

COVID 19 – BULLETIN #9 Provincial Updates

RELEASE DATE APRIL 28, 2020

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide updated information from the Canadian government regarding, and a province-by-province update of support and regulations that have been put in place across Canada.

AS OF APRIL 28, 2020:

*This bulletin is current to the morning of **April 28, 2020**. Please note that while we continue to monitor the situation, the circumstances remain very fluid as legislative and government rules and policies are ever changing. The responses of federal and provincial governments will continue to evolve, and this may impact the accuracy of the information in this bulletin and any information is subject to revision with the introduction of new or additional government guidelines.*

FEDERAL UPDATES

- Every sector should begin to think about innovative ways to maintain social distance upon resuming operations. Dr. Tam suggests sectors and communities begin conducting self-assessments of their environments.
- The government has announced a new \$350M Emergency Community Support Fund to support Canadian charities and non-profits.
- The government has launched a Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) web page which includes a calculator to help businesses quickly determine the amount of funds they can expect to claim through the program. Businesses can begin applying for the wage subsidy on Monday, April 27; support will be backdated to March 15. It is expected that 90% of applications will be processed May 5, with direct deposits and cheques arriving soon after.
- Prime Minister Trudeau and President Trump have agreed to extend the current Canada/US border measures for an additional 30 days.
- The Canada-U.S. border is closed to all non-essential traffic.
- The government will allocate more than \$306M to provide Indigenous businesses with interest-free, short-term loans. Loans will be provided through financial institutions and the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Childcare and Schooling

- Resources to aid with childcare include matching essential workers with temporary emergency childcare in their community and ensuring that parents who are staying home with their children will not be charged for any of their regular childcare provider fees while they are not using the service.

- Kindergarten to grade 12 learning remains suspended in all classrooms. Online resources to help parents and caregivers keep their children learning at home are being provided through <https://www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/>.
- B.C. student loan payments are frozen for six months until September 30, 2020.

Economy and Work

- British Columbia provides employees with an unpaid, job-protected leave in regard to Covid-19
 - Employers must excuse workers for sickness without requiring a doctor's note
 - An employee can take unpaid, job-protected leave related to COVID-19 if they're unable to work for any of the following reasons:
 - 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.
- Direct, one-on-one service delivery programs to help the tourism sector and other enterprises with rapid recovery have been developed in collaboration with Island Coastal Economic Trust, Tourism Vancouver Island and Innovation Island Technology Association
 - <http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca/news/emergency-support-its-way-regional-businesses>
- The Columbia Basin Trust will provide low-interest loans through the new Small Business Working Capital Loan program to local small businesses in the Columbia Basin to help them meet their immediate needs. They will also increase support to existing programs.
 - <https://ourtrust.org/columbia-basin-trust-helps-communities-address-pandemics-impacts/>
- Small businesses operating in rural communities may also check with their local Community Futures office for emergency loans and business advice.
 - <https://www.communityfutures.ca/location-finder>

Payment Deferrals and Support

- WorkSafeBC is postponing the reporting and payment deadlines to June 30, 2020 for employers who report and pay on a quarterly basis. Employers who report and pay on an annual basis may defer until March 2021.
- British Columbia is providing tax reliefs for businesses. The following provincial taxes have been deferred, delayed or reduced:
 - Deferred Tax Payments for Businesses
 - Delayed PST Budget 2020 Tax Changes
 - Delayed Carbon Tax Increase
 - Reduced School Tax for Businesses

- For more information, please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/tax-changes/covid-19-tax-changes>
- Support with monthly bills is being offered to individuals and businesses
 - BC Hydro
 - BC Hydro rates have been reduced by 1%, effective April 1, 2020
 - BC Hydro residential customers who have lost their job or are unable to work as result of COVID-19 will receive a bill credit of three times their average monthly bill
 - This credit does not have to be paid back
 - Eligible customers can apply for bill relief until June 30, 2020
 - <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/covid-19-relief-fund/residential.html>
 - Small businesses in BC Hydro's small general service rate category forced to close due to COVID-19 can have their power bills forgiven for electricity used between April and June 2020, with no repayment required. Small businesses can apply starting the week of April 14, 2020 and have until June 30, 2020 to complete the application.
 - <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/covid-19-relief-fund/commercial.html>
 - Residential and commercial customers can defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty through the COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program.
 - 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 at <https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/customer-crisis-fund.html>
 - ICBC
 - 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>
 - FortisBC
 - Residential FortisBC customers can sign up for the COVID-19 Customer Recovery Fund to automatically have their bills deferred from April 1 to June 30, 2020
 - A repayment schedule, free of interest or additional fees, will be set up and payments can be spread over a full year
 - <https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/supporting-british-columbia-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/covid-19-customer-recovery-fund>
 - For small businesses that have been forced to close, FortisBC will issue bill credits to offset any charges to their account while they have been unable to continue operating their business as usual. For more information visit <https://www.fortisbc.com/about-us/supporting-british-columbia-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/billing-support-during-covid-19>.
 - Businesses that are still open, but facing a slowdown in revenue, will not receive bill credits but can also receive bill deferral for the same 90-day period.

