



# COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

*We're here for you!*

## A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

The construction holidays have started and many families in Quebec have chosen to discover or rediscover our beautiful province. However, for many parents, the holidays are a tricky period during which you have to make compromises so as not to have unpleasant surprises at the end of the month.

To support families who need it most, the Government of Canada has once again increased the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). Thanks to this improvement, parents will have more money to care for their children. In fact, more than 12,000 families in our region will benefit!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is important to submit your personal income tax returns as soon as possible. In fact, if you fail to do so, you will no longer receive the federal benefits to which you may be entitled. In addition, some benefits already transferred could be claimed back from you! If you haven't yet filed your tax returns, now is the time to do so.

As every week, through this newsletter I wish to share with you the latest information available on 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 feel free 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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# SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT

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The Government of Canada is investing **\$ 19 billion through the Safe Restart Agreement** to help provinces and territories safely jump-start their economies and to increase Canada's resilience in the event of a future outbreak of the virus.

This investment will address seven priority areas that have been agreed upon by the Premiers:

- **\$ 4.28 billion** to support provinces and territories to increase their capacity for screening, contact tracing and the sharing of public health data that will help fight the pandemic;
- **\$ 700 million** to support the capacity of health care systems to respond to a possible future wave of COVID-19. An additional **\$ 500 million** will be provided to meet immediate needs and fill gaps in the support and protection of people experiencing difficulties related to mental health, substance abuse or homelessness;
- **\$ 740 million** to cover one-time costs incurred by provinces and territories over the next six to eight months for infection control and prevention measures;
- **Up to \$ 2 billion** to help municipalities cover operational costs related to COVID-19 over the next six to eight months. In addition, the federal government will invest an amount equal to any additional contributions made by the provinces and territories in public transit, up to a maximum of **\$ 1.8 billion**;
- **\$ 4.5 billion** for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for national purposes and **\$ 3 billion** for provinces and territories to support their investments in PPE;
- **\$ 625 million** to address the reduced availability of child care and to meet the specific needs resulting from the pandemic;
- **\$ 1.1 billion** to fund a new temporary income support program to encourage workers to stay at home and seek public health advice if they have symptoms.

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

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

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## CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

The **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)** is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them care for their children under the age of 18.

As part of its COVID-19 relief measures, in May the Government of Canada sent a one-time payment of an additional \$ 300 per child to more than 12,000 families in Compton-Stanstead.

On July 20, 2020, **the federal government increased the CCB once again** for the 2020-2021 benefit year in order to keep pace with the cost of living. This additional support helps ensure that the CCB will continue to provide critical assistance to the families who need it most.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2E0ooPF>.

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

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## SUPPORTING CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES

This pandemic has had a profound impact on the lives and health of all Canadians, and it has disproportionately affected Canadians with disabilities.

To help them pay for their extra expenses during the crisis, the Government of Canada will transfer a **tax-free amount of \$ 600** to people who hold a valid disability tax credit certificate as of June 1, 2020.

This special payment will now also be made to people who receive the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit, the Quebec Pension Plan Disability Benefit and to Veterans who benefit from the Disability Support Measures provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

By making this assistance more accessible, nearly 1.7 million Canadians with disabilities will be able to benefit from it.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3hviW61>.

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

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## TAX RETURNS

To support taxpayers during the pandemic, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) extended the deadline for filing personal income tax returns for 2019 to June 1, 2020.

However, as of July 1, 2020, nearly 2 million Canadians had still not filed their income tax returns.

If you are receiving federal benefits such as the GST Credit or the Canada Child Benefit and you have not yet filed your income tax returns, it is important to do so without delay. To avoid interest charges and penalties on any outstanding balance, it is also very important for taxpayers to pay any taxes owed for 2019 before September 1, 2020.

**Unless your tax returns are filed and any required taxes paid before September 1, you will not be able to continue receiving your benefits. Furthermore, in certain cases, you may be asked to reimburse any extra amount you received.**

For more information, please see the following link: <https://bit.ly/2CFS9Fh> or call 1-800-959-7775 (Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm).

## CANADIAN-AMERICAN BORDER

Canada and the United States have agreed to extend border measures that restrict all non-essential crossings at the Canada-United States border, including for tourism or recreation, **until August 21.**

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) enables businesses and organizations across the country to prevent more job losses, encourages employers to quickly rehire workers previously laid off due to COVID -19 and helps to better position the Canadian economy during the transition to economic recovery.

Since its launch, the CEWS has supported approximately 3 million Canadian jobs.

The federal government recently presented the details of **a new design of the program for the period up to November 21, 2020 with the intention of extending it until December 2020**. The proposed changes aim to achieve the following results:

- Make the subsidy accessible to a broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30% and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers. This would help many struggling employers with less than a 30% revenue loss get support to keep and bring back workers, while also ensuring those who have previously benefited could still qualify, even if their revenues recover and no longer meet the 30% revenue decline threshold.
- Introduce an additional subsidy of up to 25% for employers that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. This measure would particularly help employers in industries that are slower to restart their activities.
- Provide greater certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for the months of July and August by ensuring that their subsidy rate will not be lower than the rate they would have been entitled to under previous rules.
- Solve technical problems raised by stakeholders.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3g4t0Tj>.

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## ESSENTIAL SERVICES CONTINGENCY RESERVE

As part of the Safe Restart Agreement, the Government of Canada is establishing the **Essential Services Contingency Reserve (ESCR)**, to which essential service organizations and businesses can apply for temporary, urgent access to personal protective equipment and other critical supplies.

Supplies are provided on a cost-recovery basis to businesses or organizations that cannot access supplies through other means and when significant service disruptions are imminent. Support provided to provincial or territorial governments will not be cost recovered.

**Organizations and businesses may register starting August 3, 2020.**

For more information on admissibility and on how to apply: <https://bit.ly/3eNHLZb>.

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## EMERGENCY FUND FOR SHELTERS AND ASSISTANCE CENTRES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of people fleeing violence. Therefore, the Government of Canada has reached a second agreement for the payment of **\$ 2.3 million** directly to the Government of Quebec to support women's shelters and to aid organizations serving victims of sexual violence and domestic violence.

This \$ 2.3 million is on top of the \$ 6.46 million allocated in May to women's shelters and centres providing services to those experiencing gender-based violence in Quebec.

Through this funding, front-line organizations in our county will be able to increase the security of their facilities, strengthen their emergency preparedness and increase their capacity.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2OMf1VV>.



# INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

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

**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

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

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

**Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)**

- Canadian Red Cross (<https://bit.ly/2CGdeiy>): Open until July 31, 2020

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

**Surplus Food Rescue Program** (<https://bit.ly/3dEqJh6>): Open until July 31, 2020 or until funds are fully committed

# INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

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**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

**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

**Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** (<https://bit.ly/2Vk7JfN>): Open until December 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](mailto:phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca).