visit certain areas in six of the busiest parks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Robson Park: Berg Lake Trail • Stawamus Chief Park: Chief Peaks Trail • Cypress Park: upper mountain trails, including the Howe Sound Crest Trail, Hollyburn Mountain Trails and the Black Mountain Plateau trails • Mount Seymour Park: upper mountain trails including the Seymour Main Trail, Dog Mountain Trail and Mystery Lake Trail • Garibaldi Park: trailheads at Diamond Head, Rubble Creek and Cheakamus • Golden Ears Park: all trails and day-use areas <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0037-001343 http://bcparks.ca/reserve/day-use/</p>	See BC Parks website for details on each park
Youth Employment Program (YEP)	<p>Young people interested in environmental management and conservation will have opportunities to gain experience, skills and training through a new government program that offers employment with BC Parks and the B.C. Conservation Officer Service (COS).</p> <p>The \$1.8-million Youth Employment Program (YEP) offers employment opportunities for young people through the fall and winter months. With direct mentoring from experienced park rangers and conservation officers, the successful candidates will develop skills and experiences that can help them succeed if they pursue a career in the field. The program will focus on diversity and inclusion, aiming to hire Indigenous youth and other young people from under-represented groups who may face employment barriers.</p>	

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<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0039-001457	
Hiring of contact tracers	The Province will hire approximately 500 additional health professionals to increase contact tracing around British Columbia, helping keep communities safe as it continues its COVID-19 restart plan. Some of these positions will also help to support public health services, such as providing education in communities, and possibly immunizing for influenza and other diseases. Reducing the number of people with the flu helps alleviate the burden on provincial laboratory testing infrastructure and protects acute-care capacity in B.C.'s hospitals as respiratory illness season approaches this fall. It is anticipated that candidates will begin work in September 2020, and will be employed until the end of March 2021, with opportunity for extension if needed. Those interested in applying can visit: https://www.healthmatchbc.org/ContactTracers	

Added August 12

Supports for business and non-profit

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Extended Work-Sharing program	The Government of Canada is Implementing the EI Work Sharing Program, which provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers, by extending the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, easing eligibility requirements, and streamlining the application process. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#extending_workshare_programs Service Canada has created a bilingual enquiry unit for employers affected by COVID-19 that are seeking information related to the Work-Sharing Program. Enquiries can be sent to the mailbox below for specific Work-Sharing information or to request general information about the Program:	Announced March 11, 2020

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
Support	Description	Expected Launch
	<p>EDSC.DGOP.TP.REP-RES.WS.POB.ESDC@servicecanada.gc.ca <mailto:EDSC.DGOP.TP.REP-RES.WS.POB.ESDC@servicecanada.gc.ca></p>	
<p>Updated August 26</p> <p>Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy</p>	<p>To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide employers a temporary wage subsidy. The subsidy will be equal to 75% of salary on the first \$58,700 earned- or up to \$847 per week per employee. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations as well as non-profit organizations and charities. Businesses can reduce their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration.</p> <p>To qualify, employers must show their revenues have fallen by at least 15% in March because of COVID-19. Companies may choose to use January and February 2020 or March 2019 to determine revenue losses, and charities can choose to include or exclude government funding when calculating revenue losses.</p> <p>There are no restrictions or requirements around the number of employees- small and larger employers are eligible.</p> <p>The subsidy has now been extended until the end of December 2020 for active employees.</p> <p>The current treatment of furloughed employees has been extended by 4 weeks to September 26. Employers who qualify for the CEWS will be able to continue to claim up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per week to support remuneration for each of their furloughed workers.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-extends-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-support-for-furloughed-employees-for-four-weeks.html</p>	<p>Applications available April 27, 2020 with funds available shortly after</p> <p>Subsidy will be retroactive to March 15, 2020</p>
Temporary Wage Subsidy	<p>The Temporary Wage Subsidy is a three-month measure that will allow eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deduction required to be remitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).</p> <p>The subsidy is equal to 10% of the remuneration paid 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.</p> <p>The subsidy is calculated when CPP contributions and EI premiums are remitted to the CRA. Once the subsidy has been calculated, the employer can reduce their current payroll remittance of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax sent to the CRA by the amount of the subsidy.</p>	<p>Applicable the first remittance period that includes remuneration paid from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020.</p>

