



FINANCIAL LITERACY
COUNSEL INC.



GUIDE TO COVID-19:

GOVERNMENT RELIEF PROGRAMS IN CANADA

June 3, 2020



**RELIEF FOR
BUSINESSES**

FEDERAL

BUSINESSES

[Small Business Wage Subsidy](#)

- The subsidy is equal to 10% of the remuneration you pay from March 18 to June 19, 2020, up to \$1,475 for each eligible employee to a maximum of \$25,000 total per employer.
- Eligible employers include individuals, partnership, non-profit organization, registered charity or Canadian controlled private corporation.
- Employers require an existing business number and payroll program with the CRA on March 18, 2020 and pay salary, wages, bonuses or other remuneration to an eligible employee.
- Effective date: March 18 to June 19, 2020.

[Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#)

- The subsidy covers up to 75% of an employee's wages up to \$847 per week from March 15 to August 29, 2020.
- The subsidy generally applies to all business including individuals, taxable corporations and registered charities and certain non-profits but excludes public institutions.
- To be eligible, employers must have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 15% in March 2020 and 30% in April and May 2020 as compared to the same month in 2019 or average of January and February 2020.
- Effective date: March 15 to August 29, 2020.

[Extending the Work-Sharing Program](#)

- Extending the maximum duration of the Work-Sharing program from 38 to 76 weeks.
- This program is to provide Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while the employer recovers.
- Effective date: March 15, 2020 to March 14, 2021

[Changes to the Canada Summer Jobs Program](#)

- Temporary changes to the program:
 - Increase to the wage subsidy so employers can receive up to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee.
 - End date extension to February 28, 2021.
- Effective date: May 11, 2020 to February 28, 2021

[Canada Emergency Business Account](#)

- Will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small business and not-for profits to pay non-deferrable operating expenses.
- To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1,500,000 in total payroll in 2019
- If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% (up to \$10,000) will be forgiven.
- If the term is not repaid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a 3-year term at 5% interest.
- The funds from this loan shall only be used by the Borrower to pay non-deferrable operating expenses of the Borrower including, without limitation, payroll, rent, utilities, insurance, property tax and regularly scheduled debt service, and may not be used to fund any payments or expenses such as

prepayment/refinancing of existing indebtedness, payments of dividends, distributions and increases in management compensation.

- Program is now available at financial institutions and credit unions:
 - [BMO](#)
 - [Canadian Western Bank](#)
 - [CIBC](#)
 - [HSBC](#)
 - [National Bank](#)
 - [RBC](#)
 - [Scotiabank](#)
 - [TD](#)

[Business Credit
Availability
Program](#)

- Loan guarantee through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC).
- EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium sized enterprises with 80% guaranteed by EDC.
 - Funds are to be used for operational expenses.
- BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium sized enterprises.
 - Loans of up to \$312,500 to businesses with revenues of less than \$1 million
 - Up to \$3.125 million for businesses with revenues between \$1 million and \$50 million
 - Up to \$6.25 million for businesses with revenues in excess of \$50 million.
 - Loans would be interest-only for the first 12 months with a 10-year repayment period.

[Canada
Emergency
Commercial Rent
Assistance](#)

- Program will lower rent by 75% for small businesses affected by COVID-19. The small business tenant would cover up to 25% of the rent.
- Small business tenants are business paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70% drop in pre-COVID revenues.
- Program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50% of three-monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May and June.
- Loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the small business tenants' rent by at least 75% under a rent forgiveness agreement.

[More Time to Pay
Income Taxes](#)

- Allowing all businesses to defer until August 31, 2020 the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020.
- No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

[Deferral of Sales
Tax Remittance
and Customs
Duty Payments](#)

- Allowing all businesses to defer until June 30, 2020 payments of GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports.
 - Any GST/HST payment that becomes owing from March 27 until the end of May can be deferred until the end of June. This means that no interest will apply if your payments or remittances are made by the end of June 2020.
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[Support for
Farmers](#)

- Supporting Farm Credit Canada so producers, agribusinesses and food processors can access funds to keep operating through:
 - a deferral of principal and interest payments up to six months for existing loans; or
 - a deferral of principal payments up to 12 months
 - access to an additional credit line up to \$500,000
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RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS

INDIVIDUALS

[Employment Insurance \(EI\)](#)