- Funding for housing supports are increased to ensure people can maintain their housing in the event of job or income loss.
 - o B.C. has halted all new and active evictions, except under exceptional circumstances.
 - o Annual rent increases are frozen.
 - o A temporary rent supplement is available
 - Eligible households with dependents can receive up to \$500 per month
 - Eligible households without dependents can receive up to \$300 per month
 - The supplement is paid directly to landlords
 - Applications for the supplement are open on the BC Housing website at https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19?bcgovtm=20200319_GCPE_AM_COVID_4_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

Community Support

- Income & Disability Assistance is available to those who are not receiving federal Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and are on:
 - o Income Assistance
 - o Disability Assistance
 - o Comforts Allowance
 - o BC Senior's Supplement
- You will automatically receive a \$300 supplement on your cheques issued in April, May, and June. No action is required on your part.

Travel

- All international travellers returning to B.C. are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days and complete a self-isolation plan.
- Canadians who are abroad must register with the Government of Canada.
- Global Affairs Canada is offering emergency loans for people abroad attempting to return to Canada.
- BC Parks is temporarily closing access to all provincial parks which includes campgrounds and accommodations.

Health and Wellness

- Post-secondary students can access free mental-health counselling 24 hours a day, seven days a week
 - o Here2Talk connects students with mental health support when they need it. Through this program, all students currently registered in a B.C. post-secondary institution have access to free, confidential counselling and community referral services, conveniently available 24/7 via app, phone and web.
 - o <https://here2talk.ca/home>
- Seniors, adults, youth and frontline health care workers can access virtual mental health supports
 - o <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19>
- The Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage waiting period has been waived and temporary coverage is available.

- o <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/msp-covid-19-response>

ONTARIO

Childcare and Schooling

- Through the Support for Families Program, Parents and caregivers can apply for funding if they have children who are not in school or childcare due to COVID-19.
 - o This program offers a 1-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for children with special needs. This includes children enrolled in private schools.
 - o <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families>.
- The Ontario government is partnering with municipalities and licensed childcare providers to deliver free emergency childcare for essential service workers.
- Offering 6 months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for student borrowers, in partnership with the Canadian government.

Economy and Work

- The Ontario government has launched a web portal to connect workers with employers looking to fill positions in the agriculture, agri-food and food industry sectors.
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/agriculture-and-food-jobs-ontario>
- Ontario is also recruiting health-care workers to help provincial efforts to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19
- Additional funding through Employment Ontario for Skills training programs available for workers impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak has been provided.
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-skills-training>
- Ontario has provided a job-protected leave to eligible employees impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak through the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020*.
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/S20003>

Payment Supports and Deferrals

- Ontario is providing 5 months of interest and penalty relief for businesses to file and make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes.
 - <https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/relief-measures.html>.
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) deferrals for employers for up to 6 months, are available.
- Ontario is increasing the Employer Health Tax exemption for 2020.
 - <https://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/bulletins/eh/eh-exemption-2020.html>.
- Energy savings for individuals and businesses in Ontario
 - o Supporting more affordable electricity bills for eligible residential, farm and small business consumer through electricity cost relief programs.

- Setting electricity prices for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage.
- Expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and ensuring that electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - <https://www.oeb.ca/rates-and-your-bill/help-low-income-consumers/low-income-energy-assistance-program>

Travel

Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada should self-isolate for 14 days when they return.

People who are self-isolating should:

- not go to work
- monitor themselves for symptoms of the novel coronavirus for 14 days after returning to Canada
- contact their primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 if they experience symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus
- In addition:
 - Workers who have travelled and are part of workplaces that are essential to daily living are able to return to work as long as they do not have symptoms. However, they should [self-monitor](#) for a period of 14 days and identify themselves to their employer so that a plan can be put into place to ensure the protection of those workplaces.
 - Children under the age of 16 years who have travelled outside of Canada should also [self-isolate](#) for a period of 14 days. Parents should actively monitor their children's symptoms. Children who are self-isolating should stay at home and avoid social gathering points such as community centres or parks.