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
Support	Description	Expected Launch
	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html	
Business Credit Availability Program	<p>The BCAP will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$65 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses. This will be an effective tool for helping viable Canadian businesses remain resilient during these very uncertain times. BDC and EDC are cooperating with private sector lenders to coordinate on credit solutions for individual businesses, including in sectors such as oil and gas, air transportation and tourism.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#business_credit_availability_program</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#increasing_credit_available</p>	<p>BCAP programs will roll out three weeks after March 27, 2020</p> <p>Interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions</p>
Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	<p>As part of the BCAP, Export Development Canada is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium-size businesses.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#guarantee_loans</p> <p>https://www.edc.ca/en/about-us/newsroom/edc-covid-business-support.html</p>	To roll out three weeks after March 27, 2020
Canada Emergency Business Account	<p>As part of the BCAP, the government will also guarantee loans of up to \$40,000 for small businesses and not-for-profits, which will be interest-free for the first year. Some small businesses may qualify for forgiveness of \$10,000 of that loan.</p> <p>To qualify for a loan, organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019.</p> <p>https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/covid-19-trudeau-announces-government-will-pay-75-of-wages-for-small-and-medium-sized-businesses/</p>	To roll out three weeks after March 27, 2020
Support for Indigenous Businesses	<p>Canada has announced a \$306.8 million package to support small and medium size Indigenous businesses. The funding will support current and former clients of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs), and small and medium enterprises outside of the AFI network. The funding is divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$180M for interest free loans. Repayment will be returned to the federal government • \$60M for non-repayable contributions (grants) to businesses for operating expenses • \$27M to support the operations of the 59 AFIs across the country 	

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$38M as a contingency fund to address urgencies • \$1.8M as operational support to the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association <p>https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/18/prime-minister-announces-support-indigenous-businesses</p>	
Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance	<p>Canada has reached agreements with provinces and territories to provide support to small businesses to help them pay their rent in April, May, and June 2020. Rent will be lowered by 75%, with the government to cover 50% and the property owner to cover 25%. Support will be available to businesses, charities, and non-profit organizations who are paying less than \$50,000 per month on rent and whose revenue has dropped by 70% due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The rent relief program for small businesses has been extended through August 2020.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</p>	
Regional Relief and Recovery Fund	<p>The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund aims to help western Canadian businesses cope with the financial hardship resulting from COVID-19.</p> <p>https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20059.asp</p>	Applications now open
Regional development agency and Community Futures Network	<p>To support smaller businesses who may not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Emergency Business Account, Canada will provide \$962 million to regional development agencies and the Community Futures Network. This funding will help ensure that more businesses, especially smaller employers based in more rural areas, are getting the support they require.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html</p>	
Futurpreneur and Industrial Research Assistance Program	<p>Canada will provide \$270 million to Futurpreneur and the Industrial Research Assistance Program.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html</p>	
Heritage Canada	<p>Canada will provide \$500 million to Heritage Canada to support those who work in the arts, culture, and sports sectors. This funding will support wages and operating costs for organizations experiencing liquidity challenges.</p> <p>The distribution of funding will include:</p>	

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$326.8 million to be administered by Canadian Heritage and divided among select departmental programs and Portfolio agencies as well as key delivery organizations. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$198.3 million will be provided to the beneficiaries of arts and culture funding via existing programs as well as other organizations with demonstrated needs; ○ \$72 million will be provided to the sport sector; ○ \$53 million will be provided to the heritage sector via the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program; and, • \$55 million to be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts; • \$3.5 million will be provided for COVID-related projects under the Digital Citizen Initiative. • \$115.8 million to support the Canadian audiovisual sector, to be distributed by the Canada Media Fund (\$88.8 million) and Telefilm Canada (\$27 million). <p>The use of the remaining funds will be assessed based on needs.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2020/05/emergency-support-fund-for-cultural-heritage-and-sport-organizations-next-steps-to-support-the-industry-impacted-by-the-global-covid-19-pandemic.html</p>	
Co-Lending Program or Small and medium-Sized Enterprises	<p>As part of the BCAP, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#wage_subsidies</p>	To roll out three weeks after March 27, 2020
Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)	<p>The LEEF 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, protecting Canadian jobs and avoiding bankruptcies 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.</p> <p>The LEEF program is open to large for-profit businesses, except those in the financial sector, as well as certain not-for-profit businesses such as airports with annual revenues of \$300 million or higher. 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.</p>	Applications open May 20, 2020