- Provides regular benefits to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own (for example, due to shortage of work, seasonal or mass lay-offs) and are available for and able to work, but can't find a job
- For most, the basic rate for calculating EI benefits is 55% of their average insurable weekly earnings, up to a maximum amount. As of January 1, 2020, the maximum amount is \$54,200 (\$573 per week)
- Those eligible can receive EI from 14 weeks up to a maximum of 45 weeks, depending on the unemployment rate in their region at the time of filing the claim and the number of insurable hours accumulated in the last 52 weeks or since their last claim, whichever is shorter
- No one can be paid EI benefits and the CERB for the same period
- For those eligible for a new EI claim starting March 15, 2020 or after, the EI Regular and Sickness benefits will be delivered as part of the CERB
- The one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim. The requirement to provide a medical certificate is also waived

[Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#)

- Provide a taxable benefit of \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19.
- The benefits are available to workers:
 - Residing in Canada and at least 15 years old
 - Stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
 - Have not voluntarily quit their job.
 - Had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application
- On April 15, the changes announced to the eligibility rules:
 - Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- You cannot be receiving CERB and EI benefits for the same period.
- Benefit is available between March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

[Increase in Canada Child Benefit \(CCB\)](#)

- Eligible parents will receive up to an extra \$300 per child with their regular May CCB payment.
- This is a one-time increase to the May CCB payment.

[More Time to Pay Income Taxes](#)

- The filing due date for 2019 income tax returns for individuals has been deferred until June 1, 2020.
- Any new income tax balances due or instalments are being deferred until August 31, 2020 without incurring interest or penalties.

[Special GST credit payment](#)

- Providing a one-time special payment starting April 9 for low- and modest-income families.

[Mortgage Support](#)

- On a case-by-case basis, Canadian banks have committed to work with impacted borrowers to defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal).

[Canada
Emergency
Student Benefit](#)

- Provide a taxable benefit of \$1,250 every 4 weeks to eligible students or \$2,000 to eligible students with dependents or with disability who are not be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or Employment Insurance or unable to work due to COVID-19.

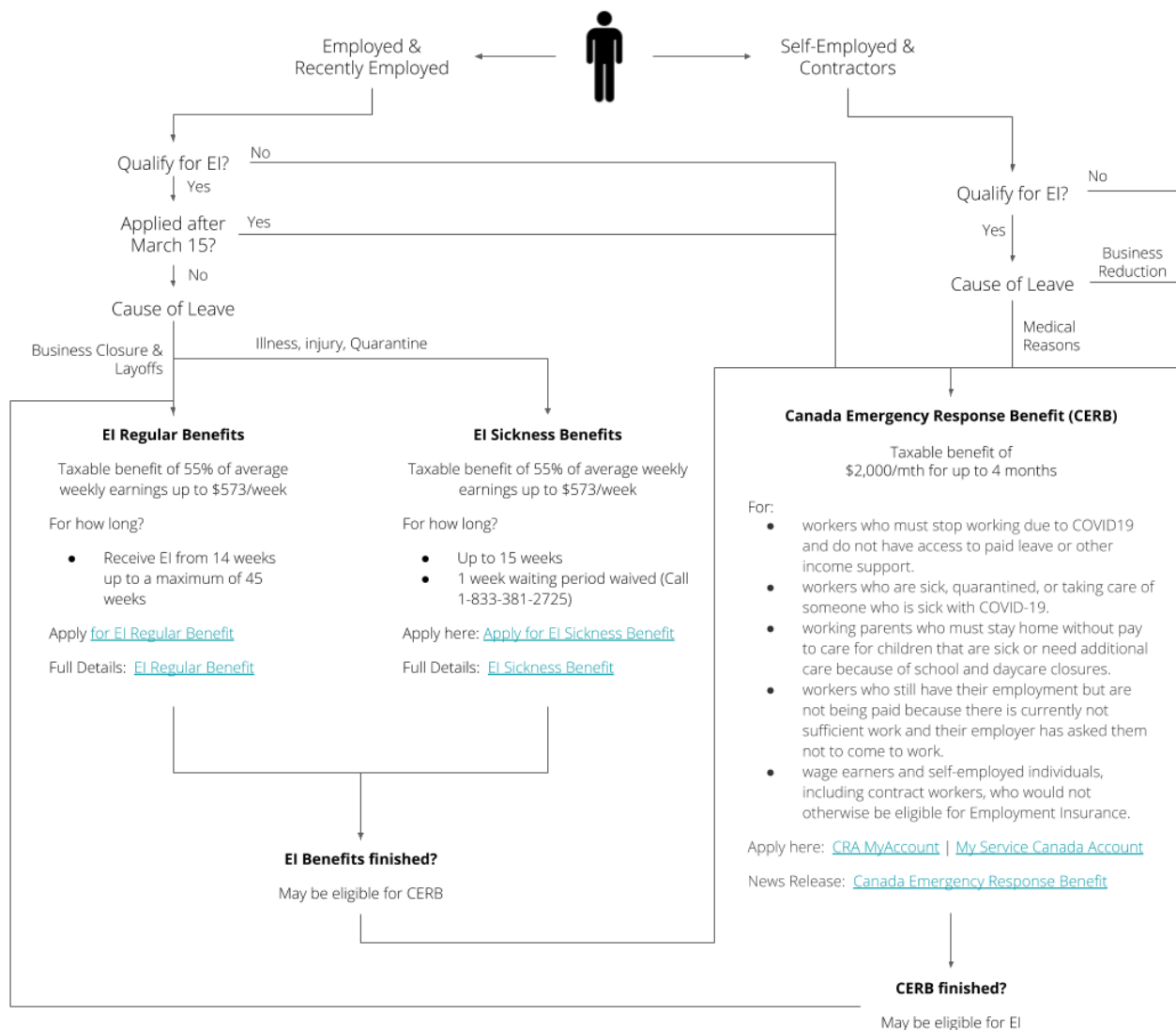
[Suspending
Student Loans](#)

