

COVID-19 Supports and Restrictions

Last Updated March 26, 2020

Jurisdiction	Title and Date of implementation	Program support		Essential service provisions (general)	Essential service provisions (for transportation & rail)
		For employers	For employees		
Government of Canada	<p>Bill C-13 (COVID19 Emergency Response Act) Received Royal Assent on March 25, 2020.</p> <p>Direct support budgeted at \$52-billion + \$55-billion in tax deferrals = Total package of \$107-billion</p> <p>Additional information: https://bit.ly/3aeQaDn</p>	<p>Providing a temporary wage subsidy for three months to eligible small employers.</p> <p>Providing additional flexibility to support businesses through EDC, BDC, Farm Credit Canada and the Canada Account.</p> <p>Supporting the mortgage financing market in Canada through enhancements to the CMHC.</p>	<p>Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). This taxable benefit will provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Increasing the Canada Child Benefit by \$300 per child for the 2019-20 benefit year.</p> <p>Providing a special payment under the GST credit to low- and modest- income families.</p>	<p>As of March 21, 2020, there is a 30-day restriction on all non-essential travel at the Canada-U.S. border.</p> <p>This restriction covers all travel of an optional or discretionary nature, such as tourism, entertainment and recreation.</p> <p>Under the Quarantine Act, the federal government has imposed mandatory 14-day isolation for people entering the country.</p>	<p>Essential service providers, including healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector who are important for the movement of goods and people across the border, such as truck drivers and crew on any plane, train or marine vessel crossing the border will not be impacted by the new border measures.</p> <p>The federal government is said to be preparing a list of essential services should it invoke the federal Emergencies Act 1985 should they determine this is required. The federal government might release its list on March 27.</p>

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British Columbia	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.</p> <p>Initially in effect for 14 days. May be extended or rescinded as necessary.</p>	<p>BC is extending filing and payment deadlines for the following taxes until September 30, 2020:</p> <p>Employer health tax Provincial sales tax Carbon tax Motor fuel tax Tobacco tax</p>	<p>The BC Emergency Benefit for Workers provides a one-time \$1,000 payment for people who lost income.</p> <p>A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families.</p> <p>Employers must excuse workers for sickness without requiring a doctor's note.</p>	<p>The PHO has ordered some types of businesses to close. Any business or service that has not been ordered to close and is also not identified on the essential service list may stay open if they can adapt their services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the PHO.</p>	<p>BC outlined a list of essential services on March 26th, 2020. The full list can be viewed here: https://bit.ly/2QQ3qGZ</p> <p>The list of critical infrastructure service providers includes transportation, operating staff, and manufacturing of goods necessary for the continued and immediate operation of other essential infrastructure and businesses.</p> <p>Employees who repair, maintain and overhaul vehicles, aircraft and parts, rail equipment, marine vessels, and the equipment and infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passengers, as well as vehicle rentals and leasing.</p> <p>Services that facilitate the transportation of essential supplies, personnel and services, including: Port/waterfront operations, Road, Air Rail operations.</p> <p>The BC Government has suspended by-laws that restrict goods delivery at any time of day.</p> <p>BC has established a new Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit to co-ordinate goods and services distribution; taking a more active role in coordinating essential goods and services movement by land, air, marine and rail.</p>

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Alberta	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.</p> <p>The Order remains in effect until rescinded by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p>	<p>An education property tax freeze, plus a six-month deferral for businesses.</p> <p>WCB premiums deferral for private sector businesses and support for small and medium businesses.</p> <p>Corporate income tax changes and other supports for employers.</p>	<p>Emergency isolation support for working Albertans who must self-isolate.</p> <p>90-day utility payment deferral for residential and business customers.</p> <p>6-month student loan repayment deferral.</p>	<p>Alberta implemented public health measures to restrict mass gatherings.</p> <p>At this time, the restriction does not include normal operations of workplaces and businesses (i.e. offices, manufacturing, construction, industrial) not specifically defined by the chief medical officer of health.</p> <p>Where workplace gatherings of 50 or more people in a single space occur (e.g. training events), they must not proceed.</p> <p>Likewise, it does not include airports, shopping malls, retail or grocery stores or other spaces where people may be moving in or walking about as part of normal activities of daily living.</p>	<p>Premier Jason Kenney indicated during a news conference on March 25th that the province would be releasing its list of essential services in the coming days, adding that it would be similar to Ontario's.</p> <p>In a news release on March 26th, the Government of Alberta stated that it is focused on maintaining our stable food supply system.</p> <p>To date, the focus has been on maintaining an open trade relationship between the Canada and the United States for movement of essential goods across the border.</p> <p>Government is also working with federal and provincial partners to maintain functioning rail service, ports and commercial trucking systems within Canada and across North America to enable the movement of essential goods.</p>

