

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT – SUMMARY

The following document summarizes provincial economic supports by province and type of measure as of September 16th at 16:00 MDT. After each measure is a hyperlink to the government announcement.

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British Columbia

Support for Individuals

- A new BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a tax-free \$1,000 payment to British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected by the outbreak. The benefit will be paid to BC residents, in addition to their federal income supports. [\(March 23\)](#)
- ICBC is extending deferrals to up to 90 days. People dealing with job loss, illness or loss of wages due to COVID-19 may also qualify for BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund grant program for up to \$600. [\(March 23\)](#)
- For people in BC currently receiving income assistance or disability assistance, the province will temporarily exempt federal employment insurance benefits, including the new \$2,000 Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). These payments will be fully exempted for the next three months so people receiving income assistance and disability assistance in BC will benefit from these new emergency federal support programs, without any reductions to their monthly assistance payments. [\(April 2\)](#)
- For everyone on income assistance or disability assistance who is not eligible for the emergency federal support programs, including the CERB, the Province will provide an automatic \$300-monthly COVID-19 crisis supplement for the next three months. This supplement will also be provided to low-income seniors who receive the BC Senior's Supplement and recipients of income assistance or disability assistance who reside in special care facilities. [\(April 2\)](#)
- With the current provincewide suspension of BC Transit and Translink bus fares, the Province will also provide all BC Bus Pass Program users receiving income assistance and disability assistance with the \$52 Transportation Supplement for the duration of the fare suspension. [\(April 2\)](#)
- The BC government is providing a new Emergency Relief Support Fund and added service flexibility for parents of children with special needs to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will provide a direct payment of \$225 per month to eligible families over the next three months (to June 30, 2020). [\(April 8\)](#)
- Renters who are experiencing a loss of income during the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for the Province's new temporary rental supplement. The program will provide \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents and \$500 per month for eligible households with dependents. Eligible roommates will each be able to apply for the supplement. [\(April 9\)](#)
- Applications for the \$1,000 BC Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW) opening on May 1, 2020. The BCEBW is a one-time, tax-free \$1,000 payment for British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most people who are eligible for the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) are also eligible for the BCEBW, including those who have run out of employment insurance (EI) benefits and subsequently qualify for the CERB. [\(April 23\)](#)
- British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) can now apply for the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW) online. [\(May 1\)](#)

- As part of a cost-shared program with the federal government, temporary pandemic pay will support people working on the front lines in BC's health-care system, social services and corrections. This includes workers delivering a range of health and social services to people most vulnerable to COVID-19. More than 250,000 eligible front-line workers will receive temporary pandemic pay, a lump-sum payment of about \$4 per hour for a 16-week period, starting on March 15, 2020. Eligible workers will receive the payment directly through their employer and do not need to apply. ([May 19](#))
- A final round of the short-term Emergency Relief Support fund for children and youth with special needs and their families will provide a direct payment of \$225 per month for up to three months to assist eligible families. This will be available from July 1 to Sept. 30, 2020 and will reach twice as many families as the first round of funding, helping them to access critical supports. ([June 22](#))
- Starting this week, more than 80 percent of families and individuals in British Columbia will automatically receive an enhanced climate action tax credit. Eligible individuals will receive up to \$218, children will receive up to \$64 in a one-time increase and a family of four will receive up to \$564. ([July 2](#))
- The Province is extending federal employment insurance exemptions and the provincial temporary crisis supplement. This exemption, which now includes the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (effective May 1, 2020), has been extended for the duration of these federal emergency support programs so that eligible people will continue to fully benefit without any reductions to their monthly income or disability assistance payments. ([July 7](#))
- The Province is extending the provincial temporary crisis supplement for people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who are not receiving federal benefits like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the Province's temporary COVID-19 Crisis Supplement that has been provided since April will be extended for an additional four months. The temporary \$300 crisis supplement will continue to be automatically applied to cheques distributed Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16. ([August 17](#))
- The Government of B.C. is dedicating \$44.1 million to launch the Health Career Access Program and recruit an estimated 7,000 health-care workers in long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities throughout the province. The program will provide a path for approximately 3,000 applicants who may not previously have had health-care experience to receive on-the-job training. ([Sept 9](#))

Housing

- A ban on evictions for non-payment of rent in BC Housing-funded buildings, as well as allowances for rent adjustments. ([March 20](#))
- Province is introducing a new temporary rental supplement, halting evictions and freezing rents, among other actions. The new temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month, paid directly to landlords. ([March 25](#))
- To support British Columbians who need a place to self-isolate and to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Province is partnering with local governments, non-profits and the hotel industry to provide 900 spaces. In addition, some hotels are reserved specifically for people who have COVID-19 and need a place to self-

isolate while they recover. Other spaces are for patients being discharged from hospitals who do not have COVID-19 and who do not need emergency care, but still require ongoing health care. ([April 7](#))

- The Government of British Columbia is extending the temporary rental supplement (TRS) until the end of August 2020 to continue to support renters and landlords. It will also maintain the moratorium on rent increases and evictions for non-payment of rent, while enabling other notices to end tenancy to resume. ([June 19](#))
- As announced on July 16, renters will be expected to pay rent in full on Sept. 1, 2020, as the moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent will end on Aug. 18. 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. ([August 14](#))

Health Care

- The BC government is waiving the Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage wait period for people moving back to BC from COVID-19 impacted areas. In addition, the BC government is planning to provide health coverage to British Columbians who are out of province and unable to return. ([March 20](#))
- In addition to providing immediate Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage to those moving back to BC, MSP coverage will also be expanded to temporary foreign workers until July 31, 2020. ([March 27](#))

Childcare

- The province is launching a new process to match parents, who are working on the front lines of BC's COVID-19 response and have children up to five years of age, with childcare in their communities. ([March 31](#))

Support for Students

- Students attending British Columbia's 25 public post-secondary institutions, who are experiencing emergency financial pressures, will benefit from a one-time investment of \$3.5 million in emergency financial assistance. ([April 2](#))
- The Province is freezing BC student loan payments for six months, starting March 30, 2020. Federal student loan payments are being frozen as well. ([March 23](#))

Support for Businesses

- Effective immediately, businesses with a payroll over \$500,000 can defer their employer health tax payments until Sept. 30, 2020. Businesses with a payroll under this threshold are already exempt from the tax. ([March 23](#))
- Further reducing the school property tax rate for commercial properties to achieve an average 25 percent reduction in the total property tax bill for most businesses, providing up to \$700 million in relief. This enhances the 50 percent reduction to the provincial school property tax rate that was originally announced for classes 4, 5, and 6 as part of BC's COVID-19 Action Plan. ([April 16](#))

- Postponing the date that late payment penalties apply for commercial properties in classes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to Oct. 1, 2020, to give businesses and landlords more time to pay their reduced property tax, without penalty. ([April 16](#))
- A new BC Business COVID-19 Support Service will serve as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be operated by Small Business BC (SBBC), a non-profit organization that is well known and respected by the business community. ([April 16](#))
- The scheduled April 1 increase to the provincial carbon tax, as well as the new PST registration requirements on e-commerce and the implementation of PST on sweetened carbonated drinks, will be delayed and their timing will be reviewed by Sept. 30, 2020. ([March 23](#))
- Thousands of small businesses in British Columbia will see their monthly rent reduced by at least 75 percent with the new federal-provincial Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA). ([April 24](#))
- Government has temporarily deferred renewal fees for those liquor licensees experiencing financial hardship due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For liquor licences expiring between March 31 and June 30, 2020, renewal fees will be deferred until Sept. 30, 2020, ([May 1](#))
- BC businesses eligible for rent support from the federal government will be protected from evictions as the B.C. government issues a new order under the Emergency Program Act (EPA). Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines. ([June 1](#))
- The Province of British Columbia has extended the temporary layoffs provisions to a maximum of 24 weeks expiring on Aug. 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([June 25](#))
- Legislation was introduced to authorize filing and payment deferrals for employer health tax, provincial sales tax, hotel tax, carbon tax, motor fuel tax and tobacco tax to Sept. 30, 2020;
- Legislation was introduced to postpone the date that late payment penalties apply for commercial properties in classes 4,5,6,7 and 8 to Oct. 1, 2020, to give businesses and landlords more time to pay their reduced property tax, without penalty; ([June 24](#))
- As announced June 19, 2020, the Province is maintaining the moratorium on rent increases and evictions for non-payment of rent. However, other notices to end tenancy may resume effectively immediately. As the Province moves forward with BC's Restart Plan, the ban on evictions for reasons other than late payment or non-payment of rent has now been lifted. ([June 24](#))
- The Province is delaying implementation dates to April 2021 for changes to provincial sales tax (PST) and B.C.'s carbon tax, to help businesses and families through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. ([September 2](#))

Art and Culture

- To help BC musicians take part in Showcase BC, Creative BC has also opened a new Showcase BC music funding stream. This new program will provide one-time micro-grants of \$500 to emerging artists and \$2,000 to established artists for livestreaming, songwriting and professional development. [\(April 11\)](#)

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- The BC government is providing \$300,000 to support industry-led Buy BC e-commerce activities. The program provides financial support to access and develop websites that accommodate online sales and helps cover the costs of marketing and shipping products to consumers throughout the province. Online applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, from May 15 to May 29, or when the funding is fully subscribed. [\(May 12\)](#)
- The latest intake of the BC Agri-Business Planning Program is open to applications and has been expanded to include aquaculture and seafood companies in developing COVID-19 business recovery plans. BC agriculture, seafood and food processing business owners are encouraged to apply if their revenues have decreased by at least 30 percent as a result of COVID-19. The funding available includes up to \$5,000 in business planning services and coaching for individuals, and up to \$20,000 for groups, from a qualified business consultant, to develop an immediate and long-term recovery plan. Eligible applicants may also apply to the specialized business planning stream of the program to further strengthen their business. [\(May 15\)](#)
- The new BC 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. [\(May 28\)](#)

Forestry

- The BC government is deferring one of the fees it charges to help people, communities and forest companies navigate through the COVID-19 crisis. Stumpage, the fee operators pay the province to harvest, buy or sell trees from Crown land, is being deferred for three months. [\(April 30\)](#)
- Changes to the Manufactured Forest Products Regulation (MFPR) and the Coast-wide implementation of the variable fee-in-lieu of manufacture on log exports that were scheduled to come into force on July 1, 2020, are now postponed until Sept. 30, 2020, and December 2020 respectively. [\(June 11\)](#)

Oil and Gas

- On April 17, 2020, the Government of Canada announced \$120 million in funding for BC to support the clean up of oil and gas sites. The Province rolled out three new programs on May 19, 2020, to bring this funding to B.C. industry. On the first day applications were open, on May 25th, the first funding allocation was nearly fully subscribed. The program is split into two phases of \$50 million each. Applications for the second half will open on November 1, 2020. [\(May 26\)](#)

Support for Local Governments

- Authorizing local governments to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves to help pay for operating expenses, such as employee salaries. [\(April 16\)](#)
- Delaying provincial school tax remittances until the end of the year. This will provide significant relief to local governments facing cash flow issues. [\(April 16\)](#)
- Providing local governments greater flexibility to carry debt for an additional year. [\(April 16\)](#)

Hospitality

- The Province has approved a temporary wholesale pricing model that will allow liquor licensees 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. [\(June 16\)](#)
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province is temporarily authorizing liquor manufacturers to deliver products directly to individual consumers from their registered off-site storage facilities, in addition to their on-site stores. This temporary measure will expire on Oct. 31, 2020, and no extension will be considered. [\(July 31\)](#)

Transportation

- 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. [\(June 29\)](#)
- Additional temporary measures to support the passenger transportation industry during the COVID-19 pandemic have also been introduced, including waiving plate fees for all operators during COVID-19, allowing eligible licensees to defer their passenger transportation renewal fee for up to six months, and allowing insurance payments to be temporarily suspended for fleet and non-fleet customers [\(June 29\)](#)

Employment Standards

- British Columbia is making changes to the Employment Standards Act that will allow workers to immediately take unpaid, job-protected leave if they are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19. The leave will be retroactive to Jan. 27, 2020, the date that the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in BC. During this public health emergency, people can take this job-protected leave for as long as the circumstance that requires them to be away from work applies. [\(March 23\)](#)
- The Employment Standards Act changes also provide up to three days of unpaid, job-protected leave each year for people who cannot work due to illness or injury. This is a permanent change to the act that brings BC in line with all other provinces in Canada. [\(March 23\)](#)
- The BC government has extended the temporary layoff period to 16 weeks, from 13 weeks, for COVID-19 related reasons. [\(May 4\)](#)

- Employers and workers who need to extend temporary layoffs due to COVID-19 can more easily apply for a variance using the Employment Standards Branch's new online application. An application deadline of Aug. 25, 2020, has been set to ensure that all applications will be processed by the Aug. 30 expiry date. ([July 20](#))

Utility Relief

- Residential customers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work as a result of COVID-19 will receive a credit to help cover the cost of their electricity bills. The credit will be three times their average monthly bill over the past year at their home and does not have to be repaid. ([April 1](#))
- Small businesses that have been forced to close due to COVID-19 will have their power bills forgiven for three months. BC Hydro is waiving bills for these customers from April to June 2020. ([April 1](#))
- Major industries, like pulp and paper mills and mines, will have the opportunity to defer 50 percent of their bill payments for three months. ([April 1](#))