- All student loan borrowers will automatically have their loan repayments and interest suspended until September 30, 2020

[Reduced RRIF
withdrawals](#)

- Reduced the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds by 25% for 2020.

Do I Qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit & Employment Insurance?





PROVINCIAL RELIEF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BUSINESSES

[Provincial Tax Changes](#)

- BC extends filing and payment deadlines until September 30, 2020 for the following:
 - Employer health tax
 - Sales tax including PST, Carbon, Motor fuel and Tobacco
- Reduced school tax rates for commercial properties for 2020 tax year.
 - Class 4, 5, 6 will be reduced by 50%
 - Class 7 and 8 will be reduced by 25% on average

[WorkSafeBC BC](#)

- Postponing the payment deadline for Q1 2020 from April 20 to June 30, 2020. Payment can be deferred without penalty until June 30, 2020.

[BC Hydro](#)

- For small businesses that are closed due to COVID-19 will have their electricity charges waived for up to 3 months.
- BC Hydro rates have been reduced by 1% effective April 1, 2020.

INDIVIDUALS

[BC Emergency for Workers](#)

- Will provide a tax-free, one-time \$1,000 payment for BC residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19.
- Applications open May 1, 2020

[Climate Action Tax Credit](#)

- A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 to moderate to low income families.
 - Adult will receive up to \$218 (increased from \$43.50)
 - A child will receive up to \$64 (increased from \$12.75)

[BC Hydro](#)

- For residents, if you have stopped working due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for 3 months bill credit based on average consumption.

[ICBC](#)

- For customers who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.

[BC Housing](#)

- Temporary rent supplement program is available:
 - Eligible households with dependents can receive up to \$500 per month.
 - Eligible households without dependents can receive up to \$300 per month.
- Most evictions are not allowed during the state of emergency.
- Rent increase will not come into effect until the state of emergency is over.

[BC Student Loan](#)

- BC student loan payments are frozen for 6 months until September 30, 2020.

[BC Temporary Pandemic Pay](#)

- Temporary pandemic pay supports health, social services and corrections employees delivering in-person, front-line care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes employees delivering a range of health and social services to people most vulnerable to COVID-19, where maintaining physical distancing is difficult or impossible.

ALBERTA

BUSINESSES

[Alberta Corporate Income Tax](#)

- Filing date for corporate income tax rates due after March 18, 2020 and before June 1, 2020 have been extended to June 1, 2020.
- Corporate income tax balances and instalment payments due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 are deferred until August 31, 2020.

[Education Property Tax Rates](#)

- Collection of non-residential education property tax for businesses will be deferred for 6 months.

[WCB Premium Payment Deferral](#)

- Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer WCB premium payments until 2021.
 - For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021.
 - Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021

[Utility Payment Deferral](#)

- Residential, Farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments until June 18, 2020 to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.

[ATB Financial](#)

- Small business customers can apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to 6 months.

