

# COVID 19 CARE PACKAGE:

## Canadian Government Support & Other Resources for Businesses

Prepared by Export Help

Updated April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as of 2:30 PM

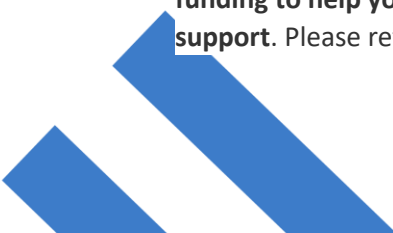
### ONTARIO

*The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a rapidly evolving global challenge. In addition to the health risks posed to Canadians by COVID-19, businesses operations and supply chains are particularly vulnerable as the disease spreads across borders. In response to COVID-19, federal, provincial and municipal government departments and agencies have launched a series of funding programs, supports, resources and other announcements meant to assist Canadian businesses and their employees during this difficult time. EDC's Export Help Team has assembled the following care package of information on the many new and revised programs and supports available to Canadian businesses, as well as other critical advisories relating to trade and travel.*

### FEDERAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- [Canada's COVID-19's Economic Response Plan](#) is the Government of Canada's set of immediate, significant and decisive economic measures to help stabilize the economy and provide **support to Canadian workers and businesses**. These measures include:
  - **Measures to Support Workers and Help Avoid Layoffs:**
    - **Temporary wage subsidies:**
      - [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) would apply at a rate of 75% of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week, for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. **Eligible employers who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 30%** in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019, would be able to access the subsidy by applying through the Canada Revenue Agency's *My Business Account portal* as well as a web-based application. More details about the application process will be made available shortly on the [CRA's website](#).
      - Those organizations that do not qualify for the *Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy* may continue to qualify for the previously announced [wage subsidy of 10%](#) of remuneration paid from March 18 to before June 20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Eligible small businesses do not need to apply for this subsidy, and will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration. **Businesses also do not need to demonstrate a 30% drop in revenue in order to qualify.** The CRA has put together an [FAQ](#) detailing the eligibility criteria for this subsidy, how to calculate and deduct, and other related information.
    - **Employment and Social Development Canada** is responsible for managing and delivering [programs related to employee protection & benefits and workplace safety](#), that will help minimize the impact of COVID-19 - help employers and employees avoid layoffs and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Some of the programs include:
      - [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\) with CRA](#) we will provide a **taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months** to qualified workers: people facing unemployment, people who are sick, quarantined, or in directed self-isolation, and

people who are unable to work. This new measure has replaced the previously announced *Emergency Care Benefit* and the *Emergency Support Benefit*.

- [The Work-Sharing Program](#) (WSP) helps avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. **The program provides EI benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours** and share the available work while their employer recovers. The WS has been extended from 38 weeks to 76 weeks to help employers who are experiencing a downturn in business due to COVID-19, and their workers.
  - For the benefit of your business and workers, you are encouraged to contact *Service Canada* at **1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232)** for more information on additional government support available to you.
  - **More flexibility to Pay:**
    - **Income Taxes:** Deferral of income tax payments for businesses owing on or after March 18 until August 31, 2020. Please see the CRA page [Income tax filing and payment dates: CRA and COVID-19](#) for more details.
    - **Sales Tax and Customs Duties:** [Deferral of GST/HST Remittance and Customs Duty Payments](#) until June 30, 2020. Please refer to the CRA's [FAQs for deferral of GST/HST Tax Remittances \(COVID-19 measures\)](#) for more details.
  - **Extended Access to Credit for Businesses:**
    - **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** - in cooperation with [Export Development Canada \(EDC\)](#) and [Business Development Bank of Canada \(BDC\)](#), financial institutions will provide additional financial support to help Canadian companies facing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. This program includes:
      - [Canada Emergency Business Account](#) - a new loan program that will provide **interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible small businesses**, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.
      - [A New Loan Guarantee for SMEs](#) – in cooperation with EDC, financial institutions will issue new **operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to eligible SMEs** in export sector and domestic operations.
      - [A New Co-Lending Program for SMEs](#) - in cooperation with BDC, financial institutions will co-lend **term loans to eligible SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements**.
    - **Supporting Financial Market Liquidity**, and other measures.
  - [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) is responsible for managing and delivering programs related to **employee protection and benefits**, as well as **workplace safety**, that will help minimize the impact of COVID-19 - help employers and employees avoid layoffs and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.
    - For the benefit of your business and workers, you are encouraged to contact *Service Canada* at **1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232)** for more information on additional government support available to you.
  - [FedDev Ontario](#) (**Southern Ontario region**) is Canada's regional economic development agency (RDA) monitoring the COVID-19 global challenge and the potential impact it could have on business and workers, as well as the broader economy.
    - The RDAs can assist SMEs or organizations affected by the impact of COVID-19 with **access to federal funding to help you stay in business, advice and pathfinding service to other federal programs and support**. Please refer to this [Info Sheet](#) for more information.
    - For assistance, please contact [FedDev Ontario](#) directly.
  - [FedNor](#) (**Northern Ontario region**) is Canada's regional economic development agency (RDA) monitoring the COVID-19 global challenge and the potential impact it could have on business and workers, as well as the broader economy.
    - The RDAs can assist SMEs or organizations affected by the impact of COVID-19 with **access to federal funding to help you stay in business, advice and pathfinding service to other federal programs and support**. Please refer to this [Info Sheet](#) for more information.
- 

- For assistance, please contact [FedNor officers](#) by selecting the nearest location to your business or organization.