Alberta

Support for Individuals

- The Government of Alberta's Emergency Isolation Support program is now closed, as it was to provide support until the Government of Canada's new Canada Emergency Response Benefit was available. It was for working Albertans who are self-isolating or who are the sole caregivers for someone in self-isolation. Qualifying applicants received a one-time payment of \$1,146. ([April 6](#))
- Residents of northern Alberta who have been evacuated due to spring floods will receive funding of \$1,250 per adult and \$500 per dependent child. ([April 29](#))
- The government enacted legislation on May 6 that allows customers to defer their utility bill payments. This program is intended for Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19. Customers will still have to pay for their deferred electricity and natural gas bills after the program ends on June 18. ([May 5](#))

Support for Students

- The government will implement a six-month, interest-free moratorium on Alberta student loan payments for all individuals who are in the process of repaying these loans. ([March 19](#))

Housing

- Tenants cannot be evicted for non-payment of rent and / or utilities before May 1 and rents will not increase while Alberta's state of public health emergency remains in effect. ([March 27](#))
- Effective April 1, late fees cannot be applied to late rent payments for the next three months and landlords and tenants need to work together to develop payment plans while the state of public health emergency is in effect. ([March 27](#))
- While Alberta is in a state of public health emergency, landlords must attempt to work out a payment plan with tenants who are unable to make their full rent when payment is due. Until the state of public health emergency has been lifted, landlords cannot raise the rent on residential properties or mobile home sites, even if notice of an increase has already been given. Until June 30, landlords cannot further penalize tenants who are late on rent by charging late fees, even if the signed rental agreement states that a late fee can be applied. ([March 27](#))
- A bill ensuring no one will be retroactively charged for residential rent increases or late fees while the state of public health emergency is in effect was proposed. ([March 31](#))

Health Care

- Individuals visiting Alberta from another country will receive physician and hospital services for the treatment of COVID-19 – even if they do not have health coverage or the ability to pay. ([April 9](#))

Support for Businesses

- The government of Alberta will defer the collection of corporate income tax balances and instalment payments, due after March 19, until Aug. 31, 2020. ([March 19](#))
- Effective immediately, the government will defer education property tax for businesses for six months. ([March 23](#))
- The government will immediately cancel the decision made in Budget 2020 and will freeze education property taxes at last year's level. ([March 23](#))
- Private sector employers will have immediate financial relief by deferring WCB premiums until early 2021, effectively for one year. For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50 percent of the premium when it is due. ([March 23](#))
- The new Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will give certainty to small businesses by providing 50 percent of monthly commercial rental costs. Eligible landlords and tenants would each be responsible for 25 percent of the remaining costs. The province expects to commit up to \$67 million, with the remaining and majority of costs being covered by the federal government. ([April 24](#))
- Bill 23, the *Commercial Tenancies Protection Act*, would protect eligible commercial tenants from having their leases terminated due to non-payment of rent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. If passed, the act would also prevent landlords from raising rent and charging late fees and penalties on missed rent. ([June 16](#))
- The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that faced restrictions or closures from public health orders and experienced a revenue loss of at least 50 percent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible job creators can apply for up to \$5,000 through this program, starting June 29. ([June 28](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- New intergovernmental business resumption protocol for provincially and federally licensed food-processing facilities in Alberta to protect the health and safety of vital workers. ([April 16](#))
- In response to COVID-19, the Government of Alberta has created a new Agriculture Training Support Program to help employers in the food supply chain provide necessary training to new Alberta employees. The maximum government contribution under the program is \$2,000 per new employee, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per employer. Grants will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis until available program funding is fully allocated. ([May 8](#))
- \$1 million in funding will be targeted for meat processors to provide support for new hires to undertake meat-cutting training. ([May 8](#))
- A new fed cattle set-aside program will allow beef producers to hold on to slaughter-ready cattle on maintenance feed ration for several weeks, allowing the supply of animals to more evenly match demand and reduced processing capacity. ([May 7](#))

- The Government of Alberta will immediately increase the interim payment under AgriStability from 50 percent to 75 percent for the hog sector. This will put up to \$25 million in the hands of pork producers immediately. Increasing the advance payment under AgriStability will result in the equivalent of \$20 per head for pork producers enrolled in AgriStability. ([May 7](#))
- The Alberta government will immediately increase the advance payment under AgriStability from 50 percent to 75 percent for the potato industry, to get cash in hands of potato producers immediately. ([May 7](#))
- Agriculture and Forestry provided \$81,000 to the Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to enhance its online producer directory. The grant allowed AFFPA to expand its directory to include more producer profiles and build awareness. ([May 21](#))

Tourism

- Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until Aug. 31 for amounts that become due to government on or after today. ([March 27](#))
- The Alberta government is providing new supports for hotels and other lodging providers that allow them to keep tourism levy amounts collected between March 1 and December 31, 2020. Amounts collected prior to March 1, 2020 that are being deferred under the previously announced deferral program can continue to be deferred until August 31, 2020. ([May 19](#))

Oil and Gas

- Government is funding the industry levy for the Alberta Energy Regulator for a period of six months, achieving \$113 million in industry relief. ([March 20](#))
- Extending the term of mineral agreements expiring in 2020 by one year provides increased certainty for industry by allowing additional time to raise capital and plan future activities. ([March 20](#))
- The Government of Alberta has finalized an agreement with Calgary-based TC Energy Corporation to provide financial support to accelerate construction of the Keystone XL pipeline starting April 1. This investment will include \$1.5 billion in equity investment in 2020 followed by a \$6 billion loan guarantee in 2021. ([March 31](#))
- The Site Rehabilitation Program – mainly funded by the federal government’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan – will provide grants to oilfield service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site reclamation work. This program will launch on May 1. The program will provide funds in \$100-million increments. ([April 24](#))

Forestry

- In response to COVID-19 and the economic effects to the forestry industry, the Alberta government will defer timber dues for six months. ([April 4](#))

Employment Standards

- Employees caring for children affected by school and daycare closures or ill or self-isolated family members due to COVID-19 will have access to unpaid job-protected leave. The 90-day employment requirement is waived and leave length is flexible. [\(April 6\)](#)
- Increasing the maximum time for a temporary layoff from 60 days to 120 days to ensure temporarily laid off employees stay attached to a job longer. This change is retroactive for any temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 that occurred on or after March 17. [\(April 6\)](#)
- Improving scheduling flexibility by removing the 24-hour written notice requirement for shift changes, and the two weeks' notice for changes to work schedules for those under an averaging agreement. (April 6)
- Removing the requirement to provide the group termination notice to employees and unions when 50 or more employees are being terminated. [\(April 6\)](#)
- Streamlining the process for approvals related to modifying employment standards so employers and workers can respond quicker to changing conditions at the workplace due to the public health emergency. [\(April 6\)](#)

Utility Relief

- Residential, farm, and small commercial customers can defer bill payments for the next 90 days to ensure no one will be cut off from these services during this time of crisis. [\(March 19\)](#)

Saskatchewan

Supports for Individuals

- Self-Isolation Support Program will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900. The Self-Isolation Support Program is targeted at Saskatchewan residents forced to self-isolate that are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. ([March 20](#))
- Workers helping Saskatchewan's vulnerable citizens through the COVID-19 pandemic will have their salaries topped up by a cost-shared \$400 per month temporary wage supplement. This supplement will apply to essential workers earning less than \$2,500 per month employed at senior-care, group homes, childcare facilities and emergency and transition shelters. It will be provided for up to 16 weeks (March 15 to July 4) for each eligible worker. ([April 30](#))
- Eligible lower-income workers helping Saskatchewan's most vulnerable citizens through the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply to the Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program. ([May 15](#))
- The Government of Saskatchewan has announced additional respite funding for caregivers of people with intellectual disabilities during the pandemic. This funding provides \$100 per month from June to September 2020 to pay for respite or respite activities. ([May 28](#))
- Through a re-assessment of eligibility, the Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program. has been further expanded to include all workers, regardless of income level, at integrated healthcare facilities which provide both short-term and long-term health care. A new application form is currently being developed for this expansion, and will be available in the coming days. Applications will be accepted until September 1, 2020. ([July 30](#))

Support for Students

- The Saskatchewan government will make up to \$1.5 million in emergency financial aid available from April 1 to Sept 1, 2020 to help at-risk post-secondary students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. ([April 9](#))
- A six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place, mirroring a similar federal provision. ([March 20](#))

Housing

- The provincial government is temporarily suspending eviction hearings as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Tenants who are unable to pay their rent during the state of emergency will be expected to pay their rent in full once the state of emergency is over. ([March 26](#))
- The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation will begin accepting applications for the new Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB) on April 1, 2020. SHB is a monthly benefit available to eligible households, including seniors, families, couples and singles. Clients will receive benefits ranging from \$150-250 based on their household composition. ([March 31](#))

- Starting August 4, 2020, the Office of Residential Tenancies (ORT) will begin accepting eviction applications from landlords for non-payment of rent. ([July 6](#))

Support for Businesses

- Effective immediately, Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges. Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected. At this time, audit program and compliance activities have been suspended. ([March 20](#))
- Saskatchewan is establishing a business response team that will work with businesses to identify program supports available to them both provincially and federally. ([March 23](#))
- The new \$50 million Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19. Grants will be paid based on 15 percent of a business' monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000. ([April 9](#))
- The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$1 million to support a province-wide marketing campaign to encourage Saskatchewan residents to support local businesses and their employees. ([May 1](#))
- The Re-Open Saskatchewan Training Subsidy (RSTS) program will reimburse eligible private-sector employers 100 percent of employee training costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per business to mitigate against additional financial impacts from training required to support their safe re-opening. ([June 18](#))

Agriculture

- The federal and provincial governments have agreed to increase the 2020 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50 percent to 75 percent for Saskatchewan producers. ([April 24](#))
- The Saskatchewan government will fund the 40 per cent provincial contribution to the AgriRecovery set-aside program, \$5 million for Saskatchewan's share of the costs, Saskatchewan livestock producers will now be able to access a total of \$12.5 million under the set-aside program. On May 5, the federal government announced their 60 percent contribution to the AgriRecovery program. ([May 14](#))
- Saskatchewan is also taking action to temporarily reduce the cost of purchasing livestock price insurance through the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP), with \$5 million to partially offset higher premium costs. The provincial government will provide 40 percent of the increased premium costs, dating back to February 25, 2020. Additionally, the deadline for obtaining calf price insurance through the WLPIP is being extended from May 28, 2020 to June 18, 2020. These premium adjustments will be in place until September 1, 2020, at which time the provincial government will review and reassess. ([May 14](#))

Oil and Gas

- The Government of Saskatchewan is implementing a series of relief measures for the provincial oil and gas sector including extending a series of filing and other deadlines to assist the oil and gas sector in stabilizing operations as their employees transition to working from home, extending mineral rights scheduled to

expire in 2020 by one year, and reducing the industry portion of the Oil and Gas Administrative Levy by 50 percent this fiscal year and delaying the invoicing of the remaining balance until October 1, 2020. ([April 14](#))

- The Government of Saskatchewan is launching the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities to get Saskatchewan people back to work. ASCP will access up to \$400 million, over two years, subject to the conclusion of an agreement with Canada, through the federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Phase 1 will allocate up to \$100 million in funding to Saskatchewan service companies contracted to do abandonment and reclamation work. ([May 22](#))

Tourism

- The Government of Saskatchewan announced \$35 million in support for Saskatchewan's hard-hit tourism sector. Under the Saskatchewan Tourism Sector Support Program, eligible hospitality and event/attraction operators will be able to apply for a one-time, non-repayable emergency payment. For the accommodation sector and large event facilities, payments will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000, depending on sales revenue. For attraction, tour or event operators with ongoing fixed costs, payments will range from \$7,500 to \$15,000. ([Aug 10](#))

Employment Standards

- The Government of Saskatchewan introduced amendments to The Saskatchewan Employment Act ensuring employees have access to job protected leaves during a public health emergency. The amendments to the Act would come into force retroactive to March 6, 2020. ([March 17](#))

Utility Relief

- Saskatchewan announced a crown utility interest deferral program waving interest on late bill payments for up to six months. ([March 20](#))

Manitoba

Supports for Individuals

- The federal CERB benefit will be treated as earned income under EIA in Manitoba. As a result, EIA clients who receive the CERB benefit will receive more than they would on EIA alone. They will also continue to receive prescription drug, dental and optical benefits regardless of whether they are still eligible for provincial social assistance. ([April 24](#))
- The province is extending \$45 million in direct financial support to Manitoba seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic through the new Seniors Economic Recovery Credit that will deliver a \$200 tax credit to each recipient. ([May 5](#))
- The Manitoba government will reduce vehicle registration fees by 10 per cent beginning July 1 with a \$11-million program. ([May 12](#))
- More than 23,000 Manitobans receive monthly benefits under the disability category of Employment and Income Assistance. Under the Disability Economic Support Program, each of these Manitobans will be mailed a \$200 cheque in early June for one-time support. This payment will not be considered taxable income and will not affect any other benefits received. ([May 26](#))
- The Manitoba government is introducing the Manitoba Job Restart program, which will provide one initial payment of \$500 plus three additional bi-weekly payments for \$500 each, for a total of \$2,000 over six weeks. Program participants must voluntarily stop collecting CERB or CESB support from the federal government. The program is accepting applications until July 31. ([June 23](#))
- The Manitoba government is expanding its \$120-million Risk Recognition program to include more front-line workers who were exposed to added risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential workers must have worked a minimum 200 cumulative hours (or would have worked that amount but were required to self-isolate under public health orders) from March 20 to May 29. The province has extended the application deadline until Monday, June 29 at noon. ([June 16](#))