INDIVIDUALS

[Emergency Isolation Support](#)

- This program is now closed.
- Eligible working Albertans can receive a one-time emergency isolation support payment of \$1,146.

[Utility Payment Deferral](#)

- Residential can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments until June 18, 2020 to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.

[Education Property Tax Rates](#)

- Rates are frozen at last year's level.
- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to education property tax deferrals.

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.
- Calgary's tax payment deadline has been extended from June 30 to September 30, 2020 without late payment penalties.

[Rent Payment Plans](#)

- During the public health emergency, landlords cannot issue a termination notice or make an application to recover possession of a property for non-payment of rent.

[Alberta Student Aid](#)

- Alberta student loan repayments will be paused for 6 months, beginning March 30, 2020. Interest will not accrue during this period.

SASKATCHEWAN

BUSINESSES

[Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment \(SSBEPP\)](#)

- Provides a one-time grant to small businesses.
- Grants will be paid based on 15% of a business's monthly revenue in either April 2019 or February 2020 to a maximum of \$5,000.
- Eligibility requirements:
 - Carrying on business in Saskatchewan on February 29, 2020.
 - Ordered to temporarily close or curtail operations through a COVID-19 public health order.
 - Have less than 500 employees.
 - Attest that they have: experienced a loss in revenue due to COVID-19 public health order, plan to reopen operations and has not received any payments from any other sources including insurance, to replace or compensate for the loss of sales revenue other than amounts from other government assistance programs.
- Apply on or before July 31, 2020.

[Provincial Sales Tax](#)

- Saskatchewan businesses which are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have three-month relief from penalty and interest charges.

[Provincial Utilities](#)

- All Crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan customers whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions

[Workers' Compensation](#)

- Waiving penalties and interest charges for late premium payments from April 1 until June 30, 2020.

INDIVIDUALS

[Self-Isolation Support Program](#)

- Support of \$450/week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900.
- Targeted at Saskatchewan workers forced to self-isolate and who are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports.
- Program only applies to adult workers aged 18 or over.

[Provincial Utilities](#)

- All Crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan customers whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.
- Saskatoon and Regina have extended the 2020 property tax deadline to September 30, 2020.

[Rent](#)

- Office of Residential Tenancies (ORT) will be 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.

[Student Loan](#)

- Saskatchewan student loan repayments will be paused for 6 months. Interest will not accrue during this period.

MANITOBA

BUSINESSES

[Manitoba Gap Protection Plan \(MGPP\)](#)

- Provides a non-interest-bearing forgivable loan of \$6,000 to businesses that do not qualify under federal programs.
- To be eligible for the MGPP a business must:
 - have been operational on March 20, 2020, the date the Manitoba government declared a provincewide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act because of COVID-19;
 - have temporarily ceased or curtailed operations as a result of a COVID-19 public health order and have been harmed by the health order;
 - be registered and in good standing with the Manitoba Business and Corporate Registry;
 - have not qualified for federal government COVID-19 grant support

[Deferring Provincial Taxes](#)

- 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

[Deferring Provincial Fees and Charges](#)

- For the next 6 months until October 1, the Province is:
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - directing Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas to not disconnect customers during these times; and
 - working with municipal partners to ensure municipalities do not charge interest on provincial education taxes and school division fees and the province is encouraging municipalities to do the same with respect to their own taxes

[Workers' Compensation Board](#)

- Defer premium payments until the end of May 2020.
- Not charge business interest and/or penalties for non-payment until October.
- Extend the payroll reporting deadline until the end of May.
- Ensure that coverage remains active for accounts that choose to defer payments until the end of October. Clearances will remain in good standing

[Insurance Affordability](#)

- Manitoba is taking steps to make home and business property insurance more affordable by accelerating the removal of annual PST from residential and business properties, effective July 1, 2020.

INDIVIDUALS

[Self-Isolation Support Program](#)

- Support of \$450/week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900.
- Targeted at Saskatchewan workers forced to self-isolate and who are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports.
- Program only applies to adult workers aged 18 or over.

[Manitoba Hydro](#)

- No disconnections until further notice. No interest/penalties until October 1, 2020

Centra Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No disconnections until further notice. No interest/penalties until October 1, 2020
Property Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals. • Winnipeg has extended the 2020 property tax deadline to September 30, 2020. • Brandon has extended the 2020 property tax deadline to July 31, 2020.
Rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Tenancies Branch have temporarily frozen rent increases from April 1, 2020 and later. • Landlords are prohibited from issuing a notice of termination other than for impairment of safety or unlawful activities that pose an immediate health and safety risk.
Insurance Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba is taking steps to make home and business property insurance more affordable by accelerating the removal of annual PST from residential and business properties, effective July 1, 2020.
Summer Student Recovery Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Manitoba Student Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba student loan repayments will be suspended until September 30, 2020. Interest will not accrue during this period.