Community Support

- Ontario has provided \$200 million in funding to help municipalities and social service providers such as shelter, food banks, emergency services, charities and non-profits to continue to deliver critical services.
 - Ontario's municipal service managers will determine local needs and distribute the funding, ensuring clients are receiving the support they need.
- Expanding access to temporary emergency assistance for those in financial crisis who have no access to other supports, including those who are waiting for support from the Federal government.
 - This funding will help to cover needs such as food, rent, medicine, transportation and other services during this public health crisis.
 - Apply online at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-children-community-and-social-services>.
- Additional support for low-income seniors through a doubling of the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples for 6 months as of April 2020.

Health and Wellness

- Recognizing the heightened pressures being confronted by Ontario's health care workers and other critical support staff working in the province's hospitals, the OHA has put together a number of easily accessible mental health resources from various leading sources (international, national and provincial), such as the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S, as well as a number of resources from Ontario hospitals.
 - These resources and further information can be found at <https://www.oha.com/news/strengthening-mental-health-and-wellness-during-covid-19>

ALBERTA

Childcare and Schooling

- Select licensed childcare centres have reopened to provide childcare for core service workers.
 - Core service workers include:
 - front-line health-care workers
 - critical infrastructure workers
 - first responders
 - military personnel
 - anyone who works in essential services
 - Parents who qualify for childcare subsidy will receive it and centres will charge their typical rate, within reason.
 - <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx>
 - School authorities will offer at-home learning opportunities for all K - 12 students online or through accommodations like course packages and telephone check-ins.
- A 6-month, interest free moratorium on Alberta student loan payments is being implanted for all Albertans in the process of repaying these loans.
 - Alberta Student Loan repayments will be paused for 6 months, beginning March 30, 2020.
 - Interest will not accrue during this period. This mirrors the approach of the [Canada Student Loans Program](#).
 - Students do not need to apply for the repayment pause.
 - Borrowers may continue making payments during this period if they choose and this will not affect their eligibility to receive the benefit.

Economy and Work

- Restrictions on certain types of businesses that provide services to Albertans have been put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.
 - Essential services, or businesses that are not restricted or ordered to close can have more than 15 people on a work site.
 - Workers may work at a distance closer than 2 metres. However, risk mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 must be implemented and followed.
 - All individuals within a business, including owners, workers, volunteers, and patrons, found to be in violation of public health orders are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.

- Credit union members will have access to a variety of programs and solutions designed to ease difficulties with loan payments and short-term cash flow.
 - Business members should contact their credit union directly to work out a plan for their personal situation.
- ATB small business customers can:
 - Apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to 6 months.
 - Access additional working capital for ATB customers.
- Other ATB business and agriculture customers can access support on a one-on-one basis.
- Alberta is providing economic relief to Alberta's energy industry to address challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and declining oil prices due to an international price war.
 - Alberta is funding the Alberta Energy Regulator industry levy for 6 months, achieving \$113 million in industry relief.
 - Extending the term of mineral agreements expiring in 2020 by 1 year to provide increased certainty for industry by allowing additional time to raise capital and plan future activities.
 - A \$100 million loan was recently extended to the Orphan Well Association to bolster immediate reclamation efforts, decommission about 1,000 wells, and start more than 1,000 environmental assessments – creating up to 500 direct and indirect jobs.

Payment Supports and Deferrals

- Alberta corporate income tax balances and instalment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020 are deferred until August 31, 2020 to increase employers' access to cash so they can pay employees, address debts and continue operations.
 - Due dates for filing corporate income tax returns due after March 18, 2020 and before June 1, 2020 have been extended to June 1, 2020.
 - <https://www.alberta.ca/corporate-income-tax.aspx>
- Education property tax rates will be frozen at last year's level – reversing the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020.
- Collection of non-residential education property tax for businesses will be deferred for 6 months, or both municipal and education property tax are deferred for a shorter time that is of equivalent benefit.
 - Municipalities are expected to set education property tax rates as they normally would, but defer collection.
 - Commercial landlords are encouraged to pass savings on to their tenants through reduced or deferred payments to help employers pay their employees and stay in business.
 - Businesses capable of paying their taxes in full are encouraged to do so. This will assist the province in supporting Albertans through the pandemic.
 - Taxpayers should contact their municipality directly for information for details on their municipality's approach to education property tax deferrals.
- Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer WCB premium payments until 2021.
 - For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021 – saving businesses \$350 million.
 - Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due.