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Saskatchewan	Declared a provincial state of emergency on Wednesday, March 18, 2020.	<p>Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have three-month relief from penalty and interest charges.</p> <p>Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected.</p> <p>Audit program and compliance activities have been suspended to allow businesses time to focus on the health and safety of their customers and staff, reduce impacts to their business operations, and minimize the spread of the virus through reduced audit travel.</p>	<p>Amendments to The Saskatchewan Employment Act will ensure:</p> <p>Employees can access unpaid public health emergency leave;</p> <p>Removal of the requirement of 13 consecutive weeks of employment with an employer prior to accessing sick leave; and</p> <p>Removal of the provision requiring a doctor's note or certificate.</p> <p>A six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place.</p>	<p>All persons that have travelled internationally shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from date of arrival back into Canada.</p> <p>Effective March 26, non-allowable business services will be unable to provide public-facing services.</p>	<p>Health Care workers who have traveled internationally, truckers, rail, airline or other working crews are exempt from the self-isolation advisory only if they are required to work to maintain essential services, provide emergency health care services and maintain supply chain.</p> <p>Critical public services and business services will be allowed to continue operating during the COVID-19 response and maintaining critical services to the public and industry to prevent supply chain disruption.</p> <p>A complete list of allowable services can be viewed here: https://bit.ly/3akE0ch</p>

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Manitoba	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Friday, March 20, 2020.</p> <p>The Order will last 30 days and can be extended if necessary.</p>	<p>Manitoba has extended the April and May tax filing deadlines until June 22, 2020 for small and medium businesses with monthly RST remittances of no more than \$10,000.</p> <p>Businesses that file on a quarterly basis that have a due date of April 20, 2020 have had the due date extended to June 22, 2020.</p>	<p>The Manitoba government is investing \$27.6 million to help provide childcare to essential front-line workers who need it as they support the province's COVID-19 response.</p>	<p>Public health officials are strongly advising all Manitobans, including health-care providers, to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel.</p> <p>This includes international travel and travel within Canada. There should be no recreational, tourist or non-essential personal travel.</p> <p>In addition, public health officials recommended that effective March 23, anyone who returns from international or domestic travel should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return.</p>	<p>This recommendation does not include the commercial transportation of goods and services.</p> <p>At this time, public health officials are not mandating drivers to self-isolate after crossing the border, to ensure essential services continue.</p>

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Ontario	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.</p> <p>These orders will remain in place until March 31, 2020, when the province will reassess for an extension or end the closures.</p>	<p>For a 45-day period, the government is working to suspend time-of-use electricity rates, holding electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents-per-kilowatt-hour.</p> <p>The Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 will ensure that the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise by-laws that may unintentionally be impeding such deliveries when they are most urgently needed.</p>	<p>Job-protected leave for employees who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures or to care for other relatives.</p>	<p>The Ontario Government ordered the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces effective as of Tuesday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m. This closure will be in effect for 14 days with the possibility of extending this order as the situation evolves.</p> <p>Businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment can call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.</p>	<p>Businesses that supply other essential businesses or essential services with the support, supplies, systems or services, including processing, packaging, distribution, delivery and maintenance necessary to operate.</p> <p>Businesses and facilities that provide transportation services to businesses and individuals including by air, water, road, and rail including providing logistical support, distribution services, warehousing and storage, including truck stops and tow operators.</p> <p>Businesses that provide materials and services for the operation, maintenance and safety of transportation systems (road, transit, rail, air and marine) including delivery of maintenance services such as clearing snow, response to collisions, and completing needed repairs to the transportation systems.</p> <p>Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers (e.g. primary metal/ steel, blow molding, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer)</p> <p>Businesses, facilities and services that support and facilitate the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North American and Global supply chains</p> <p>A full list of essential workplaces: https://bit.ly/2WGO4rP</p>