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-announces-support-program-for-large-employers-is-open-for-applications.html	
Farm Credit Canada Loans	<p>Canada is supporting Farm Credit Canada by allowing an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity 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 strong during this difficult time.</p> <p>https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/about-fcc/media-newsroom/news-releases/2020/lending-capacity-increases-to-alleviate-industry-financial-pressure.html</p>	
Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Farm Credit Canada (FCC) have launched a \$100 million fund to support proven, viable companies through unexpected business disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The fund is set up to support a wide range of enterprises in the agribusiness and agri-food sector, including companies involved in primary production, agri-tech, manufacturing, packaging and distribution. The fund will help companies in times of need through innovative solutions such as convertible debt investments and other flexible financing solutions. Applications will be assessed individually on their merit, and will be supported to a maximum of \$10 million.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/farm-credit-canada-backed-fund-offers-innovative-and-flexible-solutions-for-uncertain-times.html</p>	
Temporary Foreign Worker Funding	<p>The federal government announced \$50 million to help farmers and processors who are bringing in temporary foreign workers during the COVID-19 crisis. Under the program, employers are eligible for \$1,500 per foreign worker to help cover the costs of complying with mandatory two-week quarantine upon arrival in Canada.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/04/keeping-canadians-and-workers-in-the-food-supply-chain-safe.html</p>	
Lower the Domestic Stability Buffer	<p>The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) 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.</p> <p>https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/nr_20200313.aspx</p>	March 14, 2020
Lower interest rate	<p>The Bank of Canada took a series of actions to support the Canadian economy during this period of economic stress, enhance the resilience of the Canadian financial system, and help ensure that financial institutions can continue to extend credit to both households and businesses. This</p>	March 14, 2020

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Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>included cutting the interest rate to 0.75% as a proactive measure in light of the negative shocks to Canada's economy arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent sharp drop in oil prices.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#bank_of_canada_actions</p>	
Insure Mortgage Purchase Program	<p>Under this program, the government will purchase up to \$50 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). 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.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#insure_mortgage_purchase_program</p>	March 24, 2020
More time to pay income taxes	<p>The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the <i>Income Tax Act</i>. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. Businesses can also defer payment of GST/HST and duties and taxes on imports.</p> <p>For the vast majority of businesses, the Canada Revenue Agency will temporarily suspend audit interaction with taxpayers and representatives.</p> <p>The Liaison Officer service offers help to owners of small businesses to understand their tax obligations. Traditionally available in-person, this service is now available over the phone and will be customizing information during these challenging times by ensuring small businesses are aware of any changes such as filing and payment deadlines, proactive relief measures, etc.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#more_time_to_pay_their_income_taxes</p>	<p>Payments deferred until after August 31, 2020</p> <p>GST/HST deferred until June 2020</p> <p>Duties and taxes on imports deferred until June 2020</p>
Emissions Reduction Fund	<p>The \$750 million fund will support energy sector companies experiencing cash flow challenges. It will allow the sector to create and maintain jobs to through the reduction of pollution caused by methane.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html</p>	