## **REGIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

- **Ontario Government** has launched the [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#) which among other measures includes direct support for employees and businesses in Ontario. These measures include but not limited to:
  - [Support for businesses:](#)
    - [5-month Interest and Penalty Relief](#) for Ontario businesses who are unable to file or remit select **provincial taxes** on time;
    - **Education property tax** remittance deferral for 90 days;
    - **WCB payments deferral** for up to six months;
  - [Support for workers:](#)
    - **Job-protected leave:** [amendments to the provincial employment legislation](#) to provide job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or daycare closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
  - The [Ontario Together Fund](#) helps companies retool, build capacity or adopt the technological changes needed to produce supplies and equipment for hospitals, long-term care homes and other critical public services.
    - To learn more about this fund visit [Ontario Together Fund - Press Release](#)
    - For help to make an online submission contact **1-888-777-0554**.
  - The province of Ontario has launched a toll-free line to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about the province's recent emergency order. Call **1-888-444-3659**.
- *The City of Toronto*
  - The Toronto Mayor's [Economic Support and Recovery Task Force](#) was launched to help protect Toronto's economic success in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The immediate measures include **extended grace period for property tax payments and utility bills for businesses, employee protection measures, and other**.
  - See a complete list of all [Economic Support & Recovery for Business](#)
  - You can contact the City of Toronto for more information at [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca).
- *The City of Vaughan*
  - Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua has launched the [Vaughan Business Action Plan](#) to safeguard the city's local economy and support small-business owners impacted by COVID-19. The plan includes support for enhancing the movement of goods; improving business ground transportation; and maintaining small-business services.
  - For up to date information and a list of business resources please visit [vaughan.ca/business](http://vaughan.ca/business)
  - You can contact Vaughan's Economic and Cultural Development at [ecd@vaughan.ca](mailto:ecd@vaughan.ca) or by phone at 905-832-8526.

## **BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS**

*The following guides will help your business prepare for and manage through a potential COVID-19 escalation in Canada:*

- **Business travel and movement of goods:**
  - Please refer to the Government of Canada's [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Travel Advice](#), which lists an official global travel advisory in effect: **Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada** until further notice.
  - However, there are [exemptions](#) for workers who are essential to the movement of goods, people and providing critical services (e.g. healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector, healthy people who have to cross the border to go to work, etc.).
  - **U.S. Travel:**

- On March 18, 2020 Canada and the United States agreed [to temporarily restrict non-essential travel across the Canada-U.S. border](#). These restrictions however will not affect trade, or workers involved in essential work, since preserving supply chains is critical for both countries.
- *The U.S. Department of Homeland Security* also publishes information on [COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) which includes details on the US-Canada restrictions for non-essential travel.
- **Business continuity planning:**
  - [A guide to Business Continuity Planning](#) by *Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)* describes how an organization will continue to function during or after some kind of emergency, disaster or event. It involves planning how your key services or products can be continued, and the recovery of key business and systems.
  - The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has a guide on [Pandemic Preparedness for Business](#), which is compiled based on best practice documents and designed to assist business planning and continuity efforts.
  - BDC has a guide for [Business continuity plan and templates for entrepreneurs](#).
    - See also their guide on [8 steps for planning your emergency and disaster plan](#).
- **Supply Chain Management:**
  - You can also find useful guides on supply chain management in these difficult times arising from COVID-19 in the guides published by Deloitte on [Managing Supply Chain Risk and Disruption](#) and by PWC on [COVID-19: Operations and supply chain disruption](#).

## **SUPPORT FOR EXPORTERS**

*The resources below will help explain how Canadian exporters can be prepared to take on the risk of doing business in rapidly changing international markets due to COVID-19:*

- The Trade Commissioner Service is committed to supporting Canadian exporters and the free flow of goods and services across our international borders and has dedicated a page to [COVID-19 and Canada's international trade](#) that combines resources to help exporters navigate through these challenges.
- EDC has released a number of [trade highlights, articles and webinars](#) to help exporters navigate business risks and impacts of COVID-19 when doing business internationally.
  - See for instance our recent webinar on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Managing the impact on global supply chains](#), which, together with the article [How to manage business risk during the COVID-19 crisis](#), provides information on how the coronavirus is affecting global trade and how your company can be protected.

