



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

The events occurring across the border are an opportunity to reflect on the racism that is still alive, not only there, but also here in Canada. It's hard to conceive that my black colleagues and friends are still the target of discrimination. I hardly dare to imagine how other people from different cultural communities live, even today, with a reality where discrimination and injustice are still present.

As citizens, we have the responsibility to recognize these injustices and to take concrete action. In solidarity, I invite you to walk peacefully - and from a distance - and demonstrate our rejection of racism in our community this Sunday, June 7 at 10:00 am at the Place de la Gare, near the Lake of Nations, in Sherbrooke.

It is by working together and speaking out against intolerance that we will build a more just Canada, so that no parent has to explain to his children how to respond to racism. Together we can make a difference!

Like every week, I share with you through this newsletter the latest information available to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19. Also, I invite you to visit CANADA.CA for all the reliable information you need. Please do not hesitate to contact my team and me if you have any questions or comments.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Marie-Claude Bibeau



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SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

AN ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR OUR SENIORS

To support seniors in coping with the challenges of COVID-19, the Government of Canada is providing assistance in the form of a one-time payment of:

- \$ 300 for seniors who are eligible for the Old Age Security pension;
- An additional \$ 200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

The single, non-taxable payment is a separate payment from the regular benefits and will be made automatically in the coming weeks to all eligible individuals. There is no need to apply.

This additional payment for seniors will be paid to your bank account if you are enrolled for direct deposit. If you are not enrolled for direct deposit, you will receive a cheque.

To avoid payment delays, recipients of the Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement who currently receive payments by cheque can sign up for direct deposit here: <https://bit.ly/3gQ3v8V>.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3cpqyUA>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

The **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** is a \$ 211 million initiative that offers assistance in the form of loans to businesses and organizations in Quebec affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19 that have not yet benefited from federal government support.

Eligibility:

- Retail stores and local services;
- Social economy enterprises;
- Companies in the food industry (including fisheries), picking and harvesting;
- Tourism for projects of \$ 40,000 and less;
- Manufacturing companies with a turnover of less than \$ 250,000;
- Self-employed workers;
- Start-up companies other than in manufacturing and value-added services;
- Companies that are already clients of a SADC or a CAE.

Terms:

- The loan of \$ 5,000 to \$ 40,000 must be used to meet ongoing capital needs for a period of 6 months;
- The need for assistance must relate only to immediate (punctual) financial pressures on liquidity (working capital for SMEs or need for cash for non-profits) and must be a consequence of COVID-19;
- Interest-free until December 31, 2022;
- 25% of the loan will be non-refundable if 75% of the capital is reimbursed before December 31, 2022;
- Total amortization of 5 years.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Non-repayable financial contribution for technical assistance

The RRRF also offers **non-repayable financial contributions** to help businesses cover the cost of **technical assistance** required to better cope with the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This financial assistance can be used for strategic local development projects as well as specialized expertise needed to set up an online boutique, to restructure human resources, to implement new health and sanitation measures, etc.

Companies and non-profits can apply for this funding regardless of whether they have already received funding from the federal government through another program.

SADC of Coaticook

For businesses and organizations in the Coaticook region, it is now possible to submit a request to the **SADC of the Coaticook region**.

To apply for a working capital loan or for non-repayable financial support for technical assistance, the applicant must complete an application form (<https://bit.ly/3eKImMt>).

Once everything is completed, the applicant must send his form with the required documents to info@sadccoaticook.ca.

For more information: <https://sadccoaticook.ca/en/home>

For any question concerning the RRRF, it is possible to communicate by telephone with Mrs. Ouédraogo at **819-849-3053 ext. 128** or by email at suivi@sadccoaticook.ca.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SADC of the Haut-Saint-François

For businesses and organizations in the Haut-Saint-François RMC, it is now possible to submit a request to the SADC of the Haut-Saint-François.

To apply for a working capital loan, the applicant will need to complete an application form (<https://bit.ly/2XVvHP8>).

To submit a request for technical assistance, the applicant must complete this request form: <https://bit.ly/2BIMHGr>.