- o Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.
- Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments until June 18, 2020 to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.
 - o This program is available to Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19, such as those who have lost their employment or had to leave work to take care of an ill family member.
 - o Call your utility provider directly to arrange for deferral on all payments until June 18, 2020.
 - o Learn more about the utility payment deferral here, <https://www.alberta.ca/utility-payment-deferral.aspx>.
- Hotels and other lodging providers can delay paying the tourism levy until August 31 for amounts that become due to government on or after March 27, 2020. Payments deferred until August 31 will not be subject to penalties or interest.
 - o Hotels and other lodging providers are still expected to file returns, as required by legislation, and must collect the tourism levy from guests staying at their properties during this period.
 - o Learn more about the tourism levy here <https://www.alberta.ca/tourism-levy.aspx>.

Community Support

- The Government of Alberta's Emergency Isolation Support program is now closed.
 - o This was a temporary program to provide one-time funding until the Government of Canada announced its own support program.
- The Alberta government announced additional emergency funding to charities, not-for-profits and civil society organizations to support their COVID-19 response.
 - o This funding will support social services in enabling physical distancing, as well as supports and services for at-risk seniors and families facing homelessness, poverty and social isolation.
 - o Emergency funding will be distributed with the assistance of local FCSS programs.
 - Although Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is assisting in disbursing the funds, projects do not need to follow FCSS program guidelines, or be existing FCSS partners.
- \$5 million in funding will be provided to support food banks and community organizations in their food supply efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding helps ensure safe food distribution and secure access to food for vulnerable Albertans.
 - o The funding will support food supply efforts for Albertans in need through food banks, charities, not-for-profits and civil society organizations.

Travel

- All travellers returning from outside Canada are:
 - legally required to isolate for 14 days, and
 - monitor for symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat
 - o If you become sick during this time, you must isolate for at least 10 additional days from all other members of your household from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

- As more flights confirm passengers with COVID-19, Albertans should monitor their air travel even if it was limited to within Canada.
 - o Flights that have confirmed cases and the affected seats are posted online by the Government of Canada.
- Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada and all cruise ship travel.
- Canadians abroad should return home as soon as possible. Financial help to return may be available from the Government of Canada.
- Travel restriction exemptions are assessed on a case-by-case basis based on measures industries have taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At this time, the following professions have exemptions:
 - o Pilots
 - o flight attendants
 - o commercial carriers
- If you fail to follow this public health order to isolate, you may be subject to a \$1,000 fine.
- Courts could administer fines of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.

Health and Wellness

- To protect the health and safety of Albertans, public health orders can be legally-enforced and fines issued for violations.
 - o Mandatory 14-day isolation for returning international travellers or close contacts of people with confirmed COVID-19.
 - o Mandatory 10-day isolation for people with symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition: cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
 - o Restrictions on gatherings and businesses are now legally enforceable and subject to fines.
 - o New operational protocols, including limited visitation, are now enforceable for all nursing homes, designated supportive living and long-term care facilities, seniors lodges and any facility in which residential addiction treatment services.
 - o New outbreak standards are now in place for operators, managers and staff at all congregate health settings, including all hospitals, nursing homes, designated supportive living and long-term care facilities, seniors lodges and facilities in which residential addiction treatment services are offered.
- The Government of Alberta will provide a one time grant funding of up to \$25 million for eligible projects and services to enhance community mental health and addiction recovery supports and services.
 - o Funding will be distributed through 3 calls for proposals from Alberta Health.
 - o Approved projects are eligible for up to \$500,000.
 - o Overall administration of the funding should not exceed 1%.

QUÉBEC

Childcare and Schooling

- The Québec government has ordered the extended closure of educational institutions (elementary and secondary schools, training centres, private schools) until May 1, inclusively. All non-subsidized daycare services will cease their activities by April 3.
- Emergency school daycare services are available, however reserved exclusively for children of parents who are entitled to emergency childcare services by governmental decree.
 - o The list of workers who are entitled to emergency childcare services can be found here, <https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/list-jobs-and-essential-services/>.
 - o These services are also available to personnel providing emergency daycare services.
 - o Emergency daycare services will be offered free of charge, Monday through Friday, until May 1, inclusively.
 - o <https://www.quebec.ca/en/family-and-support-for-individuals/emergency-daycare-services/>
- Due to COVID-19, the government is postponing student loan debt repayment, which means that no payments will need to be made during the next 6 months.
 - o In addition, no interest will be calculated or added to loan debt.
 - o The measure automatically applies to all Aide financière aux études clients, including those whose accounts are in collection.

