

COVID-19: Supports for Canadian Businesses

As the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds, we know these are challenging times for you and your business. BDC stands ready to support entrepreneurs like you through to a more stable period.

This compilation of federal and provincial government support measures for business focusses on:

- ① [Access to capital and other liquidity support measures](#)
- ② [Measures to avoid or minimize the impact from layoffs](#)
- ③ [Provincial / Territorial Measures](#)
- ④ [Resources and Additional Information](#)

BDC has also made available [free tools and tips](#) that can help you map out your next steps, identify new opportunities, mitigate risk and create resilience in your company, so you can emerge strong in recovery.

This information is up to date as of October 12, 2021 and is updated regularly. The programs and services described in this document may change at any time and without notice. For the most up to date information on these support measures, please regularly consult the referenced links as well as the additional web resources at the end of this document.

① Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
BDC Co-Lending Program	Between \$1M and \$12.5M for operational cash flow requirements, co-financed by BDC and your primary financial institution. Available until Dec. 31, 2021.	All businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. Subject to your primary financial institution's credit criteria.	Contact your primary financial institution to apply. For more information: https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/co-lending-program.aspx
Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) Guarantee	Guaranteed, low interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1M to cover operational cash flow needs. Businesses must have received payments either from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) or the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) by having demonstrated a minimum 50% revenue decline for at least three months (not necessarily consecutive) within the eight-month period prior to the date of the HASCAP Guarantee application. This HASCAP Guarantee is available until Dec. 31, 2021.	Small and medium-sized businesses in all sectors that have seen their revenues decrease by 50% or more as a result of COVID-19.	Contact your primary financial institution to find out more. Important: You can apply at one financial institution only.
EDC Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) Guarantee	This Guarantee is for new operating lines of credit or new term loans to support cash flow needs during the pandemic. EDC will guarantee 80% on the money you borrow, up to a total loan of \$6.25M. EDC fees related to the guarantee will be deferred for the first six months. Available until Dec. 31, 2021.	All businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19, including non-exporting businesses that sell domestically. Subject to your primary financial institution's credit criteria.	Talk to your financial institution account manager for more information on whether the EDC BCAP Guarantee is a good fit for your cash flow needs. For more information: https://www.edc.ca/en/solutions/working-capital/bcap-guarantee.html
BDC Mid-Market Financing Program	Junior loans ranging between \$12.5M and \$60M for medium-sized businesses particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and/or the recent decline in oil and gas prices. This program is meant to cover operational liquidity needs and business continuity activities and is provided jointly with BDC and your primary financial institution. (Mid-Market and Oil & Gas Financing Programs are merged to facilitate coordination and the processing of loan requests.) Available until Dec. 31, 2021.	Businesses with annual revenues of about \$100M to \$500M, from any sector or industry, that were impacted directly or indirectly by COVID-19 and/or the recent decline in oil and gas prices.	Contact your primary financial institution to apply. For more information: https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-financing-program.aspx
EDC Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) – Reserve Based Lending Program	The risk-sharing lending solutions under this program enable small- and medium-sized exploration and production companies to obtain additional financing from both their financial institution and EDC. The loans are provided by your financial institution and involve support from EDC through one of two financing solutions: 1) an option whereby EDC provides a guarantee to your financial institution to cover a portion of the loan in case of default; and 2) a direct lending option whereby EDC joins the loan facility and provides a portion of the financing to you. Available until Dec. 31, 2021.	Firms in Canada's oil and gas sector	https://www.edc.ca/en/article/oil-gas-support.html

① Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures (cont.)

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
BDC Working Capital Loan	Working capital loans of up to \$2M with flexible repayment terms such as principal postponements for qualifying businesses and reduced rates on new eligible loans.	Businesses of varying sizes	https://www.bdc.ca/en/special-support/working-capital-loan
Farm Credit Canada Term Loans	Term loans of up to \$2.5M, with no fees and an 12-month interest-only option available over a 10-year amortization. These funds can be used for working capital and to modify production due to the impacts of COVID-19. A deferral of principal and interest payments for six months or a deferral of principal payments for up to 12 months is also available, as well as access to an additional credit line of up to \$500,000.	Food producers, agribusinesses, and food processors	https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html <u>Contact your local FCC office or the Customer Service Centre at 1-888-332-3301</u>
Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)	LEEFF is a program instituted by the Government of Canada to provide short-term liquidity assistance in the form of interest-bearing term loans to large Canadian employers who have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The intent of LEEFF is to provide bridge financing to large Canadian employers to help these enterprises to preserve their employment, operations and investment activities until they can access more traditional market financing.	Large Canadian employers who have a significant impact on Canada's economy, can generally demonstrate approximately \$300 million or more in annual revenues, and require a minimum loan size of \$60 million.	https://www.cdev.gc.ca/leeff-factsheet/
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)	Rent and mortgage support of up to 65% of eligible expenses for businesses that have suffered a revenue drop. The rent subsidy is provided directly to tenants. A top-up of 25% is available to organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the rent subsidy. The program is available retroactively from September 27, 2020 and extends until October 23, 2021.	Businesses that have suffered a revenue drop.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html
Canada Business App	Find government programs and services at your fingertips.	All small businesses	https://direc.to/gB9M