Once everything is completed, the applicant must send his form with the required documents to info@sadchsf.qc.ca.

For more information: <https://www.sadchsf.com/en/covid-19/>

For any question concerning the RRRF, it is possible to communicate by telephone at **819-832-2447** or by email at info@sadchsf.qc.ca.

The SADC of the Haut-Saint-François also offers two other programs that provide non-repayable contributions to help businesses cope with the challenges created by the pandemic:

- The Assistance Program for Implementing Health Measures (<https://bit.ly/2XPUuDW>);
- Program to relaunch operations (details to come).

For more information: <https://www.sadchsf.com/en/covid-19/>

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CAE of the Memphremagog RMC

For companies and organizations in the Memphremagog RMC, it is now possible to submit a request to the CAE of the RMC of Memphremagog.

To apply for a working capital loan or for non-repayable financial support for technical assistance, the applicant must complete an application form (<https://bit.ly/3eLE6LB>).

Once everything is completed, the applicant must send the application along with the required documents to info@caememphremagog.ca.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3069KPN>.

For any question concerning the RRRF, it is possible to communicate by telephone at **819-843-4342** or by email at info@caememphremagog.ca.

Canada Economic Development (CED)

For businesses and non-profits headquartered in Sherbrooke, it is now possible to submit a request to CED.

To apply for financial assistance, the applicant must fill out an application form <https://bit.ly/306a1Cj>.

Once everything is completed, the applicant can submit the form online along with the required documents.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/306a1Cj>.

For any question concerning the RRRF, it is possible to communicate with CED at **1-800-561-0633**.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EMERGENCY FUND FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The **Emergency Fund for Community Support (EFCS)**, funded by the federal government, helps community organizations that provide essential services to vulnerable Canadians during the pandemic.

Community organizations and charities can request funding to support a variety of activities such as:

- Creation of a digital health platform to continue mental health and addictions recovery programming;
- Development and delivery of a virtual mental health program for caregivers;
- Increased staffing and supplies at a shelter for women and children fleeing violence;
- Technology purchase and services enabling seniors in-residence to virtually connect with their families;
- Preparing and delivering food to people with disabilities;
- Dispatch of a social worker to provide hearing-impaired individuals with information on COVID-19 and support to navigate impact relief services.

You can apply now via one of the three program partners. Please find on the next page a program summary to help you apply.

The Emergency Fund for Community Support (EFCS) aims to support organizations that provide essential services to vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For charities, not-for-profits and recognized donors providing essential services in the Eastern Townships, a budget of over \$1.3 million is available through the EFCS.

	CANADIAN RED CROSS	COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ESTRIE	UNITED WAY CENTRAIDE ESTRIE
Who can apply ?	Non-profit organizations	Registered charities Recognized donors Municipalities	Registered charities Recognized donors Partnerships between charities and non-profits
Funding request	Minimum: \$5,000 Maximum: \$100,000	Maximum of \$40,000 for communities of ≤15,000 or Maximum of \$75,000 for big cities and regions	Reasonable amount, no maximum or minimum
Application deadline	July 7, 2020	July 27, 2020	July 17, 2020
End of project	October 31, 2020	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2021
Processing time	2 to 3 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	2 to 3 weeks
To speak to a representative	1-866-221-2232	819-481-5017	819-569-9281
To apply	https://bit.ly/2X4QArQ	https://bit.ly/2ZGaPxA	https://bit.ly/3c4uxWB

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION

The Government of Canada's Emergency Fund for Community Support also provides support via the Canadian Red Cross to help community organizations working on the front lines train and safely equip their staff and volunteers.

As part of this program, front-line workers and volunteers will receive personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and gloves, as well as training on the proper wearing of PPE to ensure their health and their well-being.

The program is open to non-profits and registered charities in Canada, as well as qualified donees. To be eligible, organizations must be established and operating exclusively for the purposes of collective well-being, improvement of civic life, entertainment, leisure or for any purpose other than profit.