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Emergency Community Support Fund	<p>Canada is putting in place an emergency fund for community support. The \$350 million fund is intended to support community organizations and non-profits, as well as national organizations such as the United Way and the Red Cross.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#industry</p>	Applications open May 19, 2020
Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund	<p>Canada announced \$62.5 million of new assistance to the fish and seafood processing sector. This new fund will help businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-announces-new-canadian-seafood-stabilization-fund-to-help-canadas-fish-and-seafood-processing-sector.html</p>	Further details on application TBD
Fish Harvesters Benefit	<p>Canada has announced a \$469 million in federal support for fish harvesters who have been ineligible for other aid initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The support will come in the form of an industry-specific benefit and a grant, details TBD.</p>	TBD
Agri-food Workplace Protection Program	<p>The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$2.25 million to help farmers better protect employees and ensure the continued supply of healthy food products for consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the federal and provincial governments are launching the second intake of the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to help farmers enhance health and safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus. The funding will be used for initiatives like purchasing personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, and redesigning workstations.</p> <p>Support is also available for farmers who experience unexpected costs for housing and transportation as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak among on-farm employees.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/canada-and-ontario-take-steps-to-further-protect-farm-workers.html</p>	Applications now open

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Youth Employment and Skills Program	<p>Canada will invest up to \$9.2 million to enhance the Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) and fund up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture industry.</p> <p>This additional funding will help the agriculture industry attract Canadian youth, ages 15 to 30, to their organizations to assist with labour shortages brought on by the pandemic. This program aims to provide youth, and particularly youth facing barriers to employment, with job experience in agriculture that will provide career-related work experience.</p> <p>The YESP will provide agriculture employers up to 50 per cent of the cost of hiring a Canadian youth up to \$14,000. Indigenous applicants and those applicants hiring a youth facing barriers are eligible for funding of up to 80 per cent of their costs.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/government-of-canada-enhances-youth-employment-and-skills-program-to-help-create-new-positions-for-youth-in-the-agriculture-sector.html</p>	<p>Employers can apply now for funding retroactive to April 1, 2020</p> <p>Projects must be completed by March 31, 2021</p>
Tariff relief for importers of PPE	<p>Canada is waiving tariffs on certain medical goods, including PPE such as masks and gloves. This will reduce the cost of imported PPE for Canadian businesses, which face tariffs of up to 18 per cent in some instances, help protect workers, and ensure supply chains can keep functioning well.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-provides-tariff-relief-to-importers-of-certain-medical-goods.html</p>	
Women Entrepreneurship Strategy	<p>Canada will provide \$15 million in additional funding to support women entrepreneurs through the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES). This money will go directly to select organizations that are currently WES Ecosystem Fund recipients and will help women entrepreneurs through the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-amid-covid-19.html</p>	
Business Resilience Service	<p>The Business Resilience Service hotline is a national, bilingual service operated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. As of May 25, small business owners with pressing financial needs can call 1-866-989-1080 (toll-free) seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET).</p> <p>The service will help entrepreneurs and small business owners in need of financial planning advice, particularly those who may not have access to an accountant. The services will also be open to not-for-profit organizations and charities.</p>	May 25, 2020

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
Support	Description	Expected Launch
	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/minister-ng-announces-hotline-to-provide-small-businesses-in-need-with-financial-planning-advice-amid-covid-19.html</p>	
Interest relief for existing loans under the First Nations Finance Authority (FNHA)	<p>First Nations with existing loans under the First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA) will receive interest payment relief as a result of a \$17.1 million support from the Government of Canada.</p> <p>This funding will directly help First Nations to maintain financial stability and lessen the economic impacts of COVID-19, as well as allocate financial resources to other critical needs during this crisis. Furthermore these investments will support the stability of the <i>First Nations Fiscal Management Act</i> regime and the First Nations Finance Authority's credit rating which was recently increased.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-announces-interest-relief-for-first-nations-through-the-first-nations-finance-authority.html</p>	
Support for tourism sector in Western Canada	<p>Canada is intensifying its efforts to support the recovery and growth of the tourism sector in western Canada through Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD). Project funding recipients announced today include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Tourism Association of British Columbia • Tourism Association of Vancouver Island <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/05/investments-to-bolster-support-for-the-tourism-sector-in-western-canada.html</p>	Announced May 31, 2020
PPE Supply Hub	<p>The Government of Canada has launched a web hub to bring together available resources for organizations buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE). The Supply Hub connects Canadian organizations with federal, provincial, territorial and other resources and information about PPE, including consumer guidance. Buyers will find PPE supplier lists, in addition to guidance to help plan their PPE purchases.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/buying-selling-personal-protective-equipment-covid-19-overview.html</p>	June 9, 2020
Emergency funding for COVID-19 safety measures in forest operations	<p>Canada will provide up to \$30 million to offset additional costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures for small and medium enterprises in the forest sector, including tree-planting operations. Faced with the challenges of both maintaining the manufacturing of essential products and ensuring seedlings are planted on schedule amid COVID-19, federal, provincial and territorial</p>	

