

Summary of Federal and Provincial COVID-19 Supports

Supports for people

Federal Supports for People		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected launch</i>
Employment Insurance (EI)	<p>Canadians who are eligible for Employment Insurance will continue to apply for and receive EI benefits.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/results/employment-insurance.html#a1</p>	Effective March 15, 2020
Improved access to Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefit	<p>For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#improved_access_employment_insurance_sickness_benefit</p>	Effective March 15, 2020
Canada Emergency Response Benefit	<p>This benefit replaces both the Emergency Support Benefit and the Emergency Care Benefit. Applicants will receive \$2000 every four weeks for up to four months.</p> <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers (Canadians aged 15+ and who made at least \$5000 from employment in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to application) who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -have lost their jobs, or ▪ -are sick or quarantined, or ▪ -are looking after someone who has COVID-19, or ▪ -have to stay home with dependant children, or ▪ -are contract workers, or ▪ -are self-employed, or ▪ -are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19 <p>Canadians who are eligible for regular or medical EI would continue to apply for those benefits as required. Federal EI benefits and CERB are not stackable.</p>	<p>Online portal for applications available by April 6.</p> <p>Funds received within 10 days of application.</p> <p>Payments retroactive to March 15, 2020.</p> <p>Payments available until October 3, 2020</p>

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	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#new_canada_emergency_response_benefit https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E01C0AA	
Increased Canada Child Tax Benefit	<p>The Government is proposing to increase the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts, only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by \$300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately \$550 on average; these families will receive an extra \$300 per child as part of their May payment. In total, this measure will deliver almost \$2 billion in extra support.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA</p>	May 2020
Extra time to file income taxes and pay taxes owing	<p>The Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#extra_time_income_taxes https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA</p>	<p>For individuals, filing due date is deferred to June 1, 2020; May 1, 2020 for trusts</p> <p>Amounts owing are deferred until after August 31, 2020</p>
Mortgage support	<p>The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is providing increased flexibility for homeowners facing financial difficulties to defer mortgage payments on homeowner CMHC-insured mortgage loans. CMHC will permit lenders to allow payment deferral beginning immediately.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#mortgage_support</p>	Application opened March 19
Increased goods and services tax credit	<p>The Government is proposing to provide a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC). This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.</p>	By May 2020

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	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increased_goods_services_tax_credit	
Enhancement to Reaching Home Initiative	<p>Providing the Reaching Home initiative with \$157.5 million to continue to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding could be used for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#enhancing_reaching_home_initiative</p>	Unknown- TBD
Support women's shelters and sexual assault centers	<p>The Government of Canada is supporting women and children fleeing violence, by providing up to \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centres to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities. This includes funding for facilities in Indigenous communities.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#support_women_shelters_and_sexual_assault_centers</p>	Unknown- TBD
New Indigenous Community Support Fund	<p>The Government of Canada is providing \$305 million for a new distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#indigenous_community_support_fund</p>	Unknown- TBD
Eased rules for Registered Retirement Income Funds	<p>The Government of Canada is reducing required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020, in recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors' retirement savings. This will provide flexibility to seniors that are concerned that they may be required to liquidate their RRIF assets to meet minimum withdrawal requirements. Similar rules would apply to individuals receiving variable benefit payments under a defined contribution Registered Pension Plan.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#eased_rules_registered_retirement_income_funds</p> <p>https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/third-reading#ID0E0CD0AA</p>	Effective immediately

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Moratorium on repayment of Canada Student Loans	<p>The Government of Canada is placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#canada_student_loans</p>	Effective immediately

Provincial Supports for People		
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BC Emergency Benefit for Workers	<p>The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to people who lost income because of COVID-19. B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Emergency Care Benefit, or the new federal Emergency Support Benefit are eligible</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#BCEBW</p>	<p>Applications open in April 2020</p> <p>One-time payment will be paid in May 2020</p>
Job-protected leave	<p>An employee can take unpaid, job-protected leave related to COVID-19 if they're unable to work for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are following the instructions of a medical health officer or the advice of a doctor or nurse • They are in quarantine or self-isolation and are acting in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the Quarantine Act (Canada), guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control or guidelines from the Public Health Agency of Canada • Their employer has directed them not to work due to concern about their exposure to others • They need to provide care to their minor child or a dependent adult who is their child or former foster child for a reason related to COVID-19, including a school, daycare or similar facility closure • They are outside of BC and unable to return to work due to travel or border restrictions 	Effective immediately, retroactive to January 27, 2020

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	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/employment-standards-advice/employment-standards/time-off/leaves-of-absence#covid19	
Climate Action Tax Credit	<p>A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid for moderate to low-income families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adult will receive up to \$218.00 (increased from \$174.00) • A child will receive \$64.00 (increased from \$51.00) <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports#CATC</p>	Benefit will be paid in July 2020
Temporary suspension of evictions in BC Housing	<p>BC Housing has put in place a temporary moratorium on evictions of tenants in subsidized and affordable housing during the COVID-10 outbreak. Until further notice, BC Housing contractors must not issue any Notice to End Tenancies for non-payment of rent.</p> <p>https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>	Effective immediately
Temporary rent adjustment for BC Housing	<p>Rent-Geared-to-Income tenants, subsidized through an agreement with BC Housing, can apply for a rent re-calculation. Any tenant whose household income is in full, or in part, from employment can apply for a rent adjustment if they experience a reduction or loss of employment income as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>	Effective April 1, 2020
Moratorium on repayment of B.C. student loans	<p>B.C. student loan payments are automatically frozen for six months.</p> <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports</p>	Effective March 30, 2020
BC Hydro bill deferral	<p>Customers can defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty through the COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program</p> <p>https://www.bchydro.com/news/press_centre/news_releases/2020/bill-relief-covid-19.html</p>	March 13, 2020
BC Hydro crisis grants	<p>Customers experiencing job loss, illness or lost wages due to COVID-19 can access grants up to \$600 to pay their hydro bills through the Customer Crisis Fund</p> <p>https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/customer-crisis-fund.html</p>	Pre-existing fund