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Economy and Work

- The Québec government has announced the new Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW) to provide financial assistance to individuals working essential jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - o The assistance amount will make up the difference between the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and an eligible individual's wages.
 - o Eligible workers can apply for the program online beginning on May 19.
 - o <https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/press-room/news/details/167331/2020-04-03/>.
- The Emergency Assistance Program for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses will aim to support, for a limited period, eligible businesses who are experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and who need cash under \$50,000.
 - o To be eligible, the business must:
 - have been in business in Quebec for at least one year;
 - be temporarily closed, likely to close, or show warning signs of closure;
 - be in a context of maintaining, consolidating or reviving its activities;
 - have demonstrated a cause and effect relationship between their financial or operational problems and the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - o <https://www.quebec.ca/entreprises-et-travailleurs-autonomes/aide-urgence-pme-covid-19/>.
- The Concerted Actions for Job Retention Program (PACME) aims to provide direct support to businesses experiencing a reduction in their activities, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the self-employed, in particular through collective promoters recognized by the Commission for labor market partners (CPMT), that is, organizations whose actions affect several companies and people in employment.

- This program offers direct financial support to promote training and the implementation of good practices in human resource management, and optimize the functioning of businesses and the labor market.
- Usual business activities must have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, whether by suspension, decline, increase or diversification of activity.
- <https://www.quebec.ca/entreprises-et-travailleurs-autonomes/programme-actions-concertees-pour-le-maintien-en-emploi-pacme-covid-19/>
- The Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses is available to businesses operating in Québec, including cooperatives and other social economy enterprises with commercial activities.
 - Eligible businesses are those that find themselves in a precarious situation and temporary difficulty as a result of COVID-19.
 - They must show that their financial structure offers realistic prospects for profitability.
 - Businesses cannot be under the protection of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act or the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.
 - <https://www.investquebec.com/quebec/en/financial-products/all-our-solutions/Concerted-temporary-action-program-for-businesses.html>
- The Government of Quebec is also implementing the Emergency Aid program for small and medium-sized enterprises through the RCMs and their economic development service.
 - <https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fr/bibliotheques/programmes/aide-financiere/fonds-local-dinvestissement-flj/>
- An assistance program for the maintenance of essential regional air services during health emergencies (COVID-19) is also being out in place.
 - The Program aims to support carriers so that they can offer essential air services in remote and isolated regions of Quebec during the COVID-19 health emergency.
 - <https://www.quebec.ca/transports/aide-maintien-services-aeriens-covid19/>
- The Temporary Aid for Workers Program (PATT) was launched on March 16, 2020 to offer financial assistance to meet the needs of workers who, because they were in isolation to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, could not earn all of their work income and were not eligible for another financial assistance program. **This program ended on April 10, 2020.**

Payment Supports and Deferrals

- In order to support businesses affected by the repercussions of COVID-19, flexibility measures relating to loans and loan guarantees in progress are being put in place.
 - A six-month moratorium has been introduced for the repayment (capital and interest) of loans already granted through the FLI.
 - Interest accrued during this period will be added to the loan balance.
 - This measure is in addition to the moratorium already in place under most of the investment policies in force in regional county municipalities (MRCs), which can reach twelve months.

Travel

- All Quebecers are being asked to avoid travelling from one region to another or from one city to another, except where necessary. Such travel should be confined to trips for medical reasons and work when teleworking is not possible.
 - In order to protect the most vulnerable populations, checkpoints will be established to limit travel into and out of certain territories.

- Only essential travel will be authorized, for humanitarian reasons, to work or to practice a profession in workplaces where activities have not been suspended, or to obtain the care or services that individuals' health status requires.
 - For more information and to find a complete list of the regions and territories that are targeted, please visit <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/travelling-region-to-another-covid19/>
- Anyone returning from a stay outside Canada, including cruise passengers, must self-isolate for 14 days. Such individuals must not at any time go outside:
 - Do not go to school, to work, to a childcare centre or a day care centre or to any other public space.
 - Do not go out for a walk or to walk the dog.
 - Do not use public transport.
 - Postpone all non-urgent medical appointments.
 - Do not receive visitors at home.
- Anyone who does not comply with these instructions commits an offence under the federal legislation and is liable to penalties.
- It should be noted that businesses that deliver goods from abroad in Québec do not have to ask their employees to temporarily self-isolate.

