



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

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A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

The resumption of economic activity is well underway in our community, but still many Canadians will not be able to return to work. It was to ensure adequate support that we announced an eight-week extension of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). In this way, people who receive the CERB but cannot return to work will continue to receive support.

Our seniors also face many challenges. The pandemic has not only placed a significant burden on their health and well-being, it has especially weakened their financial security. In fact, because of the confinement, our elders resorted to delivery for their groceries and their medicine, which represents additional costs for their budget. It is to support them that our government has taken extra measures to provide them with greater financial security.

In April, seniors in our community receiving the GST Credit received a special non-taxable payment of \$ 375 on average for single seniors and of \$ 510 on average for senior couples. This measure has helped close to 4 million senior citizens across Canada.

In addition to the GST Credit:

- Seniors registered for Old Age Security received a one-time, non-taxable payment of \$ 300 for individuals and of \$ 600 for couples;
- Seniors registered for the Guaranteed Income Supplement received one-time, non-taxable payment of \$ 200 for individuals and \$ 400 for couples.

More than 7 million seniors across the country will automatically receive these one-time payments during the week of July 6.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and meet me on Saturday, June 20 between 10 a.m. and noon at the North Hatley Farmers Market and on Friday, June 26 between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley Farmers Market. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see each other again (keeping a certain physical distance) and to discuss the programs put in place by the federal government to support you during the pandemic.

Like every week, I wish to share with you the most recent information about the support offered to 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 and comments.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones!

Marie-Claude Bibeau

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CANADIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

The **Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** is a taxable benefit of \$ 2,000 per month to help workers affected by COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

CERB is offered to workers who:

- Have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19, or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits, or have exhausted their EI regular or fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020;
- Had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019, or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application;
- Have not earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income per benefit period while collecting the CERB;
- Have not quit their job voluntarily.

The Government of Canada has just announced that **the CERB will be extended by eight weeks** to provide Canadians with the support they need as they transition back to work. As a result, claimants who receive CERB and cannot return to work will be able to continue receiving payments for up to 24 weeks.

Claimants will have to certify that they are looking for a job and that they consult existing job search tools, including the Job Bank portal (<https://bit.ly/3eo2XWI>).

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3hFb02G>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CANADA STUDENT SERVICE GRANT

The **Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)** is a program that will allow post-secondary students and recent graduates to help non-profit organizations in their communities meet the challenges created by COVID-19. Thanks to their volunteer involvement, participating students will be able to apply to the CSSG and receive up to \$ 5,000 to cover their tuition fees.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must:

- Be enrolled in a post-secondary institution for the spring/summer 2020 session and/or for the session starting in September 2020;
- Have graduated from a post-secondary institution no earlier than December 2019;
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, have Indian status or have refugee status.

Students who receive the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) are eligible for the scholarship while those who receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) are not eligible for the CSSG.

CSSG levels

The CSSG will pay a total amount based on the number of validated hours of volunteer work that a student has done between June 15 and September 15, 2020.

Depending on the number of hours, applicants will receive:

- \$ 1,000 for 100 hours of volunteer work;
- \$ 2,000 for 200 hours of volunteer work;
- \$ 3,000 for 300 hours of volunteer work;
- \$ 4,000 for 400 hours of volunteer work;
- \$ 5,000 for 500 hours of volunteer work.

Students must register **before August 8, 2020** in order to benefit from the CSSG.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

TRAVELLERS

To ensure the safety of Canadians, the Government of Canada will now require temperature screenings for all passengers travelling to Canada or travellers departing from a Canadian airport for either international or domestic destinations.

Air operators must conduct temperature screenings at the point of departure, in addition to the existing required health check questions for symptoms prior to boarding.

Without a medical certificate mentioning an illness or physical health disorder that would cause a high temperature, a passenger who has a high temperature will not be allowed to continue their journey and will be asked to re-book after 14 days.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2Yd6wcd>.

To ensure the safety of Canadians, the Government of Canada has announced that the current restriction on nonessential travel at the Canada-US border will be extended **until July 21, 2020**.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EMERGENCY ACCOUNT FOR CANADIAN COMPANIES

The **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** provides interest-free loans of up to \$ 40,000 to small businesses and non-profit organizations to help pay for their operating costs.