Childcare

- The Manitoba government is investing \$27.6 million to help provide childcare to essential front-line workers who need it as they support the province's COVID-19 response. This includes a new \$18-million grant program to help early childhood educators affected by the suspension of childcare services in centres to have access to immediate funds. They will also continue to provide licensed childcare centres with their full operating grants and subsidies. ([March 20](#))
- The Manitoba government is investing more than \$22 million in new and reallocated funds to improve sustainability and create child care spaces for more than 1,400 children and give parents and caregivers more child care options to meet their needs. ([August 26](#))

Housing

- As part of the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency, the Manitoba government will postpone eviction hearings and freeze rent increases. The province will suspend any rent increases scheduled to take effect on April 1 or later. ([March 24](#))
- The province is continuing to postpone non-urgent eviction hearings and suspending any rent increases scheduled to take effect in June. The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) and Residential Tenancies Commission (RTC) will continue to postpone all hearings for non-urgent matters to halt evictions, and all scheduled hearings are delayed to protect Manitobans from evictions during the pandemic, with certain exceptions to deal with urgent issues that involve the health and safety of tenants. Eviction orders will only be issued to address issues affecting health and safety including unlawful activities. ([May 29](#))
- Manitoba has extended provisions to protect tenants. The current freeze on rent increases for residential tenants will continue. Landlords can continue to give notice of their intention to increase rent, but the higher rate cannot be charged until after Sept. 30. Non-urgent eviction hearings will continue to be postponed, and will not be scheduled until after Sept. 30. ([June 22](#))

Support for Students

- The province is suspending repayment of student loans for six months to reduce the financial burden on post-secondary students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective April 1, Manitoba has suspended all repayments of loans under the Manitoba Student Aid Program through Sept. 30. ([April 7](#))
- The Manitoba government has launched the Summer Student Recovery Plan. Under the new program, up to \$120 million is available for employers to access a \$7 per hour wage subsidy, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per student. The program is open to Manitoba students aged 15 to 29, with an employment period from May 1 to Sept. 4. Employers can be subsidized to hire up to five students. Reimbursement will be provided at the end of the employment period, upon proof of payment of student wages. ([April 24](#))
- The province is increasing its support for students and post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing more matching funding for the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative (MSBI) for the 2020-21 academic year. ([May 6](#))
- In addition, the separate Manitoba Bursary program, which provides up-front financial support to students in need, has been increased by \$1.8 million for 2020-21 to put a total of \$17.3 million into the hands of students when they need it as they begin their studies. ([May 6](#))
- The Manitoba government has launched Student Jobs MB, an online tool dedicated to matching students looking for job opportunities to employers with workforce needs throughout the province. Student Jobs MB will be the primary source used by the province to connect students with government employment opportunities offered through the Student Temporary Employment Program, the Conservation Green Team and Urban/Hometown Green Team partners. ([May 28](#))

Support for Businesses

- As part of the Manitoba Protection Plan, the province is providing the following protections for the next six months until October 1:
 - instructing Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) to not charge interest or penalties in the event that Manitobans are unable to pay at this time
 - instructing MPI to relax ordinary practices on policy renewals and collections
 - instructing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores
 - supporting Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to do the same and asking WCB to extend relief from penalties
 - for late payments
 - directing Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas to not disconnect customers during these times. [\(April 3\)](#)
- The government is also deferring provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to August 31 and has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until October 1, should the federal government agree, the premier added. [\(April 3\)](#)
- Manitoba is accelerating the removal of \$75 million of annual PST from residential and business properties, effective July 1. [\(April 3\)](#)
- The Manitoba government has engaged Manitoba-based business, 24-7 Intouch, to help businesses, not-for-profits and charities facing economic challenges due to COVID-19 connect with support programs. [\(April 13\)](#)
- The provincial government's online portal to facilitate business applications to the Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP) is live. Eligible businesses will receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$6,000, electronically deposited into their business bank account within a few days of applying online. [\(May 1\)](#)
- The province is unveiling the Manitoba Works Capital Incentive, a new approach to tax increment financing (TIF) that leverages incremental education property tax rebates to stimulate economic growth and job creation. A new or existing business interested in getting established or expanding in Manitoba may apply to the program if:
 - the business is prepared to make a minimum capital investment of \$10 million to a specific property, which will be designated for tax increment financing benefits;
 - a minimum of 65 percent of total project costs are from private sources; and
 - there is demonstrable potential to create and/or maintain jobs in Manitoba, or the new business activity will have a substantial and measurable net economic benefit to the province. [\(May 22\)](#)
- Manitoba is waiving big-game utilization requirements for 2020, ensuring that future allocations will not be affected by the loss of the spring season due to the pandemic, and provide additional black bear hunting opportunities to outfitters in areas with chronic black bear-related agricultural damage. [\(May 22\)](#)
- After extending the April and May filing deadlines for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000, the province is now extending the deadlines for June as well.

Businesses will now have up to three additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax. ([May 29](#))

- The new “Manitoba Back to Work This Summer” initiative is a hiring program to help Manitoba-based businesses rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Employers can apply to receive funding for up to five employees hired or rehired after June 18. The program will reimburse 50 percent of the total wages paid from June 18 until Aug. 30, to a maximum of \$5,000 per worker and \$25,000 per business. ([June 18](#))
- The new Non-Profit Summer Student Incentive Grant is now available to eligible charities and non-profit organizations that apply for the Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program. The grant will provide an additional \$6,000 to approved applicants that hire at least one full-time equivalent student under the jobs program for at least eight weeks, with \$3,000 paid upfront and the remainder paid out at the end of summer employment. ([June 16](#))
- Organizations are also eligible for up to \$25,000 in support to hire up to five summer students aged 15 to 29 under the Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Program, which is a critical part of the provincial pandemic response, the premier noted. The program provides private and not-for-profit, charitable sector employers a \$7 per hour wage subsidy for each student hired, to a maximum of \$5,000. ([June 16](#))
- The province will extend the April and May filing deadlines for small- and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000. Businesses will have additional time to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax. deadlines are now being extended through September. ([June 24](#))
- The Manitoba government is committed to protecting businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing a temporary ban on commercial evictions as part of an effort to drive increased participation in the federal-provincial cost-shared Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. ([June 26](#))
- With support from the Manitoba government, the B2B Manitoba health and safety online marketplace is being expanded to allow businesses and not-for-profits to contract health and safety services. The B2BManitoba.ca app was developed by the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME), the Manitoba and Winnipeg chambers of commerce and North Forge Technology Exchange. B2B Manitoba was launched in May to help connect Manitoba businesses with non-medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies needed to operate safely. The province has provided \$422,000 in support for the app including enhancements. ([Aug 12](#))
- The Manitoba government has formally launched its #RestartMB campaign as a roadmap to recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Premier Brian Pallister announced today. The campaign will solicit feedback through the <http://EngageMB.ca> portal and drive business participation and awareness of government programs. It will continue to encourage Manitobans to contact the Manitoba Economic Support Centre to access programs and resources, and the centre will promote program priorities in the coming weeks. To date, the centre has called more than 20,000 businesses a week to promote programs such as wage subsidies and the Manitoba Gap Protection Program. ([Aug 12](#))

- The enhanced Back to Work program will now allow businesses, not-for-profit organizations or charities to receive a subsidy for another 10 full or part-time employees, in addition to the current total of 10. By doubling the amount of subsidized employees to 20, the maximum level of financial support available to employers increases from \$50,000 to \$100,000. ([August 26](#))
- The province extended the Back to Work in Manitoba Wage Subsidy by two months until Dec. 31 and announced employers are now able to rehire students previously hired through the Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program, Canada Summer Job Program and Green Team Program. The province confirmed new start-up companies are eligible. ([September 14](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Canada and Manitoba will be providing a total of \$160,000 through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to Direct Farm Manitoba to purchase a software platform that will allow Manitobans to order food online from local producers and farmers' markets. The funding will also go toward the development of a network of pick-up and delivery options to connect consumers with their orders, and the development of COVID-19 safe handling and packaging practices for producers and processors. ([April 27](#))
- The governments of Canada and Manitoba announced a new \$3-million cost-shared Canadian Agricultural Partnership program to support projects that will help agricultural processors mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Governments will contribute a maximum of 50 per cent of eligible project costs, up to \$25,000 per applicant. ([July 20](#))

Employment Standards

- The province is making temporary amendments to employment standards regulations that would ensure any period of layoff occurring after March 1, 2020, will not be counted toward the period after which a temporary layoff would become a permanent termination. ([March 27](#))
- The province is proposing new provisions to the Employment Standards Code that would allow employees to be away from work for specified reasons related to COVID-19. ([April 14](#))
- The Manitoba government will provide health-care staff paid administrative leave for the full 14-day period of asymptomatic self-isolation. ([April 14](#))

Ontario

Supports for Individuals

- Proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payment for low-income seniors for six months. ([March 25](#))
- Expanding access to the emergency assistance program administered by Ontario Works to provide financial support to people facing economic hardship and help more people meet basic needs such as food and rent during this public health emergency. ([March 25](#))
- The new Support for Families initiative offers a one-time payment of \$200 per child 0 to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those 0 to 21 years of age with special needs. ([April 6](#))
- The Ontario government is enabling auto insurance companies to provide temporary insurance premium rebates to drivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The province has amended a regulation under the Insurance Act to help ease the financial pressure on working people and families during this public health crisis. ([April 16](#))
- The Ontario government is providing frontline staff with a temporary pandemic payment. This increase will provide four dollars per hour worked on top of existing hourly wages, regardless of the qualified employee's hourly wage. In addition, employees working over 100 hours per month would receive lump sum payments of \$250 per month for each of the next four months. The additional compensation is temporary and would begin flowing immediately and continue for 16 weeks at the most. ([April 25](#))
- The government is providing an Ontario Tools Grant of \$2.5 million in 2020-21 and \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and ongoing. This will help new eligible apprentices purchase the equipment they need to start their careers. The funding amounts will be distributed as follows \$1,000 for those in motive power sector trades; \$600 for those in construction and industrial sector trades; and \$400 for those in-service sector trades. ([May 22](#))
- The government is also forgiving more than \$10 million in outstanding loans owed by apprentices for tool purchases made at the beginning of their careers. ([May 22](#))
- The government is also investing nearly \$2 million to open a Virtual Action Centre in partnership with UNITE HERE Local 75. This virtual job training resource will provide up to 7,000 unemployed workers in the hospitality sector with access to a wide range of services and supports online and over the phone. ([May 22](#))
- The Ontario Government is investing \$43 million in expanded youth training programs to give young people exposure to more employment options. ([August 27](#))

Childcare

- Providing emergency childcare options to support parents working on the front lines, such as health care workers, police officers, firefighters and correctional officers. ([March 25](#))

- Helping families pay for the extra costs associated with school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 outbreak by providing a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools. ([March 25](#))
- During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ontario government is temporarily preventing childcare centres from collecting payments from parents, while also ensuring that their child care spaces are protected. ([April 10](#))
- The Ontario government is further expanding the list of essential workers eligible to receive free emergency child care during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those who will benefit include people who work in the food supply chain, retirement homes, grocery stores and pharmacies and certain federal employees, including the military. ([April 29](#))
- The Ontario Government, in partnership with the Federal Government, is providing \$234.6 million in funding to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings. This funding will help support enhanced cleaning costs as well as health and safety requirements set out to support the reopening of licensed child care and early years programs. This funding is in addition to the Ontario government's continued commitment to stabilize the child care sector as many Ontarians return to work. ([Aug 7](#))

Supports for Students

- Providing six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for students, leaving more money in people's pockets. ([March 25](#))

Healthcare

- Ontario is waiving the three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage. Additionally, the province will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage. ([March 20](#))

Housing

- The Ontario government is providing stability to Ontario's rental market by increasing fines for unlawful evictions and reinforcing the necessity for landlords to explore repayment agreements before considering evictions. ([July 22](#))

Supports for Businesses

- *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*: ensure that the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise by-laws that may unintentionally be impeding such deliveries when they are urgently needed. ([March 19](#))
- Cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption. ([March 25](#))
- Helping to support regions lagging in employment growth with a proposed new Corporate Income Tax Credit, the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit. ([March 25](#))
- Making available \$6 billion by providing five months of interest and penalty relief for businesses to file and make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes. ([March 25](#))

