

COVID-19: Government Support Watch – Dated May 20, 2020

Date Announced	Initiative	Led By	Details	Resources
April 24, 2020 (Update: May 20)	Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance	Federal/Provincial	The government will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been strongly affected by COVID-19 for April, May, and June. The government will cover 50 per cent of that reduction; the remainder will be covered by the property owner. Small businesses that have been strongly affected by COVID-19 and pay less than \$50,000 a month in rent will be eligible for the support. The application documents and updated criteria for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses are now available, and that the program will be opened for applications beginning on May 25.	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/new-s-releases/2020/04/24/prime-minister-announces-partnerships-provinces-and-territories Update: https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/new-s-releases/2020/05/20/prime-minister-announces-opening-program-protect-jobs-and-help
March 27 2020 (update May 15)	Wage Subsidy for Small and Medium Businesses	Federal Government	Three-month measure has now been extended beyond June. equal to 75% of an employee's salary on the first \$58,700, retroactive from March 15 2020. Will be available to any business whose revenues have been reduced by at least 15 per cent in March 2020 and 30 percent for following eligible periods noted.	https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/05/extending-eligibility-for-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html
May 14, 2020	Agri-food Workplace Protection Program	Federal/Provincial Government	Launching the second intake of the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program to help farmers enhance health and safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus. The funding	https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2020/05/canada-and-ontario-take-steps-to-further-protect-farm-workers.html

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			will be used for initiatives like purchasing personal protective equipment, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, and redesigning workstations. \$2.25 million will be allocated.	
May 14, 2020	Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund	Federal Government/FCC	The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, on behalf of Farm Credit Canada (FCC), today announced the launch of a \$100-million Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund to support proven, viable companies through unexpected business disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.	https://www.realagriculture.com/2020/05/farm-credit-canada-to-manage-100-million-business-fund/
May 11, 2020	Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility	Federal Government	To provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing.	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/new-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save
April 1, 2020 (update May 11)	Business Credit Availability Program	Federal Government	Expand the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs. Support for mid-market businesses will include loans of up to \$60 million per company, and guarantees of up to \$80 million. Led through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC).	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/new-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save
March 24 2020 (Update May 6)	Time-of-use Billing Suspended	Provincial Government	Residential, small-business, and farm customers will pay the lowest off-peak rate for electricity for the next 45 days. This is now extended to May 31 2020.	https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-providing-electricity-relief-to-families-small-businesses-and-farms-during-covid-19.html Update:

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				https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/ontario-extends-electricity-rate-relief-during-covid-19.html
May 5, 2020	Agri-food Federal Assistance	Federal Government	<p>Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announcing \$252 million in new federal assistance for Canadian farmers and others in the agri-food sector whose livelihoods have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>\$77 million to support food processors \$125 million to help cattle and hog producers; and \$50 million on a food surplus purchasing program</p>	https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-canada/canada-to-spend-c252-million-to-help-farmers-and-food-processors-pm-trudeau-idUSO8N2CM001
April 24,2020	Agri-Food Open for E-Business	Provincial Government	The Agri-Food Open for E-Business initiative will help food producers, farmers markets, retailers, garden centres, greenhouses, nurseries, and agricultural associations develop online business, providing consumers with greater access to a wide variety of food and agriculture products. Grants up to \$75,000 are available.	https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2020/04/governments-invest-25-million-to-grow-agri-food-e-business-during-covid-19.html
April 17, 2020	Addressing Labour Supply and Training Challenges	Federal/Provincial (ON) Government	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	https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2020/04/canada-and-ontario-supporting-agri-food-sector-supply-chain-during-covid-19.html
April 17, 2020	Regional-development and the Community Futures Network	Federal Government	\$962 million in funding to regional-development agencies	

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			and the Community Futures Network	
April 17, 2020	Heritage Canada	Federal Government	\$500 million in funding to Heritage Canada to support those who work in the arts, culture, and sports sectors	
April 17, 2020	Futurpreneur and the Industrial Research Assistance Program	Federal Government	\$270 million to Futurpreneur and the Industrial Research Assistance Program to support innovators and early stage development firms that don't qualify for the wage subsidy	
April 16, 2020	Canada Emergency Commercial-Rent Assistance program	Federal Government	Will provide rent support for small businesses in April, May, and June. He noted that this will require working with the provinces and territories, as they govern rental relationships	https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/new-s-releases/2020/04/16/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-small-businesses
April 1, 2020 (update April 16)	Canada Emergency Business Account	Federal Government	The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to all small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html Update: Now open to businesses that spent between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019
April 1 2020	Ontario Together Fund	Provincial Government	\$50 million fund to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment	https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-your-organization-can-help-fight-coronavirus
April 1, 2020 (update)	Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments	Federal Government	The program will allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer until June 30, 2020 payments of the Goods and Services Tax /	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html

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			Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST), as well as customs duties owing on their imports.	
April 1, 2020 (update)	Income Tax Payment Deferrals	Federal Government	A business may defer, until August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act.	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html
April 1, 2020 (update)	Increasing Credit Available – Farmers	Federal Government / FCC	Supporting Farm Credit Canada by allowing an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors.	https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/about-fcc/media-newsroom/news-releases/2020/lending-capacity-increases-to-alleviate-industry-financial-pressure.html
April 1, 2020 (update)	Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises	Federal Government / BDC	BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html
March 31 2020	Property Tax Deferral	Peterborough	Peterborough residents and businesses can defer their property taxes for up to 60 days without penalty for both the March 31 and the May 29 instalment due dates.	https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/emergency-property-tax-relief-during-covid19.aspx
March 27 2020	Late Payment Fees Suspended	Hydro One	Hydro One will also be temporarily suspending late payment fees for all customers until May 7, 2020	https://www.hydroone.com/saving-money-and-energy/residential/relief-fund
March 27 2020	Security Deposit Return	Hydro One	Hydro One is returning about \$5 million in security deposits to businesses and provinces	https://www.hydroone.com/saving-money-and-energy/residential/relief-fund

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March 25 2020	Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit	Provincial Government	Give businesses a 10 per cent refundable tax credit for certain investments made outside of Ottawa and the Greater Golden Horseshoe.	https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/annex.html
March 25 2020	Tax and Premium Deferrals	Provincial Government	\$10 billion in tax and premium deferrals, delaying both WSIB payments and provincially administered for six and five months, respectively;	https://www.benefitscanada.com/news/ontario-establishes-tax-deferrals-special-payments-to-support-employers-workers-144291