ONTARIO

BUSINESSES

[Five-Month Relief Period for Provincial Taxes](#)

- Allowing a five-month relief period for Ontario businesses who are unable to file or remit their provincial taxes on time due to the special circumstances caused by COVID-19 in Ontario
- Between April 1 and August 31, 2020, the province will not apply interest on any late-filed returns or incomplete or late tax payments.
- The following provincial taxes are included in the relief period: Employer Health Tax, Tobacco Tax, Fuel Tax, Gas Tax, Beer, Wine & Spirits Tax, Mining Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, International Fuel Tax Agreement, Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans and Racetracks Tax

[Employer Health Tax Relief](#)

- Increasing the Employer Health Tax exemption for 2020 from \$490,000 to \$1 million. As an employer, this means relief of up to \$9,945.

[Education Property Tax Deferrals](#)

- Deferring the June 30 property tax payments municipalities make to school boards by 90 days.

[Workplace Safety and Insurance Board \(WSIB\) Payment Deferral](#)

- Schedule 1 employers who owe premiums to the WSIB will be allowed to defer reporting and payments until August 1, 2020.
- Schedule 2 businesses that pay WSIB for the cost related to their workplace injury and illness claims can defer reporting and payments until August 31, 2020.
- No interest will be accrued on outstanding premium payments and no penalties will be charged during this six-month deferral period

[Affordable Electricity Bills](#)

- From March 24 to May 31, 2020, residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers will get the lowest rate at 10.1 ¢/kWh – 24 hours a day.

[Relief for Remote Northern Property Taxpayers](#)

- Ontario is giving taxpayers (individuals and businesses) in unincorporated areas more time to pay each of the four 2020 Provincial Land Tax installments
- Taxpayers will have 90 extra days to pay without incurring interest or penalties

INDIVIDUALS

[Guaranteed Annual Income System \(GAINS\)](#)

- For low-income seniors, the [Guaranteed Annual Income System \(GAINS\)](#) maximum payment will be doubled to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples for six months, starting in April 2020

[Support for Families](#)

- Providing a one-time \$200 payment per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including kids enrolled in private schools

[Help for electricity bills](#)

- From March 24 to May 31, 2020, residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers will get the lowest rate at 10.1 ¢/kWh – 24 hours a day.
- Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), low-income customers can get direct support to pay bills and ensure electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.

[Rent](#)

- No new eviction orders will be issued until further notice.

[Ontario Student
Assistance
Program \(OSAP\)](#)

- From March 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020, you are not required to make loan payments and interest will not accrue on your student loans
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QUEBEC

BUSINESSES

[Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses \(PACTE\)](#)

- Eligible businesses operating in Quebec can receive a minimum of \$50,000 in emergency financing in the form of a loan or a loan guarantee.
- Businesses must show that their cash flow issues are temporary and as a result of COVID-19.
- Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

[Emergency aid for small and medium sized businesses](#)

- Eligible businesses operating in Quebec can receive up to \$50,000 in emergency financing

[Revenu Québec](#)

- Both individuals and businesses have been extended to August 31, 2020 to pay their income tax due for the 2019 taxation year
- Businesses have until June 30 to make GST/QST remittances and customs duty payments

[Hydro-Québec](#)

- Hydro-Québec will not cut off power to anyone for non-payment.
- Since March 23, administration charges to unpaid bills have been stopped.

[Financière Agricole du Québec](#)

- Offering a six-month moratorium on loan repayments to all La Financière Agricole clients who request it
- The enrolment date for the Crop Insurance Program is extended from April 30 to May 21, 2020, and notices of assessment are extended from June 1 to July 1, 2020
- Interim AgriStability payments are available
- For the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance Program, notice of assessments will not be sent before July 1

[CNESST](#)

- Employers have until August 31 to pay CNESST premiums
- During this period the CNESST will not apply interests or fees
- Employers have until June 1, 2020 to file the 2019 Wages Return

INDIVIDUALS

[Incentive program to retain essential workers \(IPREW\)](#)

