



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

I hope that your summer has gotten off to a good start, and that you are enjoying it while taking the necessary health precautions. With beautiful sunny days, this is an opportunity to discover summertime treasures such as our public markets and other outdoor attractions that are reinventing themselves.

This week I participated in the Cabinet Ministers' virtual retreat. It was an opportunity for me to share the priorities of our agricultural and agri-food sector, of course, but I also emphasized the role of our regions in reviving our economy, a recovery that we want to be "sustainable" in every sense of the word. The COVID-19 crisis has allowed us to identify not only our weaknesses, but also the strengths of our communities.

Like every week, through this newsletter I am sharing with you the latest available information on federal programs to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19. I also invite you to visit the CANADA.CA website for all the reliable information you need.

Please don't 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

SPECIAL PAYMENT FOR SENIORS

Seniors have faced many challenges related to COVID-19 and to support them, 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 (OAS) pension;
- \$200 extra for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

The single non taxable payment will be made automatically **during the week of July 6, 2020** and will go directly into your bank account if you have registered for direct deposit. Otherwise, a check will be sent by mail.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2Z7hnoi>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

MANDATORY ISOLATION

In an effort to limit the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in Canada, the federal government has taken unprecedented measures, including restrictions on non-essential travel.

The end date for the mandatory isolation and quarantine requirements for people entering Canada has been extended to **August 31, 2020**.

This means that anyone entering Canada, whether by air, land or sea, is required to:

- Isolate themselves for 14 days if they have COVID-19, or if there are reasonable grounds to believe that they have symptoms of the disease;
- Quarantine for 14 days if they have no symptoms.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/320Lklz>.

BORDER MEASURES

Border measures prohibiting the entry into Canada of any foreigner from a country other than the United States were extended until **July 31, 2020**.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CANADIAN-AMERICAN BORDER

Border measures that restrict all nonessential border crossings between Canada and the United States, including for tourism and recreational purposes, remain in effect until **July 21, 2020**.

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

MODIFICATION OF THE OPERATING HOURS IN STANSTEAD

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) in collaboration with the United States Border Services Agency is temporarily reducing operating hours at certain ports of entry.

The entry point on Route 143 in Stanstead will henceforth operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. This change has been in effect since July 3, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2ZRQx2z>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE CANADA OFFICES

The pandemic affected the operations of Service Canada, which had to interrupt its in-person services in order to protect Canadians and the employees of its offices. To ensure continuity, Service Canada strengthened its online services while increasing its presence in rural and remote communities.

Since July 6, Service Canada centres have gradually started to reopen. By the end of July, nearly 100 service centres will be ready to welcome Canadians again.

The reopening of Service Canada offices builds on new services that have recently been introduced, such as the eServiceCanada portal (<https://bit.ly/3gFUIWg>), which enables Canadians in need of Service Canada to submit an online request and receive a call from a Service Canada agent within two business days.

Residents who require in-person services should consult the Find a Service Canada office web page (<https://bit.ly/38AEY42>) to find out if their office is open.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2O8VHIE>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

The **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** is a \$211 million initiative that provides 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 support from the federal government.

With the application period coming to an end, interested entrepreneurs are encouraged to submit an application this week.

Coaticook SADC

For businesses and organizations in the Coaticook region, it is possible to apply for a working capital loan by completing an application form (<https://bit.ly/3eKImMt>) and submitting it to the Coaticook SADC.

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

Haut-Saint-François SADC

For businesses and organizations in the Haut-Saint-François RCM, it is possible to apply for a working capital loan by completing an application form (<https://bit.ly/2XVvHP8>) and emailing it to the Haut-Saint-François SADC via info@sadchsf.qc.ca.

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

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

REGIONAL AID AND RECOVERY FUND

CAE of the Memphremagog RMC

For companies and organizations in the Memphremagog RMC, it is possible to apply for a working capital loan by completing the application form (<https://bit.ly/3eLE6LB>) and submitting it to the CAE of Memphremagog à info@caememphremagog.ca.

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

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SUPPORTING THE BLACK COMMUNITIES OF CANADA

The Government of Canada has launched the **Supporting Black Communities in Canada** initiative to celebrate the country's thriving black communities, share their knowledge and build their capacities.

Eligible non-profit organizations can submit a request for up to \$ 100,000 for projects related to:

- The purchase of equipment for work or community spaces;
- The renovation or redevelopment of existing work or community spaces owned or rented by the organization.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations run by black people whose mandate includes serving black communities.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- That the organization is run by black people, meaning either:
 - Management positions are mainly occupied by people who identify themselves as black (at least two thirds of the members);
 - The governance structure is mainly composed of people who identify themselves as black (at least two thirds of the members);
- The ways in which the organization's mandate supports members of the black community.

To Submit a Request

Before applying, please read the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/3iGRjYR>).

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SUPPORTING THE BLACK COMMUNITIES OF CANADA

Below are the steps to apply by email:

1. Complete the Funding Request form (<https://bit.ly/2ZMuIXT>) online or by hand;
2. Email the request to EDSC.ACNC-SBCC.ESDC@canada.gc.ca.

The deadline to apply is July 27, 2020.

Information Sessions

Information sessions will be organized in July. If you are interested in participating, send an email to EDSC.ACNC-SBCC.ESDC@canada.gc.ca.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/38DohES>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE

The **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)**, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provides support to small businesses and not-for-profit and charitable organizations that are struggling due to COVID-19.

As part of the program, building owners will provide a rental reduction of at least 75% for the months of April to June (retroactively) to small businesses tenants. CECRA will cover 50% of the rent, and tenants will pay up to 25%. Combined with the Quebec government's assistance program, building owners will only have to forego 12.5% of the usual rent.