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	governments, together with industry, worked collaboratively to quickly put in place measures to protect workers and communities. The government intends to work with the provinces and territories to deliver this funding, which will preserve jobs for forest sector workers, including approximately 7,000 tree planters this year. https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/emergency-funding-for-covid-19-safety-measures-in-forest-operations.html	
Support for the minerals and metals sector	Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, today announced the government will invest \$98 million over five years to renew two flagship geoscience programs led by the Geological Survey of Canada: the Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals program and the Targeted Geoscience Initiative. https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/canada-delivers-broad-support-for-the-minerals-and-metals-sector.html	

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Deferred tax payments for businesses	BC is extending filing and payment deadlines for the following taxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer health tax • Provincial sales tax (including municipal and regional district tax on short-term accommodation) • Carbon tax • Motor fuel tax • Tobacco tax • Property tax https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes	Payments deferred until September 30, 2020 Property tax payment deferred until October 1, 2020
Delayed Budget 2020 tax changes	The following tax changes announced in Budget 2020 are postponed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners 	Delayed until further notice

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded registration requirements for Canadian sellers of goods, along with Canadian and foreign sellers of software and telecommunication services <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes</p>	
Delayed Carbon Tax increase	<p>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.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes</p>	Delayed until further notice
Reduced School Tax for business	<p>School tax rates for commercial properties (Classes 4, 5 and 6) will be reduced by 50% for the 2020 tax year. On April 16, this reduction was enhanced to achieve an average 25% reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes</p>	Effective for 2020 tax year
Support for commercial truck drivers	<p>To improve travel for commercial truck drivers, the Government of B.C. is funding the installation of portable toilets at several commercial vehicle pull-outs, inspection stations and chain-up locations throughout the province.</p> <p>https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/</p>	
Temporary emergency funding for child care providers that remain open	<p>Licensed child care providers staying open will receive enhanced funding to keep operations going. These centres are eligible to receive seven times their average monthly operating funding from government, which is expected to cover approximately 75% of a group facility's average monthly operating expenses. In addition, essential service workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic will be referred to open child care spaces through the Province's new child care matching process.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020CFD0044-000740 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/qa_child_care_sector.pdf</p>	April 1, 2020
Temporary emergency funding for child care providers that close	<p>Child care providers who close due to COVID-19 will also receive support to help ensure they are able to pay their fixed costs, like rent or lease during the temporary closure, so they can reopen when able. Providers that close will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be eligible to receive two times their average monthly government funding This is expected to cover approximately 20% of an average group facility's monthly operating expenses 	April 1, 2020

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/qa_child_care_sector.pdf</p>	
BC Hydro bill deferral and forgiveness	<p>Small businesses closed as a result of COVID-19 will have their April to June 2020 bills forgiven. Large businesses will have the option to defer bill payment for three months. Major industry partners, including pulp mills and mines, will be able to defer 50% of their bill for three months. Deferral eligibility has been extended for an additional three months.</p> <p>https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2020/covid-19-updates.html</p>	April 1, 2020
Support for local government	<p>The Province is addressing cash flow and revenue shortfalls for local government by providing the following supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorizing local governments to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves to help pay for operating expenses • delaying provincial school tax remittances until the end of the year • providing local governments greater flexibility to carry debt for an additional year <p>These measures will provide local governments with the resources to 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. This will ensure that other minor taxing authorities can count on receiving the full amount their bill to municipalities and the Province's surveyor of taxes before August 1, 2020.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0020-000703</p>	
Support for local governments and transit	<p>The Province is earmarking up to \$1 billion of additional spending targeted to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transit services, conditional on matching federal contributions under a 50/50 cost-sharing criteria. The latest commitment by the federal government will help support B.C.'s ongoing efforts to restart the provincial economy and make it more resilient to possible future waves of the virus.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0038-001352</p>	
Support for farmers' markets:	<p>The Province announced \$55,000 in funding to develop an operating model for farmers' markets better suited to times of a pandemic. The funding is part of the Ministry of Agriculture's Buy BC program.</p>	Many online markets are now live.