- Financial assistance program for individuals working essential jobs during the COVID-19
- The assistance amount will make up the difference between the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and an eligible individual's wages.
- The program provides \$100 for each week of qualifying work beginning March 15, 2020 and extending for a maximum of 16 weeks. This means that, in addition to their wages, a worker could receive a taxable benefit of \$400 per month, for a total of \$1,600 for the full 16-week period.
- To be eligible under the program, you must:
 - work part-time or full-time in one of the essential service sectors during the program period;
 - receive gross wages of \$550 or less per week;
 - have an annual employment income of at least \$5,000 for 2020;
 - have a total annual income of no more than \$28,600 for 2020;
 - be at least 15 years old when you apply for assistance under the IPREW; and

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- have been resident in Québec on December 31, 2019, and plan to reside in Québec throughout 2020.

[Hydro-Québec](#)

- Hydro-Québec will not cut off power to anyone for non-payment.
- Since March 23, administration charges to unpaid bills have been stopped.

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.
- Montreal owners and businesses will have an additional month to pay their tax bills that are due on June 1, 2020. The new deadline is July 2, 2020.
- Quebec City postponements of municipal tax payments for individuals and businesses:
 - Payments due May 4 are deferred until August 4
 - Payments due July 3 are deferred until September 3
 - Payments due September 3 are deferred until November 3

[Rent](#)

- Evictions have been suspended as long as the state of health emergency is declared.

[Suspension of Student Debt Repayment](#)

- The government is postponing student loan debt repayment for the next six months. No interest will be calculated or added to the loan debt.
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NEW BRUNSWICK

BUSINESSES

[NB Small Business Emergency Working Capital Program](#)

- Small business owners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for working capital loans up to \$100,000
- Accessible to small businesses employing 1 to 49 employees, including sole proprietors/self-employed, with sales of less than \$10 million in the most recent fiscal year
- The loans are funded by Government of New Brunswick and are administered by the Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC)

[Opportunities New Brunswick](#)

- Working capital in excess of \$100,000, up to a maximum of \$1 million is available.

[Community Investment Fund COVID-19 Relief](#)

- Providing relief to non-profits.
- This funding is available for small to medium-sized non-profits in the form of a grant between a minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$10,000

[Deferring interest and principal payments on existing loans](#)

- On a case by case basis the Government of New Brunswick will defer loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans.

[Waiving late penalties on property taxes](#)

- Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis

[WorkSafeNB](#)

- [WorkSafeNB](#) has announced assessment premiums related to employer payrolls for March, April and May will be deferred for three months without interest charges

INDIVIDUALS

[Power](#)

- Suspending disconnections for non-payment and collection efforts.
- Defer electricity bill payments for residential, seasonal and small business customers for up to 90 days.

[Property Tax](#)

- Due date: May 31, 2020 but province will review late penalties on a case-by-case basis to see if penalty can be waived.

[Rent](#)

- Evictions suspended until May 31, 2020.

[Student Financial Services](#)

- Student Loan repayment requirements will be suspended between March 31 until September 30, 2020.

NOVA SCOTIA

BUSINESSES

[Small Business Loan Guarantee](#)

- Eligible small businesses can get a loan of up to \$25,000 through participating provincial credit unions.

[Small Business Impact Grant](#)

- Eligible small businesses, non-profits, charities and social enterprises who have had to close or reduce operations because of the public health order may be eligible for a flexible grant.
- This one-time grant is equal to 15% of revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000

[Commercial Rent Deferral](#)

- To support small and medium-sized businesses, landlords are encouraged to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for 3 months.
- The government will guarantee up to \$5,000 per month of deferred rent, up to caps of \$15,000 per Qualified Business, and \$50,000 per landlord.

[Changes to Payments](#)

- Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.
- The Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through 16 provincial credit unions, will defer principal and interest payments until 30 June 2020. The Small Business Loan Guarantee Program continues to provide access to credit for eligible businesses up to \$500,000.
- Small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days.

[WCB Nova Scotia](#)

- WCB Nova Scotia will defer all employer premium payments until July 2020
- Late fees and interest will not be charged until further notice

INDIVIDUALS

[Worker Emergency Bridge Fund](#)

- A one-time \$1,000 payment to bridge the gap between layoffs and closures and the federal government's CERB.
- You may be eligible to qualify if you:
 - Nova Scotia resident
 - are 18 or older
 - were employed and laid off, or self-employed and lost all revenue because of COVID-19 on or after March 16, 2020
 - earned between \$5,000 and \$34,000
 - have applied (or plan to apply) for the CERB

[Nova Scotia Power](#)

- For at least the next 90 days, we will not be disconnecting customers for nonpayment.