The CECRA has been extended until the end of July for tenants whose applications have been approved for the periods of April, May and June.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2O5TU0r>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY ISOLATION OF TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

The **Assistance Program for the Mandatory Isolation of Temporary Foreign Workers (MISTFWP)** provides assistance of up to \$ 1,500 for each temporary foreign worker in the agriculture, fishing, and food production and processing sectors. The program assists Canadian employers with additional costs related to the mandatory 14-day isolation period imposed on temporary foreign workers upon entering Canada under the Quarantine Act.

The funding is intended to cover costs during the period of mandatory isolation, such as:

- Salaries and benefits;
- Off-site accommodation;
- Transportation to and from off-site accommodation;
- Food or meal allowance.

Applications under MISTFWP will now be accepted until August 31, 2020 or until the entire fund has been allocated.

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

SECTORAL SUPPORT

CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

The Canada Periodical Fund is designed to provide short-term emergency financial relief to Canadian magazines and community newspapers during the COVID-19 crisis. The *Special Measures for Journalism component* provides funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to publishers that have a free circulation model or low levels of paid circulation, or that publish in digital format.

Applicants must ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria (<https://bit.ly/31WPlxD>).

The deadline to apply is July 27, 2020.

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

SECTORAL SUPPORT

FOREST INNOVATION PROGRAM

The **Forest Innovation Program (FIP)** supports research, development and technology transfer activities across the Canadian forest sector. These activities aim to help the forest sector continue its ongoing modernization through the development and adoption of innovative scientific solutions.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Universities, CEGEPs, colleges and other educational establishments;
- Provincial, regional and municipal governments;
- For-profit companies that produce forest products and that have forest product production units in Canada;
- For-profit companies which supply materials, products or services to forest products companies defined above;
- Non-profit forestry sector organizations;
- Non-profit research establishments.

To Submit a Request

Before applying, please read the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2VYoYDX>).

To obtain a copy of the application form, contact the Canadian Wood Fiber Center by email _____ at _____ NRCan.canadian_wood_fibre_centre
centre_canadien_sur_la_fibre_de_bois.RNCan@canada.ca.

The deadline to apply is July 14, 2020.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/38AQ9cY>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

INVESTMENTS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

The **Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT)** program facilitates the adoption of transformative technologies, products and processes by bridging the gap between the design and commercialization stages.

The IFIT program accepts applications through two separate funding opportunities:

- **Component 1: Capital investment projects** that support the modernization of companies in the forest sector, diversify new product flows and implement innovative improvements to ensure competitiveness;
- **Component 2: Study projects** that encourage the advancement of innovation in the forestry sector that will stimulate capital investment or the strategic reorientation of local businesses.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are for-profit businesses located in Canada that:

- Make forest products at an existing forest product manufacturing facility (for example, pulp and paper mills and sawmills); or
- Are / will be newcomers to the Canadian forest sector for the purposes of the proposed project.

Mergers, joint ventures and consortia are also eligible provided that a for-profit enterprise acts as the principal applicant and is designated as the beneficiary of the funding.

To Submit a Request

Before applying under Component 1: Capital investment projects, please consult the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2Do0m0P>).

The deadline to submit an application for this component is **August 13, 2020**.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

INVESTMENTS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Before applying under Component 2: Study projects, please consult the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2ZVI1Qu>).

Applications for Component 2 will be accepted on a regular basis until all funds have been allocated.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/31Trv65>.

INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

Canada Emergency Business Account (<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>): Open

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (<https://bit.ly/3g18ySP>) – Non-refundable financial support component for technical assistance: Open until funds are exhausted

Local Food Infrastructure Fund (<https://bit.ly/2W0ltg1>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages (<https://bit.ly/2ZaY7GI>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Study projects (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund - RRRF (<https://bit.ly/2Yvdbi0>): Open until July 12, 2020

Enabling Accessibility Fund (<https://bit.ly/37YXAdu>): Open until July 13, 2020

Forest Innovation Program (<https://bit.ly/38AQ9cY>): Open until July 14, 2020

Canada Periodical Fund - Special Measures for Journalism component (<https://bit.ly/3gBSJIG>): Open until July 27, 2020

Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

- Centraide Estrie (<https://bit.ly/2z6zgJZ>): Open until July 17, 2020
- Estrie Community Foundation (<https://bit.ly/3fVf4dE>) : Open until July 27, 2020
- Canadian Red Cross (<https://bit.ly/2CGdeiY>): Open until July 31, 2020

INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

Supporting Black Communities in Canada (<https://bit.ly/38DohES>): Open until July 27, 2020

Emergency Processing Fund (<https://bit.ly/31g55eJ>): Open until July 31, 2020

Surplus Food Rescue Program (<https://bit.ly/3dEqLh6>): Open until July 31, 2020 or until funds are fully committed

Equipment and Training Program on Prevention of Disease Transmission (<https://bit.ly/2NsFSpr>) : Open until July 31, 2020

Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Capital investment projects (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until August 13, 2020

Canada Student Volunteer Grant (<https://bit.ly/2ZSfI55>): Open until August 21, 2020

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (<https://bit.ly/2Vk7JfN>): Open until August 29, 2020

Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (<https://bit.ly/2VimgbO>): Open until August 31, 2020

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (<https://bit.ly/3dFe8c1>): Open until August 31, 2020

Canada Emergency Student Benefit (<https://bit.ly/2NqLvEJ>): Open until September 30, 2020

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (<https://bit.ly/2YvHLYI>): Open until October 3rd, 2020

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.