- Over \$1.8 billion by deferring the upcoming June 30 quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days, which will provide municipalities the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals to residents and businesses, while ensuring school boards continue to receive their funding. [\(March 25\)](#)
- The Ontario Government is enabling \$1.9 billion in relief through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), with premium payments deferred for six months for all businesses in the province. All employers covered by the WSIB's workplace insurance are automatically eligible for the provisions of the relief package and can defer premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. Additionally, the WSIB will cease interest accrual on all outstanding premium payments. They will not charge penalties during this six-month deferral period. [\(March 26\)](#)
- The Ontario government is deferring \$15 million in property taxes for people and businesses in parts of Northern Ontario located outside of municipal boundaries. Taxpayers will have 90 extra days to pay without incurring interest or penalties. [\(April 6\)](#)
- The Ontario government has launched a new Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee which will focus on getting businesses up and running and people back to work after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. [\(April 9\)](#)
- The Ontario government is partnering with the federal government to provide urgent relief for small businesses and landlords affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The province is committing \$241 million through the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA). The total amount of provincial-federal relief that would be provided is more than \$900 million. [\(April 24\)](#)
- Through the \$57-million contribution to the [Digital Main Street](#) platform, businesses will be able to take advantage of three new programs to support their digital transformation:
 - shopHERE powered by Google will leverage Ontario's strengths by hiring highly skilled and trained students to build and support the launch of online stores for businesses that previously did not have the capacity to do so themselves. [\(June 11\)](#)
 - Digital Main Street Grant will help main street small businesses be digitally more effective. Through a \$2,500 grant administered by the Ontario BIA Association, small businesses will be able to adopt new technologies and embrace digital marketing. [\(June 11\)](#)
 - Future-Proofing Main Street will provide specialized and in-depth digital transformation services and support that helps existing main-street firms adapt to changes in their sector and thrive in the new economy. [\(June 11\)](#)
- The Ontario government is investing \$3 million to provide free online health and safety training for the first time. These virtual courses will make it easier for job seekers and workers to get essential qualifications, while practising physical distancing and preventing the spread of COVID-19. [\(July 3\)](#)
- The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, extended the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses by one month to help eligible small business pay rent for August. [\(July 31\)](#)

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1 million in new funding to connect workers with in-demand jobs in the agri-food sector to keep the nation's supply chains strong and store shelves stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([April 17](#))
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$2.5 million to help the agri-food sector expand online. This targeted application intake features two funding streams. The first is Bring Your Business Online: Eligible organizations and businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to establish an online e-business and marketing presence. The second is Develop Online Business Opportunities: Eligible organizations, businesses and collaborations can apply for cost-share funding of up to \$75,000 to implement high-impact projects. ([April 24](#))
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing \$2.25 million in provincially licensed meat processing plants to better protect employees and ensure the continued supply of healthy products for consumers during the COVID-19 outbreak. Applications open on May 12, 2020. ([May 8](#))
- The government is making \$3.5 million available to help put protective measures in place for the workers who plant trees this season. Funds will be used for larger camp facilities and additional kitchens to provide more space, as well as extra personal protective equipment, plastic partitions for transporting workers and more wash stations. ([May 7](#))
- 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 with up to \$2.25 million of funding. The funding will be used for initiatives like purchasing personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, and redesigning workstations. 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. ([May 14](#))
- The province is significantly expanding the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program and committing up to \$15 million to enhance health and safety measures on farms and in food processing facilities. The Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program provides cost-share funding for farmers to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and implement workplace modifications and other measures. ([June 11](#))
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$10 million in emergency assistance for beef and hog farmers. The funding will help cover the increased costs of feeding market ready cattle and hogs due to COVID-19 related processing delays, while redirecting surplus pork products to help those in need. ([June 17](#))
- The beef cattle set-aside program will provide beef farmers with up to \$5 million in support. Farmers can claim \$2 per head of cattle per day to help pay for additional maintenance costs should they have to keep their market-ready animals on their farms for extended periods of time. ([June 17](#))
- The hog sector support program will also provide hog farmers with up to \$5 million to help cover additional maintenance costs. Ontario is also providing up to \$1.5 million to process and package surplus

pork for food banks, to provide those in need with fresh, locally produced pork products. This will assist the pork processing industry with managing capacity while helping those in need. [\(June 17\)](#)

Tourism

- The Ontario Government is investing \$1.5 million through the new Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund and offering promotional incentives at provincial attractions to help the province's tourism industry and welcome back visitors after the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund will support projects that develop innovative tourism products and experiences, drive private sector tourism investments, workforce development, and support tourism operators to learn more through tourism industry associations. [\(Aug 6\)](#)

Indigenous

- Providing additional supports of \$26 million to Indigenous peoples and communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need, and costs for health care professionals and critical supplies to reach remote First Nations. [\(March 25\)](#)
- The government of Ontario is providing up to \$10 million to Indigenous-owned small- and medium-sized businesses to help them with much needed capital as the province begins to safely and gradually reopen the economy. Loans of up to \$50,000 will be available to businesses that are either ineligible for, or unable to access, existing federal and provincial COVID-19 response initiatives for small businesses. [\(June 19\)](#)

Employment Standards

- The Ontario government passed a piece of legislation that will protect the jobs of employees who self-isolate or quarantine. *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020* provides job-protected leave for employees who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures or to care for other relatives. These measures are retroactive to January 25, 2020, the date the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in Ontario. [\(March 19\)](#)
- The government announced that it has enacted a new regulatory amendment that will put non-unionized employees on Infectious Disease Emergency Leave during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19. This will ensure businesses aren't forced to terminate employees after their ESA temporary layoff periods have expired. [\(June 1\)](#)

Utility Relief

- The Government of Ontario is providing immediate electricity rate relief for families, small businesses and farms paying time-of-use (TOU) rates. For a 45-day period, the government is working to suspend time-of-use electricity rates, holding electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour. This reduced price will be available 24 hours per day, seven days a week to all time-of-use customers. [\(March 24\)](#)
- Supporting more affordable electricity bills for eligible residential, farm and small business consumers, by providing approximately \$5.6 billion for electricity cost relief programs in 2020-21. [\(March 25\)](#)

- Further supporting more affordable electricity bills by setting electricity prices for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, addressing concerns about time-of-use metering. ([March 25](#))
- Providing \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and ensuring that their electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak. ([March 25](#))
- The Ontario government is deferring a portion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan for the period starting from April 2020. This initiative is intended to provide companies with temporary immediate relief on their monthly electricity bills in April, May and June 2020. ([May 1](#))
- The Ontario government is extending emergency electricity rate relief to families, farms and small businesses until May 31, 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak. Customers who pay time-of-use electricity rates will continue to be billed at the lowest price, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ([May 6](#))
- \$9 million initiative for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) to support consumers struggling to pay their energy bills during the pandemic. CEAP will provide one-time payments to consumers to help pay down any electricity bill debt incurred over the COVID-19 period. Applications will be available through local utilities in the upcoming months. ([June 1](#))
- \$8 million initiative for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB) to provide support to businesses struggling with bill payments as a result of the outbreak. ([June 1](#))
- An extension of the Ontario Energy Board's winter disconnection ban until July 31, 2020 to ensure no one is disconnected from their natural gas or electricity service during these uncertain times. ([June 1](#))
- The government recently announced that it will continue the suspension of time-of-use (TOU) electricity rates and, starting on June 1, 2020, customers will be billed based on a new fixed COVID-19 Recovery Rate of 12.8 cents per kilowatt hour. ([June 1](#))
- Starting June 1, 2020, the new COVID-19 Recovery Rate comes into effect for electricity customers who pay TOU rates. This fixed rate will apply to TOU customer bills 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The COVID-19 Recovery Rate will be in place until October 31, 2020, followed by a new customer choice initiative. Starting November 1, 2020, customers will be able to choose a plan that best suits their household and lifestyle with the option of either TOU electricity rates or tiered pricing, which will provide a set rate for electricity up to a certain level of consumption. ([June 1](#))
- The Ontario government is helping large industrial and commercial companies return to full levels of operation without the fear of electricity costs spiking by providing more stable electricity pricing for two years. Effective immediately, companies that participate in the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) will not be required to reduce their electricity usage during peak hours, as their proportion of [Global Adjustment \(GA\)](#) charges for these companies will be frozen. ([June 26](#))

Quebec

Support for Individuals

- Quebec created a Temporary Aid for Workers program offering up to \$573 a week for those in self-isolation who are unable to work. Workers can receive the weekly stipend for up to one month if they are not covered by federal supports, ending April 10, 2020. ([March 16](#))
- The province is pushing back the deadline for filing income tax returns to June 1 from April 30. ([March 17](#))
- Families who receive advance payments of the tax credit for childcare expenses will have access to information that will help them avoid having to reimburse overpayments in the future. ([March 27](#))
- The deadlines for renewing advance payments of the tax credit for home-support services for seniors are extended by four months. Current payments will be extended until renewal. ([March 27](#))
- The renewal date of the payment of the shelter allowance program is postponed to December 1, 2020. Ongoing payments will be renewed until the renewal. ([March 27](#))
- 25 percent reduction in 2020 of the amounts of mandatory withdrawals from a registered retirement income fund (RRIF). ([March 27](#))
- The Quebec government will accommodate health care system workers who wish to interrupt or postpone their parental leave in order to participate in the response to the current health emergency. These workers will have six additional months to draw their Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) benefits. ([March 28](#))
- The government announced that it is introducing the Incentive Program for the retention of essential workers (PIRTE), which will offer a benefit of \$100 per week for low-income earners working full time or part-time in essential services. This new benefit will be paid retroactively to March 15, for a maximum of sixteen weeks. ([April 3](#))
- To help mobilize workers, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity, Jean Boulet, is confirming that the minimum wage will increase by 60 cents on May 1, to \$13.10 an hour. ([April 15](#))
- All of the bonuses granted during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis are being extended until May 31. This extension applies to workers in living environments, especially in residential and long-term care centers (CHSLDs), such as orderlies, nurses and nursing assistants. ([April 23](#))
- The Government of Quebec is providing bonuses for full-time healthcare workers. All employees who provide full-time work in CHSLDs will receive \$100 per week. There are additional bonuses for those who will work full-time in an infected CHSLD, i.e. \$ 200 more after 2 consecutive weeks and \$400 more after 4 consecutive weeks for a potential total of \$1000. ([May 7](#))
- Eligible workers can now apply for the previously announced Incentive Program for the retention of essential workers (PIRTE). ([May 11](#))
- The province announced that 104 projects, representing 95 regional and nine national funds, will share \$54,894,500 million under the new Youth in Movement for Employment (JME) program. In total, these

initiatives will allow approximately 5,600 young people to integrate into the job market on a sustainable basis or to support them in their career choice process. The ideas received are varied, ranging from training in the digital field for indigenous communities to community gardening for the benefit of the most disadvantaged. [\(June 12\)](#)

- The Government confirmed the implementation of a new immigration program that allows asylum seekers who have provided direct care to patients and seniors since the start of the health crisis to settle permanently in Quebec. [\(August 14\)](#)

Childcare

- The emergency childcare services put in place by the government will remain open and completely free for the essential workers who fight against coronavirus until May 1. [\(March 27\)](#)

Support for Students

- The Government of Quebec announced a six-month respite for student loans. During the six-month period, no payment will be made and no interest will be accrued or added to the student debt. [\(March 20\)](#)

Housing

- The Quebec government is providing an interest-free loan for tenants whose incomes are reduced due to COVID-19 of \$1,500 corresponding to two months of rent. The loan is repayable by August 1, 2021, and without interest. [\(April 29\)](#)
- The Quebec government is providing a temporary accommodation measure to support Quebecers who see their move postponed due to COVID-19. Eligible individuals will receive a maximum of \$2,000 per month for up to two months. In addition, financial assistance of up to \$1,000 will also be provided to cover the storage and moving costs of these households. [\(April 29\)](#)

Support for Businesses

- Quebec announced they will give \$2.5 billion to businesses with liquidity problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The government will be offering loans and loan guarantees of a minimum of \$50,000. [\(March 19\)](#)
- The official opposition is working in collaboration with the government to quickly find flexible economic measures adapted to the reality of Quebec to support SMEs in all regions of Quebec with the following measures:
 - Provide financial assistance of \$2,000 to very small businesses that benefit from the small business deduction.
 - Decrease the threshold eligible for government assistance for businesses from \$50,000 to \$10,000.
 - Increase and anticipate additional assistance to citizens with the solidarity tax credit to quickly provide access to cash. [\(March 26\)](#)
- Quebec will allow businesses to postpone, until June 30, their declaration and their payments in respect of the QST rebates planned for March 31, April 30 and May 31. [\(March 27\)](#)

