



# Resources for Business

## Business Resource Update - May 11, 2020

### 1. Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provides relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. It offers forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners so that they can reduce the rent owed by their impacted small business tenants by at least 75% for the months of April, May and June 2020.

- Update: Rent for April and May that has already been paid is now reimbursable.
- Applications are still not open. It is expected that the program will be operational by mid-May and further details will be announced soon this week.

Link for further information:

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business>

### 2. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Eligible employers can receive a subsidy of 75% of employee wages for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

- Update: The emergency wage subsidy has been extended beyond June in an effort to encourage more employers to re-hire staff.

Link for further information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

### 3. Canada Emergency Response Benefit

- Update: May 11 is the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> eligibility period for the \$2,000 monthly benefit.

Link for further information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra/how-apply.html>

#### **4. Ontario Government allows certain businesses to re-open if they can comply with public health measures**

Update: As of May 8<sup>th</sup>, Ontario further eased restrictions on retail stores and essential construction:

- Retail stores with a street entrance and curbside pickup and delivery.
- In-store payment and purchases as garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores and safety supply stores.
- Essential construction including multi-unit residential.
- Businesses must follow public health measures.

Link for further information:

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/ontario-further-eases-restrictions-on-retail-stores-and-essential-construction-during-covid-19.html>

#### **5. Additional Funding Supports Announced - Sector**

##### **Tourism Development Fund**

Supports projects that encourage three key streams: tourism investment, tourism product development and industry capacity building.

The Tourism Development Fund program provides non-capital, project-based funding to:

- develop research-based innovative and emerging tourism sectors;
  - support tourism organizations' capacity building;
  - encourage new private sector tourism investment attraction; and
  - enhance Ontario's overall economic competitiveness and opportunities for the Ontario tourism industry
- Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, but should be submitted a minimum of four months prior to the start of the project
  - Eligible organization include tourism associations (excluding Regional Tourism Organizations), economic development corporations, municipalities and not-for-profits

Link for further information:

<https://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantOpportunities/OSAPQA005130>

## **Agriculture Support**

The Federal Government will invest more than \$252 million to support farmers, food businesses, and food processors who provide essential service to Canadians by ensuring a safe and reliable food supply.

**a. Canada's Emergency Processing Fund**

\$77.5 million to help producers access more personal protective equipment, adapt health protocols, automate or modernize facilities, processes or operations.

Application details have not been released.

**b. Canada's Agri Recovery (cattle and hog) Initiatives**

\$125 million in funding to help producers faced with additional costs. This includes set-asides for cattle and hog management programs to manage livestock on backed-up farms.

Application details have not been released.

**c. Canada's Food Surplus Program**

\$50 million fund designed to help redistribute existing and unsold inventories to organizations serving vulnerable Canadians.

Full details and application have not been released.

**d. Ontario - Canada Agri-Food Open for E-Business Initiative**

Eligible agriculture, agri-food and agri-products businesses/organizations that want to bring their business online quickly can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000.

Application is open,

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/ebusiness.htm#eligible>

**e. Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Quarantine Assistance Program**

\$50 million to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers with TFWs with costs associated with the mandatory 14-day isolation period required of all workers traveling from abroad.

**f. Increase to Farm Credit Canada's Lending Capacity**

FCC received an increase in lending capacity to assist the industry with cash flow challenges.

Link for further information:

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/summary-of-government-financial-assistance-for-ontario-farm-businesses/>

### **Culture, Heritage and Sport**

\$500 million has been announced to help alleviate the financial pressures for Culture, Heritage and Sport Organizations. Targeted funding will help organizations maintain operations while continuing to support artists and athletes and retain jobs.

- Starting May 8<sup>th</sup>, partner organizations will be contacted to assist in the distributions of funds as quickly as possible through existing channels.
- Partners include; Canada Council for the Arts; the Canada Media Fund, FACTOR, Musicaction, and Telefilm Canada

Link for further information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2020/05/emergency-support-fund-for-cultural-heritage-and-sport-organizations-next-steps-to-support-the-industry-impacted-by-the-global-covid-19-pandemic.html>