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ICBC payment deferral	Customers on a monthly payment plan who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 may defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/contact-us/Pages/covid-19.aspx	March 24, 2020
Enhanced MSP coverage	To assist BC residents during the COVID-19 environment, the Chair of the Medical Services Commission has made the following decisions regarding MSP coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSP coverage wait period will be waived for those who are returning from impacted areas and intend to stay in BC. • MSP Beneficiaries who are out of the province and unable to return may be provided with temporary coverage. • For those who are in the province with an expired work or study permit, a period of temporary MSP coverage may be provided. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents	Effective immediately

Supports for business and non-profit

Federal Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
<i>Support</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected Launch</i>
Small business wage subsidies	To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, as well as non-profit organizations and charities. Businesses can reduce their remittances of income tax withheld on/ their employees' remuneration. https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#wage_subsidies	Effective immediately
Business Credit Availability Program	The BCAP will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$10 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses. This will be an effective tool for helping viable Canadian	Effective March 18, 2020

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	<p>businesses remain resilient during these very uncertain times. BDC and EDC are cooperating with private sector lenders to coordinate on credit solutions for individual businesses, including in sectors such as oil and gas, air transportation and tourism. The near term credit available to farmers and the agri-food sector will also be increased through Farm Credit Canada.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#business_credit_availability_program</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#Increasing_credit_available</p>	
Lower the Domestic Stability Buffer	<p>The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) announced it is lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer by 1.25% of risk-weighted assets. This action will allow Canada's large banks to inject \$300 billion of additional lending in to the economy.</p> <p>https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/nr_20200313.aspx</p>	March 14, 2020
Lower interest rate	<p>The Bank of Canada took a series of actions to support the Canadian economy during this period of economic stress, enhance the resilience of the Canadian financial system, and help ensure that financial institutions can continue to extend credit to both households and businesses. This included cutting the interest rate to 0.75% as a proactive measure in light of the negative shocks to Canada's economy arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent sharp drop in oil prices.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#bank_of_canada_actions</p>	March 14, 2020
Insure Mortgage Purchase Program	<p>Under this program, the government will purchase up to \$50 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). This action will provide long-term stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders, help facilitate continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses, and add liquidity to Canada's mortgage market.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#insure_mortgage_purchase_program</p>	March 24, 2020
More time to pay income taxes	<p>The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the <i>Income Tax Act</i>. No interest</p>	Payments deferred until after August 31, 2020

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	<p>or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.</p> <p>For the vast majority of businesses, the Canada Revenue Agency will temporarily suspend audit interaction with taxpayers and representatives.</p> <p>The Liaison Officer service offers help to owners of small businesses to understand their tax obligations. Traditionally available in-person, this service is now available over the phone and will be customizing information during these challenging times by ensuring small businesses are aware of any changes such as filing and payment deadlines, proactive relief measures, etc.</p> <p>https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#more_time_to_pay_their_income_taxes</p>	

Provincial Supports for Business and Non-Profit		
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Deferred tax payments for businesses	<p>BC is extending filing and payment deadlines for the following taxes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer health tax • Provincial sales tax (including municipal and regional district tax on short-term accommodation) • Carbon tax • Motor fuel tax • Tobacco tax <p>https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes</p>	Payments deferred until September 30, 2020
Delayed Budget 2020 tax changes	<p>The following tax changes announced in Budget 2020 are postponed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating the PST exemption for carbonated beverages that contain sugar, natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners • Expanded registration requirements for Canadian sellers of goods, along with Canadian and foreign sellers of software and telecommunication services 	Delayed until further notice

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	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes	
Delayed Carbon Tax increase	Carbon tax rates will remain at their current levels until further notice. The tax measure announced in Budget 2020 aligning the carbon tax rates with the federal carbon pricing backstop is also postponed until further notice. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes	Delayed until further notice
Reduced School Tax for business	School tax rates for commercial properties (Classes 4, 5 and 6) will be reduced by 50% for the 2020 tax year. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes	Effective for 2020 tax year
Temporary emergency funding for child care providers that remain open	Licensed child care providers staying open will receive enhanced funding to keep operations going. These centres are eligible to receive seven times their average monthly operating funding from government, which is expected to cover approximately 75% of a group facility's average monthly operating expenses. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/qa_child_care_sector.pdf	April 1, 2020
Temporary emergency funding for child care providers that close	Child care providers who close due to COVID-19 will also receive support to help ensure they are able to pay their fixed costs, like rent or lease during the temporary closure, so they can reopen when able. Providers that close will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be eligible to receive two times their average monthly government funding • This is expected to cover approximately 20% of an average group facility's monthly operating expenses https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/covid-19/qa_child_care_sector.pdf	April 1, 2020