- In addition, Quebec will speed up the processing of requests for tax credits intended for businesses and tax refunds. [\(March 27\)](#)
- CDPQ is creating a \$4 billion program to support Quebec companies temporarily impacted by COVID-19. The funds will be used to address the specific liquidity needs of companies, whether or not in CDPQ's portfolio, that meet certain criteria, including having been profitable before the COVID-19 crisis, having a promising growth outlook in their sector and seeking financing of over \$5 million. [\(March 30\)](#)
- Quebec is announcing the deferral of payment of the amounts due to retain the right to circulate for commercial vehicles and taxis to September 1, 2020. [\(March 30\)](#)
- The Quebec government announced a new program to support small and medium enterprises that are experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and who need liquidity of less than \$50,000 for their working capital. This initiative is in addition to the Temporary Concerted Action Program for Businesses (PACTE), launched by the Government of Quebec on March 19, which is aimed at businesses needing cash in excess of \$50,000 to their working capital. [\(April 3\)](#)
- The Government of Quebec also announced an extension of the Local Investment Funds (LIF) for two years, until December 31, 2022. New measures to relax the conditions for repaying loans granted under the FLI have also been planned to meet the needs of businesses affected by COVID-19. It will therefore be possible to offer them an additional three-month respite for the repayment of their loan (principal and interest). These new measures are in addition to those announced on March 19 and bring the business respite period to six months. [\(April 3\)](#)
- Announced the allocation of \$100 million for the implementation of the Job Retention Program (PACME). The objective of the program is to enable companies to receive grants to help them cover the costs of training activities. The government offers to reimburse businesses 100 percent of the eligible expenses they incur, for example for trainer's fees, the purchase of equipment and human resources management activities, up to \$100,000. The wages of workers in training will be reimbursed according to the following terms: up to a maximum of \$25 an hour for 25 percent to 100 percent of the total hours paid. [\(April 6\)](#)
- Quebec's 391,000 businesses will have until September 1, 2020 to pay their annual registration fee to the Registraire des entreprises. [\(April 16\)](#)
- The Quebec government and the federal government provide emergency assistance for commercial rent through the federal CECRA program. The Quebec government will contribute to this initiative by covering 25 percent of its costs, an investment of \$137 million. [\(April 24\)](#)
- Following the implementation of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Quebec government announced that it will grant employers a credit on contributions to the Health Services Fund for employees on forced leave. This additional assistance, which offsets costs not covered by the federal government measure, will be in force for the entire duration of the 12-week wage subsidy, which now extends from March 15 to June 6, 2020. [\(April 20\)](#)
- The contribution credit for employers to the Health Services Fund in respect of employees on paid leave is being extended until August 29, 2020. [\(May 29\)](#)

- The payment of the tax balance payable of trusts for 2020 is postponed to September 1, 2020. ([May 29](#))
- Tax legislation is being amended to attribute in certain cases a discretionary power to the Minister of Revenue that allows him to extend, when there are reasonable grounds, the deadline for applying for a refundable tax credit for businesses. ([May 29](#))
- In order to maximize the participation of owners of commercial buildings in Canada's Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program, the Government of Quebec intends to compensate 50 percent of the loss of owners. They, who had to commit to absorb a loss of 25 percent by registering for this program, will thus receive a sum equivalent to 12.5 percent of the total cost of the rent in order to reduce their loss by half. Its application methods will be made public in the coming days. ([June 8](#))
- The Government of Canada, through Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED), is planning to grant up to \$30 million to the PME MTL network through the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#) (RRRF). This support is aimed at Montreal businesses ineligible for other federal measures related to COVID-19 that are already in place. ([June 8](#))
- In addition, the Government of Quebec is contributing \$20 million more to the envelope for the Ville de Montréal under the Aide d'urgence aux petites et moyennes entreprises program to come to the assistance of metropolis SMEs facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. ([June 8](#))
- The Quebec government is extending the deadline to pay the balance of tax from September 1 to September 30, 2020. The measure is consistent with the new deadline announced by the Canada Revenue Agency. ([July 24](#))
- As part of the economic recovery plan for the cultural sector, the government announced the implementation of a new temporary assistance program for theatres. ([August 3](#))
- The Government of Quebec is announcing a 12-week extension of the employer contribution credit to the Health Services Fund for employees on paid leave introduced following the implementation of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. ([August 17](#))

Forestry

- Quebec announced two economic measures aimed at giving respite to businesses in the forestry sector affected by COVID-19. First, to ensure that silvicultural work can be carried out safely in the forest, the timber marketing board has begun to assess the additional costs generated by the introduction of physical distancing and safety measures for silvicultural workers in both the public and private forests. These costs will be added to the silvicultural work tariff grids for the year 2020-2021. Secondly, to lighten the financial load of companies and provide them with the cash resources they need to weather the crisis, Quebec has announced that volumes harvested in the public forests in and after March 2020 will not be invoiced until September 2020. ([April 7](#))
- The Québec government announces the modification of the Reimbursement Program for Multi-Resource Road Costs (PRCM) in order to accelerate payments related to this program. This decision will allow forest industrialists to have more cash. Now, 60 percent of the annual envelope is allocated to beneficiaries when the eligibility conditions are met, 30 percent when the progress report is filed and 10 percent when the

work is completed and in accordance with requirements of the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks. ([May 26](#))

- Government of Quebec is implementing two measures aimed at supporting the forest industry in Outaouais and the Laurentians, with a budget of \$ 14.3 million. ([July 20](#))

Tourism

- The Quebec government announced the postponement of the payment of the lodging tax for the first quarter of 2020, initially scheduled for April 30, 2020, to July 31, 2020. ([April 3](#))
- The Quebec government unveiled its Tourism Recovery Plan, representing nearly \$753 million, to help the tourism sector weather the crisis and prepare for the revival of its activities. ([June 11](#))
- \$446 million is earmarked for the creation of an emergency component for accommodation establishments and tourist attractions, as part of the Temporary Concerted Action Program for Businesses (PACTE). This component will allow businesses to obtain loans and loan guarantees on advantageous terms. It includes borrowing conditions that are even more advantageous for the tourism industry. ([June 11](#))
- A sum of \$200 million for 2020-2021 will be devoted to supporting investment in business tourism in the hotel environment, one of the most profitable forms of tourism. Managed by Investissement Québec, this new component of PADAT is created to financially support renovations or upgrades to hotel establishments. It will make it possible to obtain loans, on advantageous terms, which can cover up to 80 percent of the eligible expenses of projects whose minimum cost would amount to \$125,000.
- To support development projects of regional tourism businesses, the government is adding regional partnership agreements in tourism (EPRT) by allocating a sum of \$25 million, \$15 million for 2020 to 2021 and \$10 million for 2021-2022. ([June 11](#))
- In order to allow hotel establishments and lodges to conserve cash, the Government of Quebec has decided to pay a subsidy equivalent to the amount of the tax on tourist accommodation paid for the first quarter of 2020. This financial assistance is estimated at \$ 13.8 million. ([June 11](#))
- A sum of \$20 million will benefit Quebecers who choose to take their vacation in Quebec. This measure is divided into three parts: reduce the cost of visitor access to tourist attractions in Quebec, 50 percent discount will be offered on the annual Parc national du Québec card and Quebecers will therefore be able to benefit from a 25 percent discount on the sale price of packages to Quebec regions offered by eligible travel agencies. ([June 11](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Quebec announced an investment of \$45 million to attract Quebec workers to the fields. This investment will notably finance four measures which aim to ensure a regular supply of foodstuffs to the population in the context of the current pandemic:
 - a bonus of \$100 to seasonal agricultural workers for a minimum work of 25 hours per week;
 - the creation of a new program for the displacement of the workforce which takes into account the rules of social distancing in force;

- the establishment of squads on the ground which will intervene at the time of the integration of new workers (minimum of five employees to integrate) to support agricultural producers in the training of new workers;
- financial support granted to the 12 agricultural employment centers, to meet the needs of twinning agricultural businesses with new workers. [\(April 17\)](#)
- Loan of up to \$50,000 to support working capital:
 - In order to contribute to the continuation of the activities of agricultural and agrifood businesses, a loan guarantee of up to \$50,000, without taking out any movable or real estate guarantee, may be quickly granted by the FADQ. This measure is accessible to all of the FADQ's funding clientele experiencing temporary liquidity problems related to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In addition to benefiting from a 10-year repayment period and a 12-month capital payment leave, clients will benefit from the advantageous interest rate of the FADQ. To make a request, they must contact their FADQ financing advisor. [\(April 17\)](#)
- Acceleration of payment of investment subsidies
 - Payments of investment subsidies provided on June 1 were preceded at May 1. These payments represent an amount of nearly \$7 million and are part of the following programs: Support program for regional diversification and development (PDDR), Support program for the development of agricultural enterprises in Quebec (PADEAQ) and Program to support the financing of investments in animal welfare and energy efficiency (PSFI). [\(April 17\)](#)
- AgriStability: interim payment going from 50 percent to 75 percent of program benefits
 - Interim payments make it possible to obtain a percentage of the program's benefits more quickly. To request it, producers must contact the financial data collection and processing team. [\(April 17\)](#)
- The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, André Lamontagne, announces financial assistance of \$ 50,000 for the Association des Marchés public authorities of Quebec (AMPQ) for the deployment of a digital transactional platform for the purchase of local bio-food products. [\(April 24\)](#)

Employment Standards

- The Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Solidarity confirms that the employment relationship of employees Quebec will be protected if they have to take time off work due to COVID-19. [\(Sept 9\)](#)

New Brunswick

Support for Individuals

- The provincial government will provide a one-time income benefit to either workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency. This one-time \$900 benefit will be administered through the Red Cross and will help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business and to when they receive their federal benefit. Further details on how to apply will follow in coming days. [\(March 24\)](#)
- Announced earlier this week is \$4.5 million investment for workers who have recently become unemployed. The benefit will help to bridge the gap between when a person lost their job or closed their business after March 15, to when the national benefit takes effect. The objective will be to provide access to the benefit before the end of March. The benefit will end on April 30. [\(March 26\)](#)
- Applications for the 2020 Low-income Seniors' Benefit, will be available on April 1. To be eligible for the \$400 benefit, a person must have been a resident of New Brunswick on Dec. 31, 2019, and have received one of the following federal benefits under the Old Age Security Act. [\(March 29\)](#)
- Applications for the New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit will end at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9. [\(April 7\)](#)
- WorkingNB services are available to any New Brunswick employer or job-seeker looking for support. Staff are available to provide services over the phone, and more options will be available in the near future. [\(April 30\)](#)
- The province has sent a written request to the federal finance minister outlining a program to provide a monthly top-up of approximately \$500 for 16 weeks for front-line workers in a number of sectors. Those eligible for the funding include employees in early learning and child care facilities, home support, special care homes, community residences and group homes, homeless shelters and food banks, and domestic violence outreach and transition homes. Workers must earn \$18 per hour or less to be eligible. The top-up will be paid by employers every four weeks. Workers at early learning and child care facilities will receive their top-up retroactive to May 19 and it will continue for 16 weeks. All other sectors will be paid retroactively from March 19 to July 9. [\(May 20\)](#)
- The government has made amendments to the federally funded essential worker wage top-up program. The program now includes private sector home care support workers and early learning and childcare enhanced support workers who provide direct client care. [\(July 14\)](#)
- A subsidy program will be available for students from low- and middle-income families who do not currently own a device. Families will be provided with up to \$600 per high school student to purchase a laptop through the program, depending on their eligibility. [\(July 22\)](#)

Childcare

- The provincial government is working to minimize the financial impacts that childcare facility closures are having on parents. The government has committed to covering the fees of anyone who has lost their income due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. It will also continue to provide parent subsidies as scheduled. ([March 20](#))

Support for Students

- Earlier this week, the federal government announced a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada student loans. This will also be the case for provincial student loans. ([March 20](#))
- The Emergency Bridging Fund for Vulnerable Post-Secondary Students will support students who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be distributed by post-secondary institutions based upon eligibility criteria and will provide a one-time amount of up to \$750 per student. ([April 3](#))

Housing

- The mandatory order under the Emergency Measures Act suspends the right for landlords to evict tenants for non-payment of rent, through to May 31. People can still be evicted. However, the reason for the eviction cannot be that they are unable to pay their rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([April 3](#))
- Landlords and tenants are reminded that the section of the province's state of emergency that prevented evictions for non-payment of rent will end on May 31. After that date, landlords will be authorized to serve tenants with a notice to vacate for non-payment of rent. ([May 19](#))

Support for Businesses

- Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19. ([March 20](#))
- WorkSafeNB is deferring the collection of assessment premiums for three months. The current interest rate is prime plus three percent. The rate will be reduced to zero percent to align with the three-month deferral. ([March 26](#))
- On a case-by-case basis, the provincial government will defer loan and interest repayments for existing business loans with government departments for up to six months. Businesses can request deferrals by contacting the department that issued the loan. ([March 26](#))
- Small business owners will be eligible for loans up to \$200,000. They will not be required to pay principal on their loan for up to 12 months. ([March 26](#))
- The province will provide working capital of more than \$200,000 to help medium-sized to large employers manage the effects of COVID-19 on their operations. Businesses can apply directly to Opportunities NB. ([March 26](#))
- Small, medium and large employers in New Brunswick whose businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 can now apply to the provincial government for loans for working capital. The new loans are to support

New Brunswick-based companies. A total of \$50 million has been allocated for two distinct loan programs for working capital. [\(April 7\)](#)

- Businesses with human resource challenges, including with recruitment, retention or training, can contact WorkingNB for support through a workforce consultant. [\(April 30\)](#)

Employment Standards

- Legislative and regulatory amendments will be introduced to provide job protection for workers who must take a leave of absence due to COVID-19. It will allow an unpaid leave of up to 15 weeks to New Brunswickers who have COVID-19 or are caring for someone with the virus. [\(March 26\)](#)
- Job protection is now in place, retroactive to March 12, for those who are not able to work because they have COVID-19, are caring for a person with whom they have a close family relationship who has the virus, or are following self-isolation or quarantine protocols as directed by Public Health. [\(April 30\)](#)

