

COVID-19 FEDERAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

FOR TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

Disclaimer: This document was prepared by the Trade Commissioner Service, Global Affairs Canada (Pacific). It lists COVID-19 economic support measures that may be relevant to Canadian business and entities serving the business community. Companies outside of British Columbia should check for measures in their province. Federal measures will be consistent across the country.

*Due to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the resources and links listed herein are **subject to frequent updates**. Users of the information should verify all programs before taking actions. For questions on any of the programs below, clients and partners can reach out to their local Trade Commissioner for further information.*

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROCUREMENT, RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS

The Government of Canada is working to mobilize Canada's industrial capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full press release [here](#).

The programs below are constantly evolving and therefore are subject to frequent changes. Their objective is to connect SMEs with government agencies' relief programs and/or programs to expedite technology development and supplies procurement.

Please note that registration/application is not a guarantee of support and that there may be a delay in responding due to the high number of inquiries.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT CANADA (PSPC) AND INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ISED) – GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

➤ [Calling all suppliers – Buy and Sell \(PSPC\)](#)

Description: PSPC is asking commercial ready suppliers to register their ability to provide products and services. Businesses who can readily supply products and services in support of Canada's response can complete this [submission form](#).

➤ [Call to Action: Canadian Manufacturers \(ISED\)](#)

Description: If you are a Canadian manufacturer or business that can assist Canada in meeting the need for medical supplies, your help is needed. ISED is assessing the production of Medical Counter Measures.

If you can say yes to the following, please send a short summary of your offer to ic.mid-dim.ic@canada.ca.

- You manufacture in Canada and/or have ready access to necessary inputs through your supply chain.
- You have equipment or facilities that can be rapidly re-tooled to meet medical needs, including for personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks and surgical gowns; sanitizers; wipes; ventilators; and other medical equipment and supplies.
- You have skilled workers who can respond and are available for work in the current circumstances.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NRC) – TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

➤ [NRC COVID-19 response](#)

Description: The NRC COVID-19 page lists two programs for SMEs with solutions and/or capabilities to respond to the crisis:

1. The COVID-19 Challenges Procurement Program: NRC Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) and Innovative Solutions Canada

This program will post challenges seeking near-to-market solutions from businesses in need of financial support. This support is meant to help them refine and sell their product or solution to meet a COVID-19 related need.

Through this initiative, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada (HC) will establish several challenges corresponding to the needs of health providers.

NRC IRAP will partner with Innovative Solutions Canada to launch calls for proposals over the next few weeks to address challenges, to fund development of solutions, and to buy successful products and services needed to address COVID-19.

Together, NRC IRAP and Innovative Solutions Canada will:

- post the PHAC and HC challenges on the Innovative Solutions Canada [website](#);
- award Phase 1 funding to successful small and medium-sized businesses to develop a proof of concept for their solution (NRC IRAP);
- award Phase 2 funding to firms with the best concepts, enabling them to develop a working prototype (NRC IRAP).

The NRC, PHAC, HC or another federal department or agency will then be able purchase the product for use against COVID-19.

Existing Innovative Solutions Canada challenges will continue as PHAC, HC, and health care providers request new topics.

Businesses involved in developing or producing any of the products or technologies listed below can complete this [online registration form](#).

- Personal protective equipment;
- Sanitization;
- Diagnostic and testing;
- Therapeutics;
- Disease tracking technology.

2. Pandemic Response Challenge Program: National Research Council

This program will build teams to address challenges that require further research and development resulting in COVID-19 solutions.

The Pandemic Response Challenge Program is currently structured around three main research areas:

- Rapid detection and diagnosis;
- Therapeutics and vaccine development;
- Digital health.

Researchers at Canadian universities, colleges, and highly innovative firms with relevant expertise can now register their interest to work on these challenges by completing the [Expression of Interest for Challenge Program collaboration](#).

Funding is available to help cover the costs of research for academic institutions, small and medium-sized businesses, and other eligible recipients participating in the challenge teams. Over the coming weeks, NRC will post the specific R&D challenges, send information to registered researchers, and invite them to indicate the expertise and capabilities they can bring to a team.

HEALTH CANADA (HC) – CLINICAL TRAILS

➤ [Clinical Trial Sponsors](#)

Description: Companies and researchers with drugs, medical devices, or natural health products that may be effective in treating or diagnosing COVID-19 are encouraged to contact Health Canada to facilitate clinical trials.