Health and Wellness

- The Quebec Government has put together an online resource for those that are experiencing stress and anxiety.
 - <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/stress-anxiety-and-depression-associated-with-the-coronavirus-covid-19-disease/>

YUKON

Childcare and Schooling

- Face-to-face classes at all K-12 Yukon public schools are suspended for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.
- As of April 16, students will resume learning through distance methods delivered at home.
 - For further information for students and families, please visit <https://yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/information-public-school-students-and-families>

Economy and Work

- The Government of Yukon has put in place the Business Relief Program, which provides relief to Yukon businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The program provides non-repayable grants to cover specific fixed costs.
 - This program is available to Yukon businesses that have experience at least a 30 per cent decline in revenue.
 - A Yukon business means a business that meets three of the following criteria:
 - has an office with a physical address in Yukon;

- is subject to the *Yukon Income Tax Act*;
 - is registered as per the *Business Corporations Act* or the *Partnership and Business Name Act*, where applicable; and
 - has a valid municipal business license, where applicable.
- Eligible Yukon businesses will receive between 75 and 100 per cent of their fixed costs up to a maximum of \$30,000 per month. The program will cover eligible costs incurred from March 23, 2020, to May 22, 2020. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2020.
- <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/yukon-business-relief-program>
- Temporary Support for Events Funding Program will help Yukon businesses and non-government organizations (NGOs) affected by the cancellation of major events due to COVID-19 recover certain costs.
 - <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/business-support-cancelled-events-0#program-eligibility>
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate supports Yukon workers and self-employed people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The rebate allows Yukon workers without paid sick leave to stay at home if they:
 - become sick; or
 - are required to self-isolate while still meeting their basic financial needs.
 - Self-employed people are also eligible for this rebate.
 - <https://yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/paid-sick-leave-rebate-employers#apply-for-a-paid-sick-leave-rebate-for-employers>
- Foreign nationals working in Yukon through the Yukon Nominee Program will not be required to meet the standard requirement of full-time work hours.
 - Yukon nominees who experience layoffs or reduced work hours will not be issued the standard 90-day notice to find new employment. This change will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency.
- A new 14-day unpaid leave will help Yukoners protect their health during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Read the new Leave (COVID-19) Regulation here, http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic2020_058.pdf
- The Department of Tourism and Culture has announced a one-time, \$1 million increase to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF). This brings the total available funding to \$1.7 million for the 20/21 fiscal year.
 - In addition to the increased funding, they are making the following one-time changes to the program:
 - Applicants will be eligible for 100% of the costs of their marketing initiatives. Previously, the fund covered up to 50% of their costs.
 - Under the new criteria, initiatives targeting people who are already in Yukon will also be eligible. Previously, the TCMF was for marketing initiatives targeted outside of Yukon, with the intent of attracting visitors to the territory. This change will help support businesses target Yukoners while the other markets recover.
 - These changes will help support more Yukon businesses this summer and when the pandemic subsides.

- Revised guidelines and application forms will be available beginning May 1 on the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund page, <https://yukon.ca/en/tourism-cooperative-marketing-fund>.

Travel

- In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to protect Yukon's most vulnerable citizens, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health strongly advises the suspension of all non-essential travel into and out of Yukon.
- In view of the need to protect remote areas with limited medical resources, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health strongly advises the suspension of any non-essential travel to Yukon's rural communities.
- As of April 17, increased Yukon border restrictions have been introduced in response to COVID-19 under the Civil Emergency Measures Act. Learn about the restrictions.
- Check stations are present at Yukon borders; and the Whitehorse airport.
 - These stations are a measure to ensure that all travellers have the information they need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep themselves and other Yukoners safe.
- Anyone entering Yukon will need to check in with an enforcement officer and fill out an information card that includes their destination, contact information and any stops along the way. This will allow enforcement officers to follow up to ensure self-isolation measures are properly taken.
- All visitors to the territory are required to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes anyone returning home from other provinces and territories by road or air, as well as Yukoners returning home by road from Alaska. We are putting mechanisms in place to monitor and