Nova Scotia

Supports for Individuals

- Investing \$2.2 million so that every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50 starting Friday, March 20, to help pay for food, cleaning supplies and personal care items. People do not need to apply. [\(March 19\)](#)
- Partnering with Telus to provide 100 phones and calling plans to most-vulnerable clients who have no other means of communication and who may be self-isolated and alone at a cost of \$50,000 for the phones and \$5,000 per month for the calling plans. [\(March 27\)](#)
- \$20 million Worker Emergency Bridge Fund to help the self-employed and those laid-off workers who do not qualify for Employment Insurance. Government will provide a one-time, \$1,000 payment, to bridge the gap between layoffs and closures and the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit. [\(April 2\)](#)
- Applications for the \$40 million Worker Emergency Bridge Fund and Small Business Impact Grant will be available and accepted starting Friday, April 10. [\(April 9\)](#)
- The Essential Health Care Workers Program will see health-care workers receive a bonus of up to \$2,000 after a four-month period, beginning March 13. It includes eligible employees at the Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK Health Centre and in long-term care, home care and in-home support and emergency health services. [\(May 7\)](#)
- In July, government will expand the Nova Scotia Child Benefit to include more families, while also raising the amount eligible families receive. Families with incomes below \$34,000 will now be eligible. Previously, only those earning \$26,000 or less qualified. The amount will also increase from \$625 per year to \$925 annually for the first child for all eligible families. [\(June 29\)](#)

Housing

- No tenant can be evicted because their income has been impacted by COVID-19, effective immediately for the next three months. [\(March 19\)](#)

Supports for Students

- Payment on Nova Scotia student loans will be suspended for six months, from March 30 to Sept. 30 and students do not have to apply. [\(March 20\)](#)

Supports for Businesses

- Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans and small business fees, including business renewal fees and workers compensation premiums. [\(March 20\)](#)
- Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through credit unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30, enhancing the program to make it easier for

businesses to access credit up to \$500,000, and for those who might not qualify for a loan, government will guarantee the first \$100,000. [\(March 20\)](#)

- Small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days. [\(March 20\)](#)
- Government is encouraging retail and commercial landlords to defer lease payments for the next three months for businesses that had to close directly due to the public health order. Landlords who participate by granting such businesses a three-month deferral and register by April 3 will be able to claim losses of up to \$5,000 per month, if the renting business does not continue operating. [\(March 27\)](#)
- \$20 million to fund the Small Business Impact Grant. Eligible small businesses and social enterprises will receive a grant of 15 per cent of their gross revenues -- either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000. This flexible, one-time, upfront grant can be used for any purpose necessary. [\(April 2\)](#)
- Applications for the \$40 million Worker Emergency Bridge Fund and Small Business Impact Grant will be available and accepted starting Friday, April 10. [\(April 9\)](#)
- Nova Scotia announced that payment for more than 480 small-business fees will be deferred until June 30 to keep cash in small business hands. [\(April 9\)](#)
- The COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support Program is a temporary stream for access to credit, cash grants and support delivered through participating credit unions. The program will be available starting Wednesday, April 29. To be eligible, small businesses must have a payroll less than \$20,000 in the previous fiscal year and have experienced a decline in revenue from sales of at least 15 percent in March or at least 30 percent in April, May or June. Upon approval, businesses will receive a grant up to \$1,500, as well as a COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher of up to \$1,500, to help hire a private consultant for advice and support. [\(April 24\)](#)
- Nova Scotia is partnering with the federal government to provide commercial rent relief for small businesses that have temporarily ceased operations or experienced a 70 percent revenue decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The province is contributing \$9 million to the program. [\(April 24\)](#)
- Eligible businesses, non-profits, charities and social enterprises will be able to access the new Small Business Reopening and Support Grant, a \$25 million fund that will provide grants to help them open safely and business continuity vouchers for advice and support to become more resilient in the coming months. Applications will begin June 1. [\(May 27\)](#)
- The application deadline for the Small Business Reopening and Support Grant has been extended to Friday, July 17, to allow more time for businesses to apply. [\(July 2\)](#)

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- The provincial government announced nearly \$13 million in funding to create jobs in the agriculture sector and assist farmers and producers. The funding is part of a plan to support employment in rural communities and help open new markets and products for renewable resource-based businesses during the COVID-19 global pandemic. [\(June 19\)](#)

Forestry

- A three-member trustee board will oversee spending decisions of a \$50 million trust fund that will continue to advance the transition and development of Nova Scotia's forestry sector. First announced in February, the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust may be accessed by companies, organizations or post-secondary institutions working and researching in the forestry and biological resources sectors. The trust expects to open for applications in July. ([June 16](#))

Support for Local Governments

- A new operating loan program is being introduced to help municipalities with financial losses due to COVID-19. The \$380 million loan program, which was developed in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Association of Municipal Administrators, will be available through the Municipal Finance Corporation. ([April 28](#))

Prince Edward Island

Both Individuals and Businesses

- PEI announced an initial \$25 million Emergency Contingency Fund to support Island workers, including the self-employed, and small businesses who are affected by COVID-19. ([March 16](#))
- PEI announced a \$15 million increase to the Emergency Contingency Fund in anticipation of the evolving critical needs of Island families, workers and businesses. ([April 3](#))
- Islanders are encouraged to share their innovative, bold and sustainable ideas with the Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth and help shape Prince Edward Island's future. Islanders can [share their ideas online](#) with the Council to guide the development of a plan to move the province forward over the coming months and years. Islanders will have until September 15 to submit their ideas online. ([Aug 11](#))

Supports for Individuals

- Emergency Income Relief for the self-employed will provide \$500 per week lump sum for self-employed Islanders, delivered through Innovation PEI. ([March 17](#))
- Province of Prince Edward Island announced a temporary allowance of \$200 per week for anyone who has experienced a significant drop in their working hours. ([March 18](#))
- The Employee Gift Card Program is a temporary program put in place to offer a \$100 Sobeys gift card to any employee, living and working on Prince Edward Island, who has received a lay-off notice as a direct result of the impacts associated with COVID-19. The application form is to be completed by the employer, who will then distribute the cards to affected employees. The cost of the program is being shared by Sobeys and the provincial government. ([March 24](#))
- The COVID-19 Income Support Program will help Islanders bridge the gap between their loss of income and Employment Insurance benefits or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This fund provides a one-time, taxable payment of \$750. Islanders who, as of March 13, 2020, have lost their job or have been laid off, have had their Employment Insurance benefits expire and do not yet have a job to return to, or are self-employed and have lost all revenues through self-employment may be eligible. ([April 1](#))
- PEI announced a \$1 million fund for Islanders who may not qualify for existing support programs. The COVID-19 Special Situations Fund will provide up to \$1,000 to Islanders who have experienced urgent income loss as a result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for other federal and provincial funding support. ([April 2](#))
- The government of PEI announced the \$16.7 million COVID-19 Incentive to Support Essential Workers. This temporary wage top-up program is for Island workers employed by any business or organization, including for-profit, non-profit or other entity providing essential services. Essential workers who have been working through the pandemic and make less than \$3,000 per four-week period will receive a one-time payment of \$1,000 through their employers. Employers can fill out the application form on behalf of their eligible employees. ([May 7](#))

Childcare

- Establishing a fund of up to \$2 million to support early learning centres and their staff, maintain childcare spaces and ensure parents do not pay fees during the period of closures. ([March 21](#))

Support for Students

- Suspending repayments for provincial student loans for the next six months. ([March 21](#))
- In total, the Province will support the creation of 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through increases to current employment programs and partnerships with community and industry. ([April 14](#))
- PEI also announced enhancements through the Jobs for Youth Program to community, environment, and non-government organizations to create 280 student employment opportunities. ([April 14](#))
- Through the Farm Team Program, students returning to post-secondary studies in the fall will receive a \$2,000 bursary and students returning to high school will receive a \$1,000 bursary. The bursary amounts were doubled over last year to encourage more students work in agriculture. ([May 5](#))

Housing

- \$1 million Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit will be available to assist Island households that are currently renting and have seen an unexpected loss of income due to COVID-19. ([March 30](#))
- PEI announced the Prince Edward Island Housing Corporation would be extending its moratorium on evictions to the end of June. ([March 30](#))
- The Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit will provide \$1,000 per household to help cover the cost of rent for a three- month period. Eligible Islanders will receive \$500 in the first month they apply and \$250 the next two months. ([April 2](#))
- The province confirms that eviction orders will not be enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. ([April 2](#))
- Additional financial measures were announced to help Islanders with property tax relief through amendments to the Real Property Tax Act regulations.
 - Deferring provincial property tax and fee payments until December 31, 2020;
 - Extending property assessment appeal deadlines for assessment year 2020 to December 31, 2020;
 - Providing interest relief for tax year 2020, including all past due amounts;
 - Suspending tax sale processes for the remainder of 2020; and
 - Delaying mailing of provincial tax bills for 2020 until June. ([April 3](#))

Supports for Businesses

- Emergency Working Capital Financing, which will provide support for small businesses through a capital loan of up to \$100,000 with a fixed interest rate of 4 percent per annum, to be delivered through Finance PEI. ([March 17](#))
- Deferring all scheduled loan payments for clients of Finance PEI, Island Investment Development Inc., and the PEI Century Fund for the next three months. ([March 18](#))
- Providing \$4.5 million to Community Business Development Corporations across the province to deliver financing to small business and entrepreneurs. ([March 18](#))
- PEI announced the new Commercial Lease Rent Deferral Program to support small and medium-sized businesses who have closed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Landlords who defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for three months (May-July) could be eligible for financial assistance (up to a maximum of \$50,000 per landlord and \$15,000 per tenant) if the deferred rent can't be recovered. ([March 30](#))
- PEI announced the new COVID-19 Business Adaptation Advice Program. It covers the entire cost for businesses and entrepreneurs, up to \$2,500, to hire a professional to provide advice and support on how to adapt or recover from the impacts of the pandemic. ([April 2](#))
- PEI announced that the province is extending the deadline for Jobs for Youth to April 30 to allow employers ample time to apply for wage subsidies from this program. ([April 8](#))
- To help Island business retain their current employees, Minister Fox announced an increase to private sector wage subsidies through the Employment Development Agency. The subsidy will increase from 50 percent of wages to 75 percent of wages. ([April 14](#))
- The government announced an expansion of the Post-Secondary Employment Program through Skills PEI. The program supports 100 per cent of student wages for government and non-government organizations and will now support 75 per cent wage funding for the private sector, up from 50 per cent. ([April 14](#))
- The government announced the COVID-19 Workspace Adaption Assistance Fund to help small businesses purchase and install protective measures such as plexiglass dividers or handwashing stations to safeguard employees and customers. Businesses can receive up to \$2,000 and the program will be retroactive to March 16th to support businesses that have already put measures in place to operate safely. ([May 7](#))
- The Employment Development Agency will provide funding for an additional 200 employment positions to businesses in rural PEI, through the Rural Jobs Initiative which helps rural business owners to recruit, hire, and train staff and supports innovation in rural communities across the province. ([June 30](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- PEI announced a new \$750,000 COVID-19 Strategic Fund for Agriculture under the Canada Agriculture Partnership to help commodities and small processors adapt to the pandemic. Eligible projects could include changing a workplace environment to accommodate physical distancing, doing more business on-line, or adjusting quickly to changing markets. ([April 9](#))

- PEI announced an expansion of the Team Seafood program to encourage more Island youth to participate in the fishing and aquaculture industries. Through Team Seafood, the province provides a bursary, on top of employee wages, to high school or post-secondary students. The province will support 250 new placements through this program. [\(April 14\)](#)
- To increase the COVID-related supports provided by the province's post-secondary institutions to students in immediate need, Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning Brad Trivers announced a total of \$95,000 to support the UPEI Student Union, Holland College and Collège de l'Île. [\(April 14\)](#)
- In order to support the potato industry of Prince Edward Island, the Province of Prince Edward Island is working with producers and processors to provide \$4.7 million towards shipping and storage costs of potatoes for processing. This investment will help mitigate a potato surplus resulting from market conditions related to COVID-19. [\(April 23\)](#)
- Through the Department of Agriculture and Land's Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs, the province will help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farm operations, with up to \$8.8 million in support for farmers being available through the BRM programs for the next two years. [\(April 23\)](#)
- The AgriStability Program package includes paying the provincial portion of the costs to increase the coverage level for producers enrolled in the program from 70 percent to 85 percent and removing the reference margin limit which will have a positive impact on the livestock industry. In addition, the province is offering interim payments of up to 75 percent to get funding into producer's hands in a timely manner. When combined, this will provide an estimated \$5.6 million in support for farmers over two years. [\(April 23\)](#)
- The AgriInsurance Program will offer a 10 percent discount on the producer's share of insurance premiums, saving farmers an estimated \$3.2 million over two years. [\(April 23\)](#)
- Through the Farm Team Program, students returning to post-secondary studies in the fall will receive a \$2,000 bursary and students returning to high school will receive a \$1,000 bursary. The bursary amounts were doubled over last year to encourage more students work in agriculture. [\(May 5\)](#)
- The Prince Edward Island Fish Emergency Loan Program, a targeted loan portfolio offered by Finance PEI and the PEI Credit Unions, will provide loans up to \$25,000 to Islander harvesters at 4 percent interest over a five-year term. The principal will be deferred for the first 18 months. In addition, the Department of Fisheries and Communities will pay interest on behalf of the borrower for the first 18 months. [\(May 7\)](#)
- The Interest Relief Program will support fish harvesters with up to 12 months of interest relief and service debt costs on a maximum of \$250 million at an average interest rate of 5 percent. Fish harvesters that can demonstrate a 30 per cent or more decrease in fish-related revenues for the 2020 fishing season will be eligible. [\(May 7\)](#)