② Avoiding or Minimizing the Impact from Layoffs

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	Wage subsidy of up to 75% for qualifying businesses. An additional 25% top-up subsidy is available for employers that have been the most adversely affected by the pandemic. Visit the program website for the most up to date information on subsidy amounts and qualifying criteria. The program is available from March 15, 2020 until October 23, 2021.	Businesses experiencing loss of revenue	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html
Canada Recovery Hiring Program	The program offsets a portion of the extra costs employers take on as they reopen, either by increasing wages or hours worked or hiring more staff. It provides a subsidy of up to 50% of incremental remuneration paid to eligible active employees between June 6, 2021, and Nov. 20, 2021. Business cannot claim the Canada Recovery Hiring Program subsidy and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for the same period but may switch from one to the other in different periods.	Businesses experiencing loss of revenue as compared to the pre-pandemic period and that had a payroll account with the Canada Revenue Agency on March 15, 2020.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/recovery-hiring-program.html
Work-Sharing Program	Income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers. All businesses can benefit from a total of 76 weeks under COVID-19 special measures between March 15, 2020 and September 24, 2022.	Year-round businesses that have been in business in Canada for at least one year.	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html
Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)	Income support of \$500 per week for those who are not entitled to or who have exhausted their Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. May be claimed for a maximum of 54 weeks between September 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021. The final four weeks of the CRB will provide income support of \$300 per week.	Employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to or who have exhausted their EI benefits.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html
Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)	Income support of \$500 per week to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. This applies if their school, regular program or facility is closed or unavailable to them due to COVID-19, or because they're sick, self-isolating, or at risk of serious health complications due to COVID-19. May be claimed for a maximum of 42 weeks between Sept. 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021.	Employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit.html

② Avoiding or Minimizing the Impact from Layoffs (cont.)

Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)	<p>Income support of \$500 per week to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they're sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19. May be claimed for a maximum of 4 weeks between Sept. 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021.</p>	<p>Employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they're sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19.</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html</p>
Canada Summer Jobs	<p>For the 2021 program: The Government of Canada is extending the Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy to 75% of the provincial or territorial minimum wage. The placement period is also being extended from April 26, 2021 to Feb. 26, 2022. As with 2020, part-time work is being permitted and employers may amend the project or job activities if they are affected by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Businesses participating in Canada Summer Jobs.</p>	<p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html</p>

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures

Province / Territory	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Alberta	Access to Capital: ATB Financial Customer Relief Program	Access to capital and deferrals on loans, lines of credit and Mastercard	Small businesses	Call or email the ATB team member you deal with or call 1-800-332-8383
	Resources: Business Link	Free advice, coaching and information on COVID-19 resources and supports.	Small businesses	https://businesslink.ca/
British Columbia	Access to Capital: Unity Women Entrepreneurs Program	Loans of up to \$100,000 for women entrepreneurs, as well as support provided by the Women's Enterprise Centre	Women Entrepreneurs	https://www.womensenterprise.ca/business-loans/vancity-unity-women-entrepreneurs-program/
	Resources: Business COVID-19 Support Service Online	Support services operated by Small Business BC to offer information to support businesses during COVID-19. This will serve as the single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for more information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic.	All businesses	https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us
Manitoba	Resources: Manitoba Economic Support Centre	Provincial resource line to learn more about business support programs.	All businesses.	https://manitoba.ca/covid19/programs/mesc.html Dial 1-888-805-7554

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province / Territory	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
New Brunswick	Access to Capital: New Brunswick Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program	Working capital loans of up to \$100,000 to small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, at an interest rate of 4% with six months of deferred interest payments and 12 months of deferred principal payments. Loans are funded by the Government of New Brunswick and administered by the Community Business Development Corporation. Applicants must have explored options with their primary financial institution and federal support programs.	Small businesses employing 1 to 49 employees with sales of less than \$10 million and that were financially viable prior to the COVID-19 crisis.	https://www.cbdc.ca/en/gnb-small-business-emergency-working-capital-program
	Access to Capital: Opportunities New Brunswick COVID-19 Working Capital Loans	Opportunities New Brunswick will provide working capital loans of \$100,000 to \$1 million, at an interest rate of 4% with six months of deferred interest payments and 12 months of deferred principal payments. Max term 5 years. Applicants must have explored options with their primary financial institution and federal support programs.	Privately-held businesses in business for at least 24 months and that were financially viable prior to the COVID-19 crisis.	https://onbcanada.ca/covid19-working-capital-loans-new-brunswick/
Newfoundland and Labrador	Relief: Employer Compensation for Workers in Self-Isolation	This program will reimburse private sector employers, including those self-employed, for continuation of employee pay associated with the time period their employees are required to self-isolate following their return from out-of-province travel due to the recently announced COVID-19 travel restrictions. Employers are eligible for up to \$500 per week for each employee and up to a combined total of \$1,000 per week for each employee when receiving both federal and provincial funding.	Employers receiving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy whose employees were required to self-isolate due to international or inter-provincial travel upon return to Newfoundland and who were unable to work as a result.	https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/employer-compensation-for-workers-in-self-isolation-due-to-covid-19-travel-restrictions/
Northwest Territories	Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Program	Support to small-medium business in the NWT, with a new offering of up to \$5,000 for those businesses impacted by the recent public health measures. Applying through the standard SEED application, this fund provides a short-term buffer for businesses to assist with operational costs. Eligible costs include: Commercial Rent, Commercial Mortgage (interest only), businesses Mortgage (principal and interest), Utilities (heat, electric, water and sewer, phone and internet), Subscriptions (for example, financial or booking systems), Insurance and Financing or lease payments for equipment.	All NWT businesses.	https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/services/support-entrepreneurs-and-economic-development-seed