Health Canada can authorize a clinical trial quickly in urgent situations and can be contacted regarding:

- trials using pharmaceutical drugs: OCT_BEC_Enquiries_Enquetes@hc-sc.gc.ca
- trials using biologics or radiopharmaceuticals: hc.bgtd.ora.sc@canada.ca
- trials using natural health products: NHPD-CTA.DEC-DPSN@canada.ca
- investigational testing of medical devices: hc.meddevices-instrumentsmed.sc@canada.ca

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

KEY RESOURCES – TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE

➤ [Resources for Canadian Businesses impacted by COVID-19](#)

Description: Please see the Trade Commissioner’s COVID-19 page for a comprehensive resource list for businesses’ key concerns:

- [Support for employees](#)
- [Support for businesses](#)
- [Business travel and events](#)
- [Business in international markets](#)

➤ CanExport

Description: [CanExport](#) is a funding program administered by Global Affairs Canada. TCS clients can access financial support and receive personalized advice from experienced trade commissioners to help identify potential markets, partnerships, and opportunities to achieve your international business needs.

1. [CanExport SMEs Updates](#)

Description: The CanExport SME program has been updated. Applicants and recipients should consult the current [FAQ](#) page. For any specific questions regarding active projects, submitted applications or potential applications, please contact your local trade commissioner service. CanExport SME cannot approve any travel and related activities until new direction will be reflected in the advisory. All other market development activities will remain eligible for funding.

2. [CanExport Innovation Updates](#)

Description: The CanExport Innovation program has been updated. Applicants and recipients should consult the current [FAQ](#) page. For any specific questions regarding active projects, submitted applications or potential applications, please contact your local trade commissioner service.

KEY RESOURCES – FINANCE CANADA

➤ [Overview of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

Description: The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to help Canadians facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Please see link above for resources for individuals and businesses. A number of measures mentioned below are the responsibility of Canada Revenue Agency. To learn more, please visit [here](#):

- [Wage Subsidies](#): Helping businesses keep their workers by providing eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. An announcement was made on Friday, March 27th to increase the subsidy to 75%, details to follow on Monday, March 30th.
- [Flexibility Regarding Business Tax Filing](#): The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.
- [Work Sharing](#): Please see link for information on temporary [Work Sharing](#) measures. This measure includes extending the duration of Work-Sharing agreements by an additional 38 weeks, for a total of 76 weeks.

➤ [Additional Tax Measures Supporting Credit & Liquidity](#)

Description: The Government of Canada is making additional investments to support Canadian businesses. These new investments provide support to financial institutions and allow them to quickly provide credit and liquidity options for a range of businesses. These measures are a part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which provides direct support and tax deferrals to Canadian workers and businesses through:

- [Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments](#)
- [Deferral of Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers](#)
- [New Loan Programs for Businesses](#)
- [Canada Revenue Agency's Additional Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#)

INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ISED) – RESOURCE PAGE

➤ [Help for Businesses Affected by COVID-19](#)

Description: This is a broad concierge page operated by ISED. Please consult this page for full breadth of funding programs and relief programs operated by the Government of Canada.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY CANADA (SDTC)

➤ Support for Canadian Cleantech Companies

Please see [here](#) for regular website. For more information on the SDTC one-time increase for Canadian cleantech companies, please contact your SDTC rep or the TCS.

Description: SDTC has connected with nearly all (90%) of its active Canadian cleantech companies. As of March 26, 2020, SDTC will increase the amount of their contribution by 5% for active companies and by

\$15,000 for seed companies. This is a one-time payment to provide companies with the opportunity to work with their staff and advisors to develop mid-to-long term strategies. Approximately 120 projects will be receiving an increase, for a total of \$20M program wide. This increase will be paid as a one-time instalment within one week.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA (BDC) - WORKING CAPITAL

➤ [Business Credit Availability Program \(BCAP\)](#)

Description: The BCAP will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$10 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses. As of March 27, the Canadian Federal Government announced an additional \$12.5 billion will be provided through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank to help small – and medium-sized businesses with their operational cash flow requirements.

➤ [Support for entrepreneurs impacted by COVID-19](#)

Description: As announced by the Minister of Finance, Hon. Bill Morneau, BDC is increasing the amount of financing available to entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 outbreak. These measures include:

- Working capital loans of up to \$2 million with flexible terms and payment postponements for up to 6 months for qualifying businesses;
- Postponement of payments for up to 6 months, free of charge, for existing BDC clients with total BDC loan commitment of \$1 million or less;
- Reduced rates on new eligible loans;
- Additional details regarding Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) measures, including industry specific support, to be announced in the coming days;
- For general inquiries, please call 1-800-INFO-BDC.