Tourism

- The government announced a new \$50 million tourism assistance loan facility through Finance PEI, with maximum financing of up to \$1 million at four percent interest available for working capital. Both the principal payments on the loan, as well as interest, will be deferred for the first 18 months. [\(April 16\)](#)

- Additionally, the province will provide interest relief on existing loans to tourism business for up to 18 months. (April 16)
- Recognizing the need to support the tourism industry's quick recovery, the province announced \$1 million towards expanded marketing. As well, the province is waiving the licensing, inspection and Tourism PEI advertising fees for the 2020 operating season. (April 16)

Newfoundland and Labrador

Supports for Individuals

- The Provincial Government released details on the Newfoundland and Labrador COVID-19 Essential Worker Support Program. Employers will begin to receive payments on behalf of the employees starting in July and will then submit payments as part of their regular payroll remittance. The application for compensation will be available after the 16-week eligibility period. Employers can begin submitting applications on July 6, 2020 and will have until July 30, 2020 in which to apply. The province will provide an additional 10 per cent of the eligible amount to employers to offset mandatory related payroll costs from this process. ([June 15](#))
- The government released details today on a Pandemic Relief Grant that will benefit households in isolated Labrador communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A grant in the amount of \$250 will be issued to 1,213 households in nine communities. ([July 9](#))

Childcare

- To ensure families do not have to pay childcare fees and that early childhood educators can continue to be paid while centres are closed due to COVID-19, the provincial government will provide funding to regulated childcare centres and family childcare homes at the childcare subsidy program rates for all licensed spaces. ([March 22](#))

Support for Students

- NL announced the temporary suspension of the repayment of the provincial portion of Canada Student Loans for a period of six months. ([March 22](#))
- For individuals with provincial student loans in default and who file income tax returns with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) from April 9, 2020 to September 30, 2020 which results in a refund, including GST credits, CRA will send refunds, including GST credits, directly to individuals instead of the provincial government. ([April 9](#))

Housing

- Ensure tenants of rental properties cannot be evicted if they have lost income resulting from COVID-19 and not able to pay rent. ([March 26](#))

Supports for Businesses

- A number of tax return filing deadlines are being altered and remission of interest and penalties is available to help support businesses dealing with circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, with some deadlines being altered to June 1, 2020 or June 23, 2020. ([April 7](#))
- In an effort to help alleviate financial hardship on businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador during COVID-19, the Provincial Government has amended the Credit Union Regulations, 2009 to allow credit unions to avail of the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program. The federal initiative, announced on March 27, provides up to \$40,000 in commercial loans to businesses to alleviate unusual

financial pressures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding is provided to qualifying businesses through an application process designed by Export Development Canada and must be made through the business's primary financial institution. [\(April 24\)](#)

- The provincial government is providing compensation for private sector employers for continuation of pay to employees who were required to self-isolate for 14-days due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions. This includes individuals who are self-employed. The maximum amount of funding under the provincial program will be \$500 per week for each employee (to a combined maximum of \$1,000 per week for each employee when receiving both federal CEWS funding and provincial funding). The amount paid under this program will depend on federal funding received. [\(April 29\)](#)
- Current deferral of loan payments, under the Innovation and Business Investment Corporation's Business Investment Fund, has been increased to six months. This measure sees an additional three months added to the original three-month deferral action announced on March 18, 2020, which started with April payments. [\(May 6\)](#)
- The hiring eligibility for commercial Research and Development (R&D) projects will be temporarily increased. Specifically, salary support for up to six positions may be considered for eligible commercial R&D projects. The positions may include existing employees, new or a combination of both. This temporary policy pertains to applications approved between April 1 and September 30, 2020. [\(May 6\)](#)
- Contribution levels have been temporarily increased for eligible project applications under R&D commercial and Business Development Support. Eligible costs will now be covered up to 75 percent, up from 50 percent, for applications approved between April 1 and September 30, 2020. [\(May 6\)](#)
- The government announced \$300,000 in funding to launch a new Students Supporting Communities Program. The program provides a \$3,500 grant to organizations that enables them to hire students to help seniors and other vulnerable groups facing social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The call for applications from employers, including community organizations, will open Friday, May 15, 2020. [\(May 15\)](#)
- Collection of WorkplaceNL assessments from employers has been deferred to after August 31, 2020, with no interest or penalties. [\(May 22\)](#)
- Clearance letters will continue to be provided during the payment deferral period to allow contractors that meet certain reporting criteria to continue to bid on work and operate. [\(May 22\)](#)
- The interest-free payment plan for workplace injury insurance is extended beyond 2020 to March 31, 2021 to allow employers more flexibility to pay. [\(May 22\)](#)
- Safety training certificates are extended to August 31, 2020 for confined space entry, fall protection, mine rescue, power line hazards, traffic control person, first aid and Occupational Health and Safety Committee members. [\(May 22\)](#)
- Licences will not be cancelled for non-application for renewals until the public health restrictions have been lifted for real estate salespersons and agents; mortgage brokers; insurance companies; insurance adjusters, agents, representatives and brokers; and prepaid funeral services. [\(May 22\)](#)

- New licence applications will be processed for real estate salespersons and agents; mortgage brokers; insurance companies; and insurance adjusters, representatives, agents and brokers. ([May 22](#))
- Businesses are eligible to have a portion of vehicle registration fees for vehicles registered to the business refunded, if they are not in use. ([May 22](#))
- Commercial vehicles of 4,500 kilograms or greater are not required to have their safety inspection completed while they are not operational. ([May 22](#))
- Deferral of the requirement for businesses to file yearly returns under Companies and Deeds Online (CADO) and remittance of the accompanying filing fee. ([May 22](#))
- A local preference provision has been added to the Public Procurement Regulations to increase the procurement threshold to help local businesses. This provision will mandate an allowance of ten per cent for local suppliers for all procurements, to the maximum permitted under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. ([June 1](#))
- All tax returns, with the exception of tax returns required from interjurisdictional carriers, falling under the purview of the Revenue Administration Act and Regulations, which would otherwise be due March 20, 2020 to July 31, 2020, are now due August 20, 2020. The tax returns applicable to this extension include Gasoline Tax, Carbon Tax, Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax, Insurance Companies Tax, Mining and Mineral Rights Tax, Tax on Insurance Premiums and Tobacco Tax. ([June 8](#))
- The expiry date for Fuel Tax Exemption Permits, allowing permit holders to purchase tax-exempt marked gasoline and light fuel oil, that were originally set to expire on March 31, 2020 has been further extended to August 31, 2020. Gasoline and carbon product retailers throughout the province are authorized to accept such permits and continue to sell marked diesel and light fuel oil exempt of gasoline and carbon tax to these permit holders up to and including August 31, 2020. ([June 17](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Funding applications for the 2020-21 Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program are now available to help current farmers and new entrants prepare for the upcoming season. The Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program will invest \$2.25 million in agriculture programs in 2020-21, with priority on projects that support food self-sufficiency, increase agricultural growth and secondary processing and generate employment. Successful program applicants will also be eligible for cash advances to ensure funding is available early in the season when needed. ([March 24](#))
- Fisheries and Land Resources is working to address Newfoundland and Labrador's food security needs during the COVID-19 pandemic by nearly doubling the volume of vegetable transplants available under the Vegetable Transplant Program – from 1.7 million transplants in 2019 to three million in 2020 – to assist eligible commercial vegetable producers in the upcoming growing season. ([May 6](#))
- Payment of water use charges for 2019 related to microbreweries and wineries and aquaculture due in the 2020-21 fiscal year have been waived. Payment of water use charges for all other industries will be deferred until March 31, 2021. ([May 22](#))

- Elimination or offer of rebates on aquaculture licence fees, and deferral of annual Crown Lands fees for aquaculture sites. [\(May 22\)](#)
- Full rebate of base fish processor and buyer licensing fees to assist fish processing plants and fish buyers. [\(May 22\)](#)
- has announced a \$400,000-seafood marketing and innovation fund that will support the marketing of seafood products for retail and establish other markets for seafood sales in light of the impact of COVID-19 on restaurant sales. [\(July 30\)](#)

Hospitality

- In support of licensees, which includes lounges, bars and restaurants, effective immediately the NLC will waive liquor license fees for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Also, the NLC will work with the licensee community to return general list product in an effort to help with working capital. The NLC is also temporarily waiving warehousing service fees for microbrewers with annual production of 1,000 hectolitres or less for those who use the NLC's distribution network. [\(May 1\)](#)
- To further assist the province's beverage industry, the NLC has been approved to implement a wholesale pricing discount for licensees, by providing a five per cent discount for wines and spirits, and ready to drink beverages. [\(May 1\)](#)
- Additionally, government has approved an increase in product commission discounts for craft breweries, wineries, distilleries and cideries producing 1,000 hectolitres or less to 55 percent for non-NLC distributed products. [\(May 1\)](#)
- Payment of water use charges for 2019 related to microbreweries and wineries and aquaculture due in the 2020-21 fiscal year have been waived. Payment of water use charges for all other industries will be deferred until March 31, 2021. [\(May 22\)](#)

Tourism

- Under the Tourism and Hospitality Support Program, eligible small and medium-sized tourism operators will be able to apply for a one-time, non-repayable working capital contribution on June 8th of either \$5,000 or \$10,000, dependent on gross sales. [\(May 25\)](#)

Mining, Mineral Exploration and Quarry

- Deferral of rental and fee payments associated with land tenure issued under the Mineral Act and Quarry Materials Act until December 31, 2020. The date range to be qualified for deferral is March 18, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Items being deferred include mining and surface lease rentals, mineral licence renewal fees, application and reapplication fees and rentals for quarry permits, quarry lease rental, and hectarage fees for quarry materials exploration licence applications. [\(June 8\)](#)
- Waiver of water use charge payments for 2019 related to mineral exploration. [\(June 8\)](#)
- Waiver of mineral assessment expenditure requirements for mineral licences for one year – from March 18, 2020 to March 17, 2021. [\(June 8\)](#)

Forestry

- The province today announced \$9.6 million in funding to create jobs and develop forest sector products and markets. New initiatives include \$5.7 million for forest industry development projects, \$400,000 for secondary forestry processing innovation pilot projects, and \$3.5 million to establish forestry biomass market opportunities. ([June 12](#))

Employment Standards

- Provide employees with protections from losing their job if they must take time away from work as a result of COVID-19. ([March 26](#))
- The Provincial Government has extended the period that an employee can remain temporarily laid off to 26 weeks in a period of 33 consecutive weeks, previously 13 weeks in a period of 20 consecutive weeks. The time period for making a complaint to the Director of Labour Standards has also been temporarily extended to 12 months from its previous six months. Both extensions are retroactive to March 18, 2020 and will end on September 18, 2020. ([June 12](#))

Yukon

Supports for Individuals

- Changes were made to the Yukon Basic Personal Amount under the Income Tax Act geared towards low and middle-income earners to save Yukoners' money. ([March 19](#))
- A new rebate program for Yukon employers to benefit workers and self-employed individuals. This rebate will cover a maximum of 10 days of wages per employee or 10 days of average daily earnings per self-employed individual to allow for a 14-day self-isolation period. ([March 27](#))
- The Government of Yukon ensuring that women vulnerable to violence in Yukon have safe access to cell phones and the internet during COVID-19 by providing 325 phones with capability for voice and internet access to vulnerable women for the next four months. ([April 4](#))
- The Government of Yukon has extended the deadline for property tax payments from July 2 to September 2, 2020 for citizens and businesses. ([April 24](#))
- Yukoners receiving Social Assistance benefits will not experience a reduction if they receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Additional support is also available for Yukoners receiving Social Assistance benefits who are waiting to receive their CERB payments. ([April 27](#))
- The Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program will provide low-income essential workers with a wage subsidy of up to \$4.00 per hour to a maximum of \$20.00 per hour for up to 16 weeks. All services identified as critical or essential in the Guidelines for the delivery of critical, essential and other services are eligible. Employers may choose when the 16-week benefit is applied between March 15, 2020, and October 3, 2020. ([May 22](#))
- Families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 12 who have been impacted by COVID-19 are eligible for \$250 per student from the Government of Yukon. ([May 19](#))
- Residential tenants who are under a health protection measure after June 25 or who need to breach their tenancy agreement because they are under a COVID-19 health protection order will continue to be protected from eviction. As of July 1, all tenants must pay their rent in full as set in their tenancy agreements, unless they are prevented from doing so because they are subject to a health protection measure. ([June 12](#))

Housing

- The Government of Yukon passed new regulations under the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act today. These regulations prevent evictions over the next 90 days for residential tenants who are self-isolating or unable to pay their rent on time due to COVID-19. ([March 27](#))
- Tenants living in private non-subsidized market rental housing in Yukon who have lost 30 per cent or more of their income due to COVID-19 are eligible for a grant through the new COVID-19 Rent Assist program to help cover rent from April to June 2020. Eligible households can receive 50% of median market rent based

on unit size using the Whitehorse median market rent. The grant will be paid directly to landlords on behalf of tenants. [\(May 11\)](#)

