



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

This week, our community found a sense of normality with the reopening of our primary schools. This gentle return to activity is a springtime balm compared to the recent weeks of confinement. Through this newsletter, I want to share with you the latest information available to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19.

For our seniors, the pandemic still weighs heavily since, for their safety, they must stay away from their loved ones. Today more than ever, it is important to find ways to break the isolation they live with on a daily basis. With my team, we take one evening a week to reach out by phone to seniors in our region and see how they are doing. These exchanges are appreciated by our senior citizens who take the time to share their opinions and their confinement activities with us.

In fact, our government has just announced new measures to support our seniors. For example, people receiving Old Age Security will receive a tax-free payment of \$ 300 while seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement will receive a payment of \$ 200. Concretely, nearly 7 million seniors across the country will receive more money in the coming weeks.

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.



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Marie-Claude Bibeau

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR SENIORS

The past few weeks have been particularly trying for our seniors who face significant economic and social challenges. That is why the Government of Canada has taken additional measures to provide seniors with greater financial security during this time of crisis.

A one-time, tax-free payment of \$ 300 will be made over the next few weeks to the 6.7 million Canadians eligible for the **Old Age Security (OAS)** pension. For the 2.2 million most vulnerable seniors who are eligible for the **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)**, an additional payment of \$ 200 will be made.

As a result, those eligible for OAS and GIS will receive a total of \$ 500 to help cover the additional costs attributable to COVID-19.

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

CONTINUITY OF BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

To continue to strengthen the financial security of our seniors, **Guaranteed Income Supplement** and **Allowance payments** will be temporarily extended for people whose tax return for 2019 has not yet been processed.

This way, the most vulnerable seniors will continue to receive their benefits during this difficult period.

To avoid interruption of payments, seniors are encouraged to provide their income information for 2019 as soon as possible and **before October 1, 2020**.

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

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 able to find a job due to COVID-19.

To be eligible, you must attest that you have actively searched for a job but have been unsuccessful or that you are working but earning less than \$ 1,000 per month.

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 dependents or disabilities.

As of **Friday, May 15, 2020**, students and recent graduates will be able to apply to receive the CESB.

Warning: The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will verify your eligibility to receive the CESB after you have applied. The CRA may ask you to provide supporting documents to confirm your eligibility at a later date. If you are not eligible, you will have to repay any amounts you have received.

How to apply

You can apply online at the CRA website or by phone at **1-800-959-2019** or **1-800-959-2041**.

To facilitate the process, it is recommended that you register for CRA's *My Account*.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3bpaHF2>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Children, like parents, have an important role to play in preventing COVID-19 from spreading. However, some may find it difficult to understand why they should stay at home or why they cannot see their loved ones or friends.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has developed resources to help children understand what is going on and what they can do to improve the situation.

To find out about activities for children and resources for parents, visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WLjjQU>.

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 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

Starting Monday, May 11th, you can 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*;
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 BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) allows eligible employers to receive a wage subsidy of 75% of salary up to a maximum of 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

The CEWS helps re-hire workers laid off due to COVID-19, prevent further job losses and better prepare for the resumption of normal activities after the crisis.

To encourage economic recovery and stimulate job creation, the Government of Canada announced the extension of the CEWS beyond June. More details to come.

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

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

EMERGENCY CREDIT FOR LARGE COMPANIES

The Government of Canada will establish the **Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)** which will provide transitional funding to Canada's largest employers who do not have access to conventional assistance.

LEEFF's goals are to protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses cope with the current economic slowdown, and avoid bankruptcy of businesses that would be economically viable in other circumstances.

The LEEFF is not intended for companies that already have the capacity to get through this crisis and cannot be used to resolve insolvency cases or to restructure a company. Moreover, the companies which will receive this aid will have to make and respect certain commitments.

For example, they will have to maintain jobs and their investments, respect collective agreements and pension plan obligations, and make environmental commitments.

Specifically, there will be firm limits on dividends, share repurchases and executive compensation.

To counter tax avoidance and tax evasion, businesses will need to share their financial statements with the Government of Canada when they apply for financing.

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

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY PROGRAM

The **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** provides additional financial support to businesses through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC).