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<p>With the aid of this funding, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) is helping member markets to move to an online mode to continue providing consumers with locally grown and prepared food products.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AGRI0014-000569 https://bcfarmersmarkettrail.com/</p>	
Showcase BC Grant Program	<p>The Province and Creative BC are supporting musicians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with new grants for livestreaming via a new platform, Showcase BC. This program will provide one-time micro-grants of \$500 to emerging artists and \$2,000 to established artists for livestreaming, song writing and professional development.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0017-000674 https://showcasebc.ca/</p>	Showcase BC is now live.
Amplify BC	<p>To help people in B.C.'s music industry continue to create and operate during the pandemic, the B.C. government is investing \$7.5 million through Creative BC for Amplify BC. The suite of programs will focus on relief, recovery and renewal for B.C. artists, live music presenters, and music companies in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry initiatives • Career development • Live music • Music company development <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0025-000980</p>	<p>Applications for live music stream open June 17, 2020</p> <p>Industry initiative and music company development streams open July 15, 2020</p> <p>Career development stream opens September 2, 2020</p>
Support for local sports organizations	<p>The Province is providing \$1.5 million to help local sport organizations with fixed costs during the pandemic.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0041-001395</p>	

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement	The B.C. Arts Council Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement provides existing operating assistance clients and eligible project clients with up to \$15,000. https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/covid-19-summary-of-changes-to-bc-arts-councils-programming/	
Arts Infrastructure Program	To help improve spaces for artists and cultural activities, organizations can get support through the new \$2-million Arts Infrastructure Program. The BC Arts Council will administer the program. Arts and cultural organizations, including Indigenous groups, will be eligible for up to \$75,000 to improve arts and culture spaces or \$40,000 to buy special equipment to support art programming. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0045-001532#:~:text=To%20help%20improve%20spaces%20for,%24%2Dmillion%20Arts%20Infrastructure%20Program.&text=%E2%80%9CSupporti ng%20dedicated%20arts%20and%20culture,art%20and%20culture%20throughout%20B.C.%E2%80%9D	Applications open from Monday August 17 to October 19, 2020
Grant for destination marketing organizations	Fifty-nine B.C. community destination marketing organizations (DMOs) severely impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions will be supported with a \$10-million grant from the Province. B.C.'s community DMOs are not-for-profit organizations that promote tourism to their regions. They rely on funds generated by the municipal and regional district tax (MRDT), which is charged to visitors by hotels and other types of accommodation. Without this relief funding, community DMOs would be unable to operate and support economic recovery efforts in the tourism sector. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020TAC0022-000927	
B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service	Small Business BC has launched the B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service, in partnership with the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada. This one-stop resource has been created to answer questions about supports available to businesses from the provincial and federal governments, industry and community partners. Advisors are available Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm PT, and Saturday from 10am to 4pm PT at 1-833-254-4357. https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us	Service available now
Stumpage fee deferral	Stumpage, the fee operators pay the Province to harvest, buy or sell trees from Crown land, is being deferred for three months. The deferral with interest is available to Tree Farm Licence, Replaceable Forest Licence and First Nations' Woodlands Licence holders who are in good financial standing with the Province. They also must be following through on their reforestation obligations. The deferral will leave eligible companies with an estimated \$80 million so they can pay employees, pay contractors and pay other bills needed to keep their doors open or reopen them faster.	