- Tenants and landlords who are affected by income losses during the COVID-19 pandemic can continue to receive support from the Government of Yukon's COVID-19 Rent Assist program. Tenants living in private non-subsidized market rental housing in Yukon who have lost 30 per cent or more of their income due to COVID-19 are eligible for a grant to help cover rent in July, August and September 2020. Eligible households can receive 50 per cent of median market rent based on unit size. [\(July 10\)](#)
- In June, the Government of Yukon passed a ministerial order that protects tenants from eviction for non-payment of rent if they are under a health protection measure and allowed tenants who deferred rent payments due to income lost due to COVID-19 will have until December 31, 2020 to repay the outstanding amount to their landlord. [\(July 10\)](#)

Childcare

- Yukon's licensed childcare centres and family day homes will receive additional funding to provide care to children during the COVID-19 response and beyond it. The Government of Yukon will cover staff wages as well as eligible building expenses, including rent, utilities and cleaning costs. [\(April 6\)](#)

Students

- The Staffing Up labour market funding program together with the Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program will provide employers with up to \$20 per hour for each new student position hired into critical and essential service positions, to a maximum of 40 hours per week and 16 weeks of employment. [\(May 22\)](#)

Supports for Businesses

- Reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 by establishing a grant program to address certain expenses related to cancelled events. [\(March 16\)](#)
- Stimulate business and the tourism industry by waiving, reimbursing or delaying government fee collection, such as airport landing fees. [\(March 16\)](#)
- Relieve financial pressures by deferring Workers' Compensation Health and Safety premium payments and reimburse those paid up-front, waive penalties and interest. [\(March 16\)](#)
- Budget Measures Implementation Act 2020 will reduce the small business tax rate from two per cent to zero per cent. It also expands the eligibility for the Business Investment Tax Credit. [\(March 16\)](#)
- The Government of Yukon has established a COVID-19 Business Advisory Council to ensure the needs of Yukon's business community are heard to address the economic impacts of COVID-19. [\(March 25\)](#)
- Minister Pillai announced the Temporary Support for Events Funding Program, which will help businesses recover certain costs from the cancellation of major events due to COVID-19. All eligible Yukon businesses and NGOs may apply. [\(April 1\)](#)

- The Yukon Business Relief Program will help Yukon businesses that have experienced a 30 percent reduction in revenue and require immediate relief. Eligible businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 per month to cover fixed costs from March 23 to May 22, 2020. ([April 9](#))
- The Government of Yukon has extended the deadline for property tax payments from July 2 to September 2, 2020 for citizens and businesses. ([April 24](#))
- The Yukon Business Relief Program has been extended to July 23, 2020. It helps Yukon businesses that have experienced a 30 per cent reduction in revenue and need immediate support to cover fixed costs, including rent, utilities and business insurance. Eligible businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 per month to cover fixed costs. ([May 20](#))
- Restaurants and other businesses with a liquor licence will continue to receive a discount of 25 per cent off the retail price of liquor until November 1, 2020. ([August 5](#))

Tourism

- Support the tourism industry with enhanced local advertising efforts. ([March 16](#))
- The Government of Yukon has announced a one-time \$1 million increase to its Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF), bringing the total available funding to \$1.7 million for the 2020–21 fiscal year. ([March 27](#))

Arts

- To help address the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the arts and culture sectors, \$275,000 will be available through three temporary funding initiatives. ([March 27](#))

Air Transportation

- The Government of Yukon is waiving all airport landing, aircraft parking fees and loading fees in Yukon. ([March 26](#))
- Yukon's aviation sector will receive \$3.56 million in support to help compensate for lost revenues as a result of COVID-19. Of this funding, \$1.1 million will be directed to Air North over three months to ensure the continued operation of critical routes to the North. ([May 4](#))
- Yukon aviation businesses will benefit from the waiving of commercial fees. The new fee waivers include land lease and licence fees and building lease and licence fees, among others. These fees are waived from April 1 until December 31, 2020. ([May 4](#))
- The territory announced it will allocate \$2.944 million to airlines and rotary wing operators in the Northwest Territories. The GNWT is providing this funding directly to airlines and rotary wing operators during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that these companies can continue to provide connections into communities, providing essential goods, like food and medical supplies, through June 30, 2020. ([June 12](#))
- Yukon's aviation sector will receive a second installment of federal funding, totalling \$1.23 million to help compensate for lost revenues as a result of COVID-19. Yukon aviation businesses will also continue to

benefit from the waiving of commercial fees. These fees are waived from April 1 until December 31, 2020. [\(June 28\)](#)

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- The Government of Yukon is assisting Yukon's agriculture industry with its labour needs by temporarily modifying the agriculture internship available to Yukon producers to provide funding for more than one intern and not counting this year's application toward the lifetime maximum for the program. [\(May 22\)](#)

Mining, Mineral Exploration and Quarry

- The Government of Yukon is investing an additional \$1.1 million to the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, making a total of \$2.5 million available for distribution for successful applicants for the 2020 field season. [\(June 11\)](#)

Employment Standards

- The Government of Yukon will support workers through a COVID-19 related 14-day isolation with paid sick leave. [\(March 16\)](#)
- The Paid Sick Leave Program allows Yukon workers or those self-employed who are without sick leave to stay at home if they are sick and required to self-isolate for 14 days and still meet their basic financial needs. [\(March 27\)](#)
- They also announced temporary changes to the Yukon Nominee Program, Yukon nominees who experience layoffs or reduced work hours will not be issued the standard 90-day notice to find new employment. [\(March 27\)](#)

Northwest Territories

Support for Individuals

- The NWT is introducing a one-time emergency allowance for income assistance recipients that will provide \$500 to single recipients, and \$1,000 to households with two or more people to ensure that they have appropriate cleaning supplies and are prepared for a 14-day period of self-isolation. ([March 31](#))
- Health and Social Services is waiving professional fees for medical professionals. ([March 31](#))
- Increase funding available for the Income Assistance program. ([March 21](#))
- Support NWT residents by removing load limiters, ceasing disconnections and pausing collection efforts with the NTPC Load Limiters / Collections Policy. ([March 21](#))
- The government announced the exemption of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) for Income Assistance (IA) clients. These benefits would normally be counted as unearned income and would affect a client's IA benefit amount. ([May 6](#))
- The Northwest Territories (GNWT) will allocate up to \$6.2 million to temporarily top up wages for workers making less than \$18 per hour. Under this program, businesses are asked to apply for temporary funding to increase the wages of their employees who make less than \$18 per hour, for a maximum of 16 weeks between April 1 and July 31, 2020. The program is available to all workers in the NWT that are currently earning less than \$18 per hour and are over 15 years old. ([May 12](#))
- The NWT announced the extension of all Income Assistance (IA) COVID-19 relief measures currently in place. ([July 22](#))
- The the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will extend the wage top-up program for an additional eight weeks to match the federal extension of the Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB) to October 3, 2020. ([July 28](#))
- The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC), announced that the Transitional Rent Supplement Program (TRSP) has been extended to November 30, 2020. ([Sept 3](#))

Housing

- Minister Caroline Wawzonek confirmed that the GNWT has enacted the Residential Tenancies (COVID-19) Regulations, a new temporary regulation that offers tenants a mechanism to defer their rent if they have lost their job or have had a significant decline in their income during the COVID-19 health pandemic. ([April 15](#))

Support for Students

- Defer the payment of student loans to September 30, 2020, including not charging interest for this period. ([March 21](#))

Support for Businesses

- The government will provide relief to northern supply chain businesses through a removal of fees until the end of June including bridge tolls, truck permits and airport landing fees. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Offer low interest working capital loans from the Business Development and Investment Corporation to businesses to help offset up to one month of COVID-19 impacts. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Allow for the deferral of any Business Development and Investment Corporation loan payments for a period of up to three cumulative months, between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, with no penalty or additional interest charges. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Provide advance payments for the 2020 GNWT net fiscal benefit from resource revenues to Indigenous Governments that are signatories to the Devolution Agreement. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Allow non-government organizations, Indigenous Governments and Community Governments with unused contribution amounts in 2019-20 to use these funds in 2020-21. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Allow small businesses and individuals to access cash flow more quickly by shortening the payment terms on GNWT invoices so that they are paid out as soon as possible. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Extension of the due date for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Employer Assessment Payments from April 1 to May 1, 2020. [\(March 21\)](#)
- Provide small businesses and individuals with access to greater cash flow during this crisis, by pausing most collections efforts, including: Outside collection agency activity, GNWT set-offs on GNWT payments and GNWT set-offs on Canada Revenue Agency tax refunds. [\(March 21\)](#)
- The GNWT will waive interest charges on all late tax returns between March 15 and June 30 including fuel tax and payroll tax. [\(March 31\)](#)
- The government is now accepting funding applications from local businesses and artists interested in manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as other non-medical products. They will provide up to \$1,000 for the purchase of raw materials for the manufacturing of non-medical cloth facemasks and up to \$25,000 for the purchase of raw materials and equipment for the manufacturing of medically certified products. [\(April 27\)](#)
- On April 30, 2020, Northwest Territories (NWT) residents received their second NWT Cost of Living Offset payment in the amount of \$52.00 per adult and \$60.00 per child under the age of 18. [\(April 28\)](#)
- The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is contributing \$86,000 to Northwest Territories (NWT) Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) to allow them to defer loan payments for their clients in the same way that the Business Development and Investment Corporation has done. The one-time contribution by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will cover the interest costs that would otherwise be incurred by these organizations. [\(May 6\)](#)
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) intends to waive rent on existing surface dispositions on public land, for the fiscal year 2020-21. The Department of Lands says rent relief is available to all

holders of existing recreational, residential, and commercial and mining surface dispositions on public land. The rent relief applies retroactively from April 1, 2020 until March 31, 2021. ([May 11](#))

- Northwest Territories businesses making investments to align with the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Emerging Wisely Plan can now apply to the Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Program for funding. The SEED program can now be accessed to cover costs to businesses such as structural changes required to protect employees, capital improvements, investments related to shifting operations online and the purchase of personal protective equipment for employees. Businesses that have already made such investments on their own will be permitted to apply for a portion of this investment, retroactive to April 1, 2020. ([June 17](#))
- Two funding initiatives to support licensed child care programs have been extended until September 30, 2020: funding to pay up to 75% of eligible fixed costs for child care operators and funding supports for enhanced cleaning of child care spaces. ([July 6](#))
- The GNWT will also continue to waive certain fees for residents and businesses, including: Deh Cho Bridge tolls (extended to Sept 30, 2020); truck permits (Sept 30, 2020); NWT airport landing fees (Dec 31, 2020); and Leases, licences, and concession fees at all NWT airports (Dec 31, 2020). ([July 6](#))

Hospitality

- In support of the restaurant and hospitality industry, the NWTLCC will offer to buy back any unopened alcohol stock, ensuring that businesses have access to the cash they need now. ([March 31](#))

Arts

- The territory is accepting funding proposals from professional artists recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. Up to \$3,000 is available to NWT artists or commercial film and media arts producers with lost revenues or whose activities are restricted due to physical distancing requirements. Up to \$5,000 is also being made available to registered NWT arts businesses, not-for-profit organizations and collectives. ([May 15](#))

Agriculture and Agribusiness

- Up to \$10,000 (based on 2019 production) will be made available to individual fishers under the Commercial Fisheries Industry Safety Support Program to equip their fishing vessels with the safety equipment needed to meet both COVID-19 protection measures and Transport Canada's Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations. ([June 10](#))

Utility Relief

- The government announced new funding today to support recycling depots and processing centres during the COVID-19 state of emergency. This financial support will help offset costs directly associated with loss of income to operators since the closure of recycling depots on March 19, 2020 due to COVID-19. For processing centres, a one-time payment of \$5,000 will be provided while staff and operators explore federal funding opportunities. ([April 30](#))

Nunavut

Support for Individuals

- The Government of Nunavut is launching a new program, the Nunavut Essential Workers Wage Premium. Through it, the GN will fund eligible employers to pay their lower-wage workers more for the hours they work. Employees who earn \$20 or less per hour will be able to receive an extra \$5 per hour. Employees who earn between \$20 and \$25 per hour will receive enough to bring their wages up to \$25 per hour. Funding will be available for employers to support this higher pay for up to 16 weeks. They will begin accepting applications from employers on Monday, June 1. To start, our government is targeting employers who provide health and social services to vulnerable Nunavummiut. These include our shelters, group homes, food banks, boarding homes, and similar organizations. They are also opening this program to licensed daycare facilities. ([May 28](#))
- Nunavut is expanding the wage subsidy program to include more sectors, including essential infrastructure, transportation, food, accommodation, retail and professional services. ([June 29](#))

Childcare

- The government is continuing to fund parental fees for all Nunavut licensed childcare facilities from April 7 to 21, to offset any losses due to closures during this period. ([April 15](#))

Support for Businesses

- Nunavut will provide immediate short-term relief to Nunavut businesses through its Small Business Support Program. Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$5,000 in support in the form of a non-repayable contribution. ([March 27](#))
- Nunavut made an Order extending certain time limits established by Nunavut Mining Regulations. The Order extends time limits to pay rent for mineral leases under the regulations that become due between March 13, 2020 and October 29, 2020 inclusively by up to six months, and not extending beyond October 30, 2020. ([August 13](#))

For Questions:

Steven Kwasny
Manager
Consulting Services, Edmonton
403.896.1560
Steven.Kwasny@mnp.ca

Lanny Westersund
Partner
Consulting Services, Calgary
403.648.4163
Lanny.Westersund@mnp.ca