Until now, the BCAP was reserved for SMEs, but in order to support even more Canadian companies, the Government of Canada will expand the BCAP to medium-sized businesses with greater financing needs.

Medium-sized businesses particularly affected by the pandemic will be able to access loans of up to \$ 60 million. The BDC anticipates that the program will apply to businesses with annual revenues greater than \$ 100 million.

For an update on commercial loans, register with BDC at the following link: [**https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-form.aspx**](https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-form.aspx)

Medium-sized businesses will also be able to access guarantees of up to \$ 80 million through the partnership between EDC and the country's financial institutions. More details to come.

For more information: [**https://bit.ly/3ctpiAN**](https://bit.ly/3ctpiAN).

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

The Government of Canada's efforts are making a difference for many local businesses, but some are still falling through the cracks, particularly in rural and remote communities.

This is where the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** comes in, with \$ 962 million nationally - including \$ 211 million in Quebec - to support companies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that cannot benefit from existing measures.

In Quebec, the RRRF is implemented by CED:

- \$ 140 million for financial support to vulnerable SMEs that are not eligible for the measures already in place and that are struggling with liquidity difficulties;
- \$ 71 million to support businesses and organizations by giving them essential access to capital in the rural communities served by the Community Futures Development Corporations (SADCs) and the Community Business Development Corporations (CAEs).

Businesses or organizations experiencing working capital problems and that do not have access to federal assistance already in place will be able to submit their request to CED or to regional SADCs and CAEs in the coming weeks.

Eligibility criteria are not yet available but our office will inform you as soon as possible.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND

Here is the contact information for the offices in our region:

CED of the Eastern Townships

Telephone: 1-800-561-0633

SADC of the RCM of Coaticook

Email: info@sadccoaticook.ca

Telephone: 819-849-3053

SADC of the RCM of Haut-Saint-François

Email: info@sadchsf.qc.ca

Telephone: 819-832-2447

CAE of the RCM of Memphremagog

Email: info@caememphremagog.ca

Telephone: 819-843-4342

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

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS

As part of the **New Horizons for Seniors Program**, the Government of Canada signed an agreement with United Way Centraide Canada to provide \$ 9 million in funding to help our seniors cope with the aftermath of COVID-19.

The Government of Canada has just announced an additional **\$ 20 million investment** in the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Through this funding, organizations will have additional support for their community projects.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3bswCvc>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND TO SUPPORT CULTURE, HERITAGE AND SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

The \$ 500 million **COVID-19 Emergency Fund** provides support to organizations responsible for culture, heritage and sport. The objectives of this funding are to stabilize the sector while maintaining jobs and promoting the continuity of the activities of organizations whose liquidity flows and short-term operational viability were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund, administered by Canadian Heritage, will be distributed as follows:

- Up to \$ 326.8 million will be distributed by Canadian Heritage;
- \$ 55 million will be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts;
- \$ 115.8 million will be distributed by the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm Canada.

This emergency funding will be provided in two phases as part of a process that will facilitate the rapid and consistent distribution of funds among all agencies.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WYCVS2>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY ISOLATION SUPPORT FOR TEMPORARY WORKERS

The Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP) provides a maximum assistance of \$ 1,500 for each temporary foreign worker to employers to ensure that health requirements are fully met.

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

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

How to apply

Before applying, please read the Applicant Guide (<https://bit.ly/2zD4gBe>).

To submit a request, you must complete the request form available at the following address (<https://bit.ly/2LmO1e0>) **before June 30, 2020**.

Please note: Each applicant must complete and submit **only one application**. The application must cover all temporary foreign workers in your employment who arrived during the eligibility period (retroactive to March 26, 2020).

The federal investment of up to \$ 50 million will be available until the funds are exhausted.

For more information on MISTFWP, you can contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada by email at aafc.MISP-PAIO.aac@canada.ca or by phone at **1-877-246-4682** or simply visit: <https://bit.ly/2AqZd7h>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY ADVICE

The Government of Canada has established the new **Industrial Strategy Council** which will be chaired by Monique Leroux.

This council will serve as an advisory board to assess the scope and depth of COVID-19's impact on industries and inform government's understanding of specific sectoral pressures.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3dGreG7>.

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.