In addition, the organization must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be incorporated in Canada or have their head office in Canada;
- Generate annual revenues of \$ 1,500,000 or less;
- Have started its activities on December 31, 2019 or before;
- Regularly devote at least 50% of its main activities to the provision of direct services;
- Present a governance structure comprising a board of directors, a management committee, etc. made up of at least three people;
- Have in place accountability measures such as internal control and accountability practices and procedures;
- Work with beneficiaries in low or medium risk environments.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION

Priority will be given to organizations that provide direct essential services or support, that respond to an urgent need for social inclusion or wellness related to COVID-19, that offer direct services in support of vulnerable populations, and that have reserves of unrestricted funds corresponding to less than 20% of the annual operating budget.

The deadline to apply is **July 7, 2020**.

For more information or to apply, see the following link: <https://bit.ly/36XoNN8>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 CHALLENGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM

The Department of National Defense (DND) has launched the **Innovation for Defence, Excellence and Security (IDEaS) program**, which aims to support, improve and maintain the capacity of the science and technology community to generate new ideas.

The DND is looking for new ideas and innovative solutions to meet scientific and technological challenges in the following areas:

- Rapid response in order to provide real-time information for decision-making in pandemic times;
- Rub your coats to identify solutions for reusing COVID-19 protective equipment;
- Super disinfection which allows the cleaning of sensitive equipment and workspaces.

Innovators can apply now.

[Application and assessment process](#)

STEP 1

Presentation of the proposal

The applicant must complete and submit a proposal form

STEP 2

Proposal evaluation and selection

DND will evaluate the proposals submitted and make the selection

STEP 3

Conclusion of contribution agreement

Successful applicants will enter into a contribution agreement

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 CHALLENGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM

How do I apply?

The applicant must:

1. Read the IDEaS Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2XUluKR>);
2. Examine scientific and technological challenges (<https://bit.ly/3dvRGCM>) and determine if he can meet them by proposing an innovation;
3. Fill out the proposal form (<https://bit.ly/2BmiqY3>).

Innovators have **until 2:00 p.m. on June 23, 2020** to apply.

On June 11, 2020, you can take part in a webinar for more information about the application process as well as technical questions. To participate, register here: <https://www.ideasreg.com/>

If you have any questions, you can send them to the following address: DND.IDEaS-IDEaS.MDN@forces.gc.ca.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2XvBprG>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SUPPORTING CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Canadian municipalities face new challenges as a result of COVID-19, and to support their work the Government of Canada has announced that funding through the **Federal Gas Tax Fund** will be provided much earlier than expected this year. Thus, the annual federal funds of \$ 2.2 billion will be granted in a single payment in June.

The **Federal Gas Tax Fund** offers municipalities the flexibility to use the funds to meet local needs. Communities can invest in 18 different categories of projects, ranging from public transportation and disaster mitigation to recreational facilities. Projects may also include providing access to a high-speed Internet, improving roads and water supply or building bicycle paths and walking trails.

The funds can be used immediately for priority projects, set aside for future use, pooled with other communities to finance shared infrastructure projects or used to finance major infrastructure investments.

This is just one measure in a series of immediate measures that the Government of Canada is putting in place, in partnership with provinces, territories and municipalities, to help local economies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2XwWVwx>.

BEST SANITARY PRACTICES

To have up-to-date information concerning the coronavirus, we invite you to contact:

- The Canadian Government Website : <https://bit.ly/2QFBAwY>
- Phone **1-833-347-4397** (toll free).

If ever you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), contact **1-877-644-4545** (toll free).

For more information on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the **workplace**, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3adWvz3>.



Public health experts recommend that we:

- Limit our contact with other people by practicing social distancing;
- Frequently wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if we don't have access to water and soap;
- Cough and sneeze in a tissue or in the crux of our arm
- Avoid touching or eyes, nose or mouth if we haven't previously washed our hands;
- Use approved sanitizers to clean hard surfaces;
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched (telephones, door handles, etc...)

To learn more on risk prevention, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Uv9d5M> or send an email to phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca.