



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A word from your M.P. - p.2

Canada Emergency Response Benefit - p.3

Support for individuals - p.5

Support for businesses and organizations - p.8

Sectoral support - p.11

Best sanitary practices - p.15

Hello,

The reopening of our community is slowly taking place and is a breath of fresh air. Through this newsletter, I wish to share with you the latest information available to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19.

The COVID-19 crisis is seriously affecting farmers and processors. In response to some of the most pressing issues, we announced a series of programs this week that, among other things, aim to help pork and beef producers and food processors.

As part of the AgriRecovery program, \$ 100 million is now available to help pork and beef producers cover additional costs related to the reduction in slaughter capacity.

In addition, a new \$ 77.5 million program will help processors redesign their facilities and purchase equipment to increase their processing capacity while providing a safe working environment for their employees.

We have also created a \$ 50 million fund to purchase surplus food and send it to food banks in the quantities and formats they are able to use.

Finally, we hope that the opposition parties will let us make the legislative change necessary to authorize the request from the Canadian Dairy Commission. An increase in its line of credit would allow it to purchase and store more butter and cheese as a means to avoid wasting milk.

To conclude, I know that more help is expected from our government for farmers. I want to assure you of our commitment to the women and men who feed us. I will continue to work tirelessly so that the right programs are put in place as soon as possible.

Until then, I encourage them to take advantage of the programs that are already available, including AgriStability and AgriInvest. It is not because these programs are not as generous as one would like that we should not take advantage of them.

Like every week, 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.

Thank you and have a wonderful evening!

Marie-Claude Bibeau

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** offers temporary income support to workers who have lost their revenue due to COVID-19.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will ensure that the CERB is provided to and kept **only by those who are entitled to it.**

Therefore, you must reimburse the CERB if you no longer meet the eligibility conditions for the 4-week period you for which you applied. This could happen if:

- You have earned employment or self-employment income earlier than expected;
- You requested the CERB, but you were not entitled to it;
- You received the CERB from Service Canada and the CRA for the same period.

How to return or reimburse the CERB

If you were paid by direct deposit or if you no longer have the original cheque, you can reimburse the CERB in one of the following ways:

1. Using CRA's *My Account* starting **May 11, 2020**;
2. Mailing the cheque or money order to the CRA at the following address:

Avenue Processing – Repayment of CERB
Sudbury Tax Centre
1050 Notre Dame Avenue
Sudbury ON P3A 0C3

Be sure to:

- Make payment out to "Receiver General for Canada";
- Indicate it is for "Repayment of CERB";
- Indicate which eligibility period you are repaying;
- Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or your Temporary Tax Number (TTN)

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

If you still have the original CERB cheque, you can return the cheque by mail to the following address:

**Avenue Processing – Repayment of CERB
Sudbury Tax Centre
1050 Notre Dame Avenue
Sudbury ON P3A 0C3**

Be sure to include:

- The reason for returning the cheque (not entitled or overpayment);
- Your Social Insurance Number (SIN) or Temporary Tax Number (TTN).

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3dqe3cu>

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CANADA EMERGENCY STUDENT BENEFIT

The **Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)** provides support to post-secondary students and recent graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or Employment Insurance and are unable to work due to COVID-19.

The CESB will be available from May to August and will provide **\$1,250** per month to eligible students or **\$1,750** per month to eligible students with dependent or disabilities.

Students applying must certify that they have taken the necessary steps to obtain a job and that they have not found one. Therefore, unless they have a valid reason, students cannot refuse a job, nor limit their availability without losing their right to the CESB.

Students are encouraged to consult the **Job Bank** (<https://bit.ly/2W8oH1o>) or the Government of Quebec's employment website (<https://bit.ly/35AV0cy>).

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3c9SvAB>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

EMERGENCY FUND FOR SHELTERS AND CENTRES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The pandemic has increased the vulnerability of people fleeing violence. The Government of Canada has therefore transferred more than **\$ 6.4 million** directly to the Government of Quebec to help women's shelters and centres for victims of sexual and domestic violence improve safety, support emergency preparedness and increase their capacity.

The Secretariat for the Status of Women of the Government of Quebec will directly distribute these funds to organizations recognized by the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services that are eligible for the grant.

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

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

INVESTING IN MENTAL HEALTH

For many Canadians, COVID-19 is having a major impact on their everyday lives. That is why it is more important than ever that Canadians have access to the tools and resources they need to support their health and well-being.

The Government of Canada announced an investment of **\$ 240.5 million** to develop, expand and launch virtual care and mental health tools to support Canadians.

This investment will:

- Help Canadians safely communicate with their regular health providers and specialist health services;
- Support access to mental health tools and reliable health information in a safe and secure manner;
- Help governments, public health officials, hospitals and health care facilities make evidence-based decisions; and
- Support federal, provincial and territorial initiatives to expand virtual health services to Canadians.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3dlax2U>

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 much needed relief for small businesses, non-profits and charitable organizations experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 during the months of April, May and June 2020.

How does the program work?

CMHC will provide forgivable loans to eligible owners of mortgaged commercial property. The CECRA will cover 50% of the gross rent owed by impacted small business tenants during the 3-month period of April, May and June 2020.

The property owner and the tenant will each be responsible for covering 25% of the total rent.

Important: CECRA loans will be forgiven if the property owner complies with all program conditions including to not attempt to recover the rent abatement amount after the program is over.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE

Who is eligible to apply?

To qualify for the CECRA, the **property owner** must meet the following requirements:

- You own property that generates rental revenue from commercial real estate located in Canada.
- You are the property owner of the commercial real estate where the impacted small business tenants are located.
- You have a mortgage loan secured by the commercial real estate, occupied by one or more small business tenants.
- You have entered or will enter into a rent reduction agreement for the period of April, May, and June 2020, that will reduce the impacted small business tenant's rent by at least 75%.
- Your rent reduction agreement with impacted tenants includes a moratorium on eviction for the period of April, May and June 2020.
- You have declared rental income on your tax return (personal or corporate) for tax years 2018 and/or 2019.

For property owners who do not have a mortgage, an alternative mechanism is currently being worked on by our government.

Impacted small business tenants are businesses including non-profit and charitable organizations that:

- Pay no more than \$50,000 in monthly gross rent per location;
- Generate no more than \$20 million in gross annual revenues; and
- Have temporarily ceased operations (i.e. generating no revenue), or have experienced at least a 70% decline in pre-COVID-19 revenue.

To measure revenue loss, small businesses can compare revenues in April, May and June of 2020 to that of the same month in 2019. They can also use an average of their revenues earned in January and February of 2020.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE

How to apply

The deadline to apply is **August 31, 2020**.

Sign up at the following link to be notified when the application process opens:

<https://bit.ly/2YR8wHV>.

For more information: **<https://bit.ly/2YR8wHV>**.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The work of our agriculture and agri-food sector is essential, and even more so during this pandemic, to ensure that Canadians always have access to fresh and affordable food. To continue to ensure the strength of our supply chain, our government is bolstering existing agricultural programs.

AgriRecovery

The Government of Canada is launching the national AgriRecovery initiative with **125 million \$** in funding to help producers facing additional costs due to COVID-19.

This includes funds specifically set aside for cattle and hog management programs that will help keep livestock on the farm due to the temporary closure of food processing plants.

These new programs will help beef and pork producers and processors adapt to the changing market and help farmers and ranchers keep their animals longer before they put them on the market.

Normally, AgriRecovery covers 70% of eligible expenses, but in the current situation, it will cover 90%.

For more information regarding the program, contact **1-855-773-0241** to talk to an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada agent. Further information can be found at: [**https://bit.ly/2W8lwXx**](https://bit.ly/2W8lwXx).

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SUPPORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

AgriStability

The AgriStability program helps limit the loss of income for our producers. To improve it, we are making the following changes:

- Extension of the enrolment deadline to **July 3, 2020**;
- Possibility of requesting a payment advance of **75%** to obtain additional liquidity;
- Creation of a tool to calculate the support you can obtain.

All producers are encouraged to enrol in this program: <https://bit.ly/2yBWpU2>.

AgriInsurance

AgriInsurance is an income-stabilization program that helps producers cover risks linked to natural disasters.

Given the current situation, the Government of Canada is asking provinces and territories to recognize labour shortage as an acceptable risk for the horticultural industry. In this way, any loss of income caused by a shortage of labour would be taken into account by the program.

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

AgriInvest

AgriInvest is like a savings account into which governments contribute the same amount as the producer for a yearly total of up to \$ 10,000. Producers can use these funds whenever they want to help manage a decline in income.

For more information about the program: <https://bit.ly/3dotlcc>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SUPPORT FOR THE FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR

We are setting up a **\$ 77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund** to support our food processors. Through this fund, the food processing sector will not only be able to better protect workers, but will also increase the meat production capacity by adapting, modernizing and reopening factories that have slowed down or recently closed.

This program will be retroactive to **March 25, 2020**.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2L2DlvD>

SURPLUS FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAM

With the closure of the restaurant industry, our farmers must manage a larger amount of excess food than usual. To help them, the Government of Canada is investing **\$ 50 million** in the first-ever **Surplus Food Purchase Program**. This new program will be used to purchase surplus food, particularly from producers of potatoes, mushrooms and poultry, and to provide it to food banks across the country.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3b5dxPf>

SECTORAL SUPPORT

CANADA DAIRY COMMISSION

The Government of Canada is proposing to increase the borrowing capacity of the **Canadian Dairy Commission** by **\$ 200 million** in order to allow it to store more butter and cheese. In this way, we will avoid throwing away excess milk caused by the closure of many restaurants and institutions.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2L3WkLt>.

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.