Additional financing includes:

- [Small Business Loan](#): Up to \$100,000 can be obtained online.
- [Working capital loan](#): Get extra funds to bridge cash flow gaps and support everyday operations.
- [Purchase Order Financing](#): Increase your cash flow to fulfill domestic or international orders with very flexible terms.

➤ [New Loan Programs for Businesses](#)

Description: A new co-lending program for small and medium enterprises. To provide additional liquidity support for Canadian businesses, the Co-Lending Program will bring the Business Development

Bank of Canada (BDC) together with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements.

Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts up to \$6.25 million BDC's portion of this program is up to \$5 million maximum per loan. Eligible financial institutions will conduct the underwriting and manage the interface with their customers. The potential for lending for this program will be \$20 billion.

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA (EDC) – CREDIT, FINANCE AND INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

➤ [Business Credit Availability Program \(BCAP\)](#)

Description: The BCAP will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$10 B of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses. As of March 27, the Canadian Federal Government announced an additional \$12.5 billion will be provided through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank to help small – and medium-sized businesses with their operational cash flow requirements.

➤ [New Loan Programs for Businesses](#)

Description: Outlines two programs to ensure businesses have capital.

1. Canada Emergency Business Account: This \$25 billion program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period their revenues have fallen due to COVID-19. To be eligible, organizations will need to have paid \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019. Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (up to \$10,000). Consult Export Development Canada (EDC) for further details.
2. A New Loan Guarantee for SMEs: EDC will guarantee new operating credit and cash flow term loans extended to SMEs by financial institutions, up to \$6.25 million. The program is capped at \$20 billion for export sector and domestic companies.

EDC also has a suite of [financial and insurance solutions](#) to support businesses, who can also register for a [MyEDC](#) account for unlimited access to expert insights and trade information. For existing customers, please contact your existing EDC rep or contact them via 1 866 716 7201, or support@edc.ca

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA (ESDC) – EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

➤ [COVID-19 Benefits and services](#)

Description: This page lists details and resources related to:

- Employment Insurance;
- Labour Program and federally regulated workplaces;
- Work-Sharing Program;
- Canada Child Benefit.

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY (CRA) - TAX BENEFITS AND WAGE SUBSIDY

➤ [Helping Canadians with the economic impact of COVID-19](#)

Description: The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has developed this page to provide updates on the fiscal measures taken by the Agency to help Canadians manage their tax and benefit affairs.

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

Description: To support workers and help businesses keep their employees, the government has proposed legislation to establish the CERB. This benefit would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The portal for accessing the CERB will be available in early April. Canadians will begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The CERB will be paid every four weeks and be available until October 3, 2020.

In order to receive your benefit faster, make sure that you have signed-up for direct deposit with CRA and that the information you provided is up to date. More details [here](#).

➤ [Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes](#)

Description: The Federal government is allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

For self-employed individuals or those who have spouses or common-law partners that are self-employed, the deadline to pay any balance due for your individual federal income tax and benefit return has been extended from April 30, 2020, to September 1, 2020.

➤ [Canada Revenue Agency's Additional Measures for Individuals and Businesses](#)

Description: The CRA understands that individuals and businesses could experience cash-flow challenges in the coming months. In response, the CRA will be applying additional measures including:

- Administrative tax measures: In addition to the income tax filing and payment deadline extensions, unless otherwise noted, administrative income tax actions required of taxpayers by the CRA that are due after March 18, 2020, can be deferred to June 1, 2020.
- The deadlines for trusts, partnership and NR4 information returns are all extended to May 1, 2020. This is due to administrative requirements in advance of the June 1, 2020 deadline for filing individual income tax and benefit returns.
- Extending the deadline for filing an objection: For any objection request due March 18 or later, the deadline is effectively extended until June 30, 2020.

WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION CANADA (WD) – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

➤ [COVID-19 and the Western Canadian Economy](#)

Description: WD is one of the Regional Development Agencies (RDA) supporting the Canadian economy by monitoring the COVID-19 situation and assessing the economic impact to the Western Canadian economy.

This page contains a Q&A section and pamphlet that describes the approach WD is taking with other RDAs to support businesses through this crisis.

If you are a tourism operator or a SME business or organization and have received RDA funding and COVID-19 is affecting your operations, you are encouraged to contact your local RDA office, who are listed on the site above. Your local RDA office can review your situation and provide guidance.