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Quebec	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Friday, March 13, 2020.</p> <p>These orders will remain in place until April 13, 2020, when the province will reassess for an extension or end the closures.</p>	<p>The announcement of the Concerted temporary action program for businesses (PACTE) offering financial support to businesses experiencing difficulties obtaining supplies of raw materials or products (goods or services) or whose ability to deliver products is halted or reduced;</p> <p>The announcement of flexibility measures respecting the terms and conditions of loans already granted by Investissement Québec or through the local investment funds;</p>	<p>The suspension of student loan debt repayment for 6 months, including borrowers whose accounts are in collection;</p> <p>A program to offer financial assistance to meet the needs of workers who, because they are in isolation to counter the propagation of the COVID-19 virus, cannot earn all of their work income and are not eligible for another financial assistance program;</p>	<p>As of March 25, 2020, at 00:01 and until April 13, 2020, the Québec government has ordered the minimization of all non-priority services and activities.</p>	<p>Priority services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit services and passenger services • Ports and airports • Maintenance of locomotives, aircraft and boats and essential air operations (air transportation) • Supply and distribution of foodstuffs, grocery stores and convenience stores • Transportation, storage and distribution of goods • Remunerated passenger transportation and paratransit services <p>A full list of priority services: https://bit.ly/2WGOsXj</p>

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New Brunswick	Declared a provincial state of emergency on Thursday, March 19, 2020.	<p>Waiving late penalties on property taxes.</p> <p>Deferring loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans.</p> <p>Providing operating loans to support small businesses. Loans will be up to \$200,000. Payments of interest and principal will not be required during the first 12 months.</p> <p>Opportunities New Brunswick will make available support mid-to-large sized employers. ONB will also provide – upon request – working capital in excess of \$200,000 to help large employers manage the impacts of COVID-19 on their operations.</p>	<p>The provincial government will provide a one-time income benefit to either workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency.</p> <p>This one-time \$900 benefit will be administered through the Red Cross and will help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business and to when they receive their federal benefit.</p> <p>A six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of provincial student loans.</p>	<p>Travellers entering the province from Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia will be stopped by peace officers and required to produce identification.</p> <p>Contact information and intended destinations are being collected and tracked for all travellers, including those travelling through New Brunswick to another province.</p>	<p>Like measures at the Canada-United States border, commercial traffic and essential employees will be exempt so that services are maintained and critical supplies can continue to move across provincial boundaries unimpeded.</p> <p>Construction and maintenance businesses are not required to cease operations.</p> <p>Production and manufacturing are not required to cease operations.</p> <p>Plumbing, electrical and environmental cleanup businesses are not required to cease operations.</p> <p>Bussing, taxi and delivery businesses are not required to cease operations.</p>

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Nova Scotia	<p>Declared a provincial state of emergency on Sunday, March 22, 2020.</p> <p>The current Order will last until noon on Sunday, April 5, 2020.</p>	<p>Government will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans (e.g. Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund).</p> <p>Government will defer payments until June 30 for small business renewal fees, including business registration renewal fees and workers compensation premiums (a list of fees will be posted online early next week).</p> <p>Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through credit unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30, enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000, and for those who might not</p>	<p>Every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50 starting Friday, 20 March.</p> <p>\$1 million to help Feed Nova Scotia purchase food and hire more staff.</p> <p>Emergency funding of \$230,000 for Senior Safety Programs and Community Links to help vulnerable older adults.</p>	<p>Nova Scotia borders will tighten to travellers and all entry points (land, sea, air) will be closely managed starting Monday, March 23, at 6 a.m.</p> <p>Nova Scotians should only leave if essential. Anyone entering the province will be stopped, questioned and told to self-isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>Any workplace or business that is not deemed essential can remain open as long as a two-meter or six-foot distance can be maintained. Workspaces must also be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum of twice daily or as required and employees follow proper hygiene</p>	<p>Exemptions for cross-border travel include healthy workers in trades and transportations sectors who move goods and people (e.g. truck drivers); healthy people going to work (e.g. health-care workers); and people travelling into the province for essential health services (e.g. chemotherapy treatment)</p> <p>There are several groups who are essential and exempt from gathering limits, but must still maintain social distancing and other public health protocols.</p> <p>This includes transportation, such as trucking, rail and transit.</p>

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