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province / Territory	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Nova Scotia	Access to Capital: Small Business Loan Guarantee Program	Enhancing the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, delivered through Nova Scotia Credit Unions, to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000.	Small Businesses	http://www.novascotia.coop/programs/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/ https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20200320003
	Resources: Virtual Business Support Hub	Virtual Hub to offer education, training and guidance for small businesses	Small and medium size businesses, social enterprises, and not-for-profits	https://www.nsc.ca/sites/covid19-business-support/
Ontario	Regulations: Request a Temporary Change	<p>To help remove obstacles and streamline Ontario's ability to respond to the outbreak and navigate through it, several temporary rules and regulations have been put in place.</p> <p>To support your ongoing work during COVID-19, you can request a temporary regulation or policy to change to help: assist the health care system meet the needs of needs of the emergency, assist businesses in retooling or producing essential or health-related products and supplies, make it easier for businesses trying to operate remotely or in a non-traditional fashion and are facing unexpected challenges</p>	Individuals and businesses operating in Ontario	https://www.ontario.ca/page/frontline-business-help-us-support-you-during-covid-19
Prince Edward Island	Access to Capital: Emergency Working Capital Financing	Small business loan of up to \$100,000 at a fixed interest rate of 4%, with a 12-month deferral of principal and interest payments.	All businesses, except start-ups	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/emergency-working-capital-financing

③ Provincial / Territorial Measures (cont.)

Province / Territory	Program	Description	Who is Eligible	Where to Apply / Get Up to Date Information
Québec	Access to Capital: Emergency Assistance to Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (PAUPME)	Provides loans or guarantees of up to \$50,000, administered through Regional County Municipalities or Local Investment Funds. Applications will be accepted up to four weeks after the public health emergency is lifted.	All businesses that can demonstrate the impact of COVID-19 on their operations	https://www.quebec.ca/en/businesses-and-self-employed-workers/emergency-assistance-for-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-covid-19/
	Access to Capital: Investissement Québec Concerted temporary action program for businesses (PACTE)	Loan guarantees or working capital loans of at least \$50,000. Applications will be accepted up to four weeks after the public health emergency is lifted.	All businesses, with some exclusions	https://www.investquebec.com/quebec/en/financial-products/all-our-solutions/Concerted-temporary-action-program-for-businesses.html
	Relief: Aide aux Entreprises en Régions en Alerte Maximale (AERAM)	In maximum alert zones where businesses are forced to close due to public health orders, up to 80% of PAUPME and PACTE loans can be forgiven, up to a maximum forgiveness of \$15,000. A moratorium on principal and interest payments is in place until November 30, 2021.	Businesses that are forced to close due to public health orders in maximum alert zones that are receiving PAUPME and PACTE loans.	https://www.quebec.ca/nouvelles/actualites/details/aide-aux-entreprises-en-regions-en-alerte-maximale/ (in French)
	Access to Capital: Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec COVID-19 Enveloppe	Commercial working capital loans of at least \$5 million for Quebec companies.	All businesses	https://www.cdpq.com/en/form-covid-19
	Resources: Government Financial Support Programs for Businesses (COVID-19)	Online tool to determine what type of assistance is best suited to your situation.	All businesses	https://www.quebec.ca/en/businesses-and-self-employed-workers/government-financial-support-programs-businesses-covid19/

Resources and Additional Information

Information contained within these websites is subject to change without notice. For the most up to date information, check these links regularly.

National	Government of Canada COVID-19 Portal	https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?topic=tilelink
	Government of Canada Economic Response Plan	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html
	Benefit Finder for Businesses	https://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca/s/?language=en
	Benefit Finder for Individuals	https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start
	Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support	https://ca.portal.gs/
Provincial / Territorial	Alberta	https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx
	British Columbia	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support
	Manitoba	https://manitoba.ca/covid19/business/index.html
	New Brunswick	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html
	Newfoundland and Labrador	https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/business-supports/
	Northwest Territories	https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/covid-19-information-businesses-tourists-and-program-applicants
	Nova Scotia	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/support/#support-for-business
	Nunavut	https://gov.nu.ca/health/information/covid-19-novel-coronavirus
	Ontario	https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-businesses
	Prince Edward Island	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/for-business
	Quebec	https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/financial-assistance-covid19/
	Saskatchewan	https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses
	Yukon	https://yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/support-yukon-businesses