Added August 17

Summary of Publicly-Available Information on Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/natural-resource-taxes/forestry/stumpage	
Buy BC e-commerce	<p>The new Buy BC e-commerce funding is available to help the province’s farmers and food and beverage processors overcome some lost sales during the COVID-19 pandemic by moving their products online. The B.C. government is providing \$300,000 to support industry-led Buy BC e-commerce activities. The funding is under the Ministry of Agriculture’s Buy BC Partnership Program. It helps farmers, ranchers and food and beverage processors market their products as locally grown, raised, harvested or produced, making it easy for British Columbians to Buy BC.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AGRI0017-000857</p>	Online applications open May 15 to May 29, 2020
Support for animal care facilities	<p>Funding is available for animal hygiene, habitat upkeep, veterinarian care, limited transportation, and repairs to equipment required to ensure the welfare of animals in case. B.C. shelters, animal refuges, aquariums and rehabilitation centres that lack the revenue to ensure animals in their care will not be in distress are eligible to apply for funding.</p> <p>To inquire about funding eligibility, email: BRMB.General.Inquiries@gov.bc.ca</p>	
Dormant Sites Reclamation Project	<p>With the support of the federal government, B.C. is taking action to accelerate the restoration of more than 2,000 orphan and inactive wells,” said Premier John Horgan. “This program will support upwards of 1,200 jobs, helping B.C. workers, the environment and our economy during these challenging times.”</p> <p>On April 17, 2020, the Government of Canada announced \$120 million for B.C. to support cleaning up oil and gas sites. Subject to reaching final agreement with Canada, the Province intends to invest this funding in three new programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dormant Sites Reclamation Program will provide \$100 million to reclaim dormant oil and gas sites, which are wells that have been inactive for five consecutive years and are unlikely to be returned to service. This program will provide up to \$100,000, or 50% of total costs, whichever is less. • The Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program will provide \$15 million to reclaim orphan oil and gas sites where the operator is insolvent, no longer exists or cannot be located. This program will be administrated by the BC Oil and Gas Commission (BCOGC) and will be in addition to \$27 million in planned BCOGC clean up of such wells for 2020-21. 	Applications open May 25, 2020

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Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legacy Sites Reclamation Program will provide \$5 million to address the legacy impacts of historical oil and gas activities that continue to have environmental impacts, such as on wildlife habitat or on the traditional use by Indigenous peoples. <p>These programs will be open to oil and gas field service companies and contractors based in B.C., with registration, office and operations in B.C.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0026-000871</p>	
WorkSafeBC Guidelines	<p>As B.C. enters Phase 2 of its economic restart plan, the release of the initial set of WorkSafeBC guidelines will help businesses and organizations develop their plans to reopen safely.</p> <p>WorkSafeBC has released industry-specific guidelines and resources for the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restaurants, cafes and pubs; salons and personal services; museums, art galleries and libraries, real estate; education; health services; retail; in-person counselling; parks and outdoor spaces; and office space. <p>Businesses in all sectors are required to use these guidelines and resources to develop their COVID-19 safety plans and post those plans for employees and customers as they resume operations. Additionally, businesses in sectors under health orders limiting service (such as restaurants, pubs, salons and personal services) will not be able to open until those orders are lifted or modified.</p> <p>https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0015-000895</p>	
Eviction protection for businesses under the	Businesses eligible for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) whose landlords choose not to apply for the 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.	Effective June 1, 2020

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Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Emergency Program Act (EPA)	The EPA order restricts the termination of lease agreements and the repossession of goods and property. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0034-000988	
Temporary wholesale pricing model	The Province has approved a temporary wholesale pricing model that will allow liquor licensees including restaurants, bars and tourism operators to purchase beer, wine and spirits at reduced cost. This measure will provide much-needed financial support for businesses like restaurants, bars and tourism operators with liquor licences. It will be in place from the end of July 2020 until March 31, 2021, when the program will be reviewed. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0042-001075	Effective end of July 2020 until march 31 2021
Reduced annual license fee for taxi industry	Taxi and limousine operators will pay less to keep their vehicles on the road as part of the Province's ongoing work to support the industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 22, 2020, the annual licence renewal fee was reduced for commercial operators who hold a Passenger Directed Vehicle Authorization, which includes taxi and limousine operators. In the past, these licensees paid an annual fee of \$100 per vehicle with no overall fee cap. It has been reduced to \$50 per vehicle with a licence fee cap of \$5,000. https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2017-2021/2020TRAN0095-001191.htm	Effective June 22, 2020