Small businesses that previously did not qualify due to their low payroll, sole proprietors who derive direct income from their businesses, as well as family businesses that pay compensation in the form of dividends instead of pay are eligible for CEBA starting this week. **Thus, they will be able to submit a request for CEBA support to their main financial institution as of Friday, June 19, 2020.**

To be eligible for CEBA under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with a payroll of less than \$ 20,000 must have the following:

- An active business chequing/operating account with a participating financial institution;
- A Canada Revenue Agency business number;
- A declaration of income for 2018 or 2019;
- Eligible expenses that cannot be carried over and totaling between \$ 40,000 and \$ 1.5 million.

For more information: <https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

BUSINESS REOPENING

The first stages of the economic recovery are underway. To help ensure the safety of all, the Government of Canada has partnered with the **POST Promise Program** to help Canadian businesses reopen their doors safely and securely.

Businesses that make the "POST Promise" voluntarily agree to take five key public health actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Maintain physical distance;
2. Have employees wash and disinfect their hands;
3. Clean and disinfect regularly;
4. Be on the lookout for symptoms and have employees stay at home if they're not feeling well;
5. Follow the rules for respiratory etiquette, especially by wearing a mask when sufficient physical distance is impossible.

By displaying the POST Promise logo, participating businesses can tell their customers that they are doing what is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

For more information: <https://postpromise.com/en/>

SECTORAL SUPPORT

EMERGENCY PROCESSING FUND

The **Emergency Processing Fund (EPF)** is a \$ 77.5 million federal investment program aimed at helping businesses implement the changes necessary to maintain the health and safety of workers and of their families due to the impact of COVID-19.

The EPF will provide up to \$ 5 million per recipient in non-repayable funding for emergency response activities related to COVID-19 or in repayable funding for strategic investments.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients include for-profit organizations incorporated in Canada, such as:

- Companies and joint stock companies;
- Cooperatives;
- Aboriginal groups.

Eligible activities

Eligible activities can have two objectives. Objective 1 will be the top priority of funding offered under the program.

Objective 1 - Emergency response related to COVID-19 (activities funded by non-repayable contributions)

Examples:

- Modifications to existing factories to implement additional public health protocols and requirements and adapt production processes to maintain the health and safety of workers and their families due to COVID-19;
- Activities associated with the humane slaughter of surplus animals in processing facilities due to COVID-19.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

Objective 2 - Strategic investments (activities financed by repayable contributions)

Example:

- Improvement or modernization of food processing or manufacturing facilities to manage excess inventory or increase production, including facilities that are not operating at full capacity or that are closed, and activities related to conversion or adaptation of existing greenhouses to increase horticultural production.

All activities must be completed by September 30, 2020. The program will fund activities retroactive to March 15, 2020.

Submitting a request

Before applying, it is important to read the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2YHd5Tq>).

To submit a request for less than \$ 100,000, contact the Quebec Food Processing Council by phone at 1-888-984-2251 or by email at fondsdurgencecovid@conseiltaq.com.

To apply for \$ 100,000 or more, complete the forms and submit them online (<https://bit.ly/2N7Hy7y>).

For more information on the Emergency Processing Fund, consult <https://bit.ly/3dcJGW8> or contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada by phone at 1-877-246-4682 or by email at aafc.epf-fut.aac@canada.ca.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SURPLUS FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

The **Surplus Food Rescue Program**, with a budget of \$ 50 million, aims to redirect surplus food products as efficiently as possible to people in need.

The program also aims to assist organizations so that they can acquire and process surplus products and food that would otherwise be wasted or destroyed and distribute them to vulnerable Canadians.

Among other things, the Surplus Food Rescue Program is designed to allow organizations across the supply chain to bid for large volumes of surplus products at the cost of production or less, process them if necessary to extend their shelf life (frozen, dried or canned products) and distribute them to food serving organizations.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are for-profit and non-profit organizations including:

- Community or charitable organizations;
- Aboriginal groups;
- Cooperatives;
- Regional and municipal governments and organizations (may include schools or school boards).

Eligible projects are those that meet all of the logistical requirements necessary to move surplus products through the supply chain in the quickest, most efficient and cost-effective manner. The project must therefore include the essential stages of acquiring products at wholesale prices, processing, transportation and ensuring the stability of the shelf life of surplus products, while minimizing food waste.

The project's activities must be completed by September 30, 2020.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

Submitting a request

Before applying, it is important to read the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2YN6IDt>).

You can submit your request by email to aafc.sfrp-prsa.aac@canada.ca.

All requests will be accepted until the funds are fully committed or until July 31, 2020.

For more information, consult <https://bit.ly/2YlxXcW> or contact program representatives by phone at 1-866-367-8506.

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 our 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.