BC-SPECIFIC GUIDES AND TOOLS FOR BUSINESS

Small Business BC:

[Resources for Small Businesses during COVID-19](#). This page includes [a resource list](#) and a [Business Continuity & COVID-19 Checklist](#).

BC Economic Development Association:

[Resources for BC Businesses](#)

Canadian Federation of Independent Business:

[How the federal government is supporting small business](#)

WorkSafe BC:

[What employers should do](#)

PreparedBC:

[Guide for Tourism Operators](#) and [Emergency Plan for Tourism Operators](#)

BC Centre for Disease Control:

[Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist](#)

World Health Organization:

[Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19](#)

TRAVEL RESOURCES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA (GAC) – HELP FOR CANADIANS OUTSIDE CANADA

[Financial help for Canadians outside Canada](#)

Description: An official global travel advisory is in effect: Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice. For Canadians who have no available source of funds to return home, Canada has announced the creation of the COVID-19 Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad.

Eligible Canadians currently outside Canada who need financial assistance can contact the [nearest Government of Canada office](#) or Global Affairs Canada’s 24/7 Emergency Watch and Response Centre in Ottawa at +1 613-996-8885 (call collect where available) or CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca.

For all other consular emergencies, contact the [nearest Government of Canada office](#) or Global Affairs Canada’s 24/7 Emergency Watch and Response Centre in Ottawa at +1 613-996-8885 (call collect where available) or email sos@international.gc.ca.

TRANSPORT CANADA (TC) – TRAVEL MEASURES AND ADVISORIES

[Aviation measures in response to COVID-19](#)

Description: Provides details on aviation measures and advisories, including descriptions of eligible and ineligible travelers.

CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA) – BORDER TRAVEL

[Temporary restriction of travelers crossing the U.S.-Canada border for non-essential purposes](#)

Description: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States and Canada are temporarily restricting all non-essential travel across its borders.

Canada Border Services Agency has established a toll-free line, staffed 24/7, to answer specific questions about Border Crossing: 1-800-461-9999 from within Canada, and 1-204-983-3500 from outside Canada.

APPENDIX 1 – QUICK CHART FOR FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Measure	Details	Implementation
Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 billion in financial support via BDC and EDC to support SMEs. • EDC: please contact your existing EDC rep or contact them via 1 866 716 7201, or support@edc.ca • BDC has a specific page addressing COVID-19, please see here. For general inquiries, please call 1-800-INFO-BDC. 	Immediately
Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18th and before September 2020. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. 	Immediately
Wage Subsidy for Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A temporary wage subsidy for eligible small businesses for a maximum of 3 months. • The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer 	Immediately (Supporting legislation to follow)
Flexibility claiming EI	<p>For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waive the one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. • Waive the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits. • Instructions on how to apply are available on Employment & Social Development Canada's website here. 	Immediately
Emergency Care Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details: Up to \$900 biweekly, for up to 15 weeks, to provide income support to workers, including the self-employed, who have to stay home and don't qualify for paid sick leave or employment insurance • Eligibility Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits. ○ Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits. ○ Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, 	Early April

	<p>irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications will open in April, at a date to be determined. When that happens, Canadians will be able to apply for them through CRA MyAccount or My Service Canada Account or by calling a toll-free number that has not yet been made public. 	
Emergency Support Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments of undisclosed amounts to unemployed workers not eligible for EI • Applications will open in April, at a date to be determined. When that happens, Canadians will be able to apply for them through CRA MyAccount or My Service Canada Account or by calling a toll-free number that has not yet been made public. 	Early April
Canada Child Care Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2B in payments through the Child Care Benefit 	May

APPENDIX 2 – TRUSTED SOURCES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Trusted Sources of COVID-19 Information

Public Health Agency of Canada
 @CPHO_Canada (Dr. Theresa Tam)
 @GovCanHealth
 @HealthyCdns
www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html

Government of Canada
 @CanadianPM
 @Canada
 @PattyHajdu (Canada's Minister of Health)
 @CanadaAndTheWorld
www.canada.ca/coronavirus

World Health Organization
 @WHO
www.who.int

BC Centre for Disease Control
 @CDCofBC
www.bccdc.ca

Government of British Columbia
 @BCGovNews
 @AdrianDix (BC's Minister of Health)
 @BCProvincialGovernment
 @GovernmentofBC
www.gov.bc.ca

Vancouver Coastal Health
 @vchhealthcare
www.vch.ca/COVID19