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.

[Rent](#)

- There will be no rental evictions for three months for people whose income has been affected by COVID-19.

[Student Loans](#)

- Nova Scotia Student Loan payments are suspended until 30 September 2020

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

BUSINESSES

[Emergency Working Capital Financing](#)

- Eligible applicants can apply to receive a working capital loan of up to \$100,000 with a fixed interest rate of 4% per annum to be used to assist with fixed operating costs (including payroll, rent, utilities etc.) with principal & interest payments deferred for a minimum of 12 months
- Details of the loan: Up to a maximum of \$100,000 per company
 - The loans will bear interest at fixed rate of 4% per annum, commencing at first disbursement and accruing during the term of the loan
 - Repayment of this loan will commence 12 months after the first disbursement, with the balance outstanding to be repaid over the remaining 5-year period (for a total term of 6 years)

[Emergency Relief- Worker Assistance Program](#)

- Eligible employers include registered private sector businesses or non-profit organizations in Prince Edward Island where employed workers have experienced a reduction of at least 8 hours per week during the four-week period March 16 to April 11, 2020
- Eligible employers may receive a maximum of \$250 per week for each employed worker that experienced a reduction of at least 8 hours per week during the four-week period March 16 to April 11, 2020

[Commercial Lease Rent Deferral Program](#)

- To support small and medium sized businesses, landlords are encouraged to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for 3 months.

[Workers Compensation Board](#)

- Deferring all assessment due dates related to 2020 employer payrolls
- Employers do not have to pay WCB premiums until June 30, 2020. Neither interest nor penalties will accrue during this time

INDIVIDUALS

[COVID-19 Income Support Fund](#)

- This program has closed. No longer accepting applications.

[Property Tax](#)

- Deferring provincial property tax and fee payments until December 31, 2020.

[Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit](#)

- Evictions suspended until end of June 2020.
- 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 and \$250 the following two months.

[Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed](#)

- A maximum of \$500 per week for the period of March 16 to March 29, 2020
- To be eligible for this component, self-employed individuals must: have declared business income on their most recent tax return;
 - have business income as their primary source of income;
 - be able to demonstrate direct financial losses resulting from the COVID -19 isolation measures at the time of application; and
 - not be EI eligible or receiving any other income support

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

BUSINESSES

[Tax Return Filing Deadline Deferrals](#)

- Tax returns which would otherwise be due March 20, 2020 to May 31, 2020, are now due June 23, 2020. The tax returns applicable to this extension include: 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

[WorkplaceNL](#)

- Deferring the collection of employer assessment payments and waiving interest charges or penalties until August 31, 2020

INDIVIDUALS

[Newfoundland Power](#)

- We will be suspending all disconnection of service for customers.

[Property Tax](#)

- Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to property tax deferrals.

[Rent](#)

- There will be no rental evictions for three months for people whose income has been affected by COVID-19.

[Suspending Student Loan Payments](#)

- Student loan borrowers will automatically have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020.

PREMIUM DEFERRAL PROGRAM

INSURANCE COMPANY	DISABILITY INSURANCE	CRITICAL ILLNESS	LIFE INSURANCE	LENGTH (DAYS)	POLICIES DATED PRIOR
Assumption	√	√	√	60	March 10, 2020
BMO		√	√	90	March 13, 2020
Canada Life	√	√	√	90	March 15, 2020
CPP	Case-by-case basis				
Desjardins	√	√	√	90	March 16, 2020
Empire		√	√	60	
Equitable	√	√	√	90	March 15, 2020
Humania	Case by case basis				
Industrial Alliance	√	√	√	90	March 15, 2020
Ivari	√	√	√	90	March 15, 2020
Manulife	√	√	√	90	March 1, 2020
RBC	√	√	√	90	March 15, 2020
SSQ	√	√	√	90	All
Sunlife	√	√	√	90	

The information provided in this guide is current as of April 27, 2020. This is by no means a full analysis, should you require any advice or further information, please contact your advisor as each person's situation is uniquely different.



FINANCIAL LITERACY
C O U N S E L I N C .

19th Floor, 1500 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver BC, V6G 2Z6

Phone: 604.620.6030
Email: consultation@flci.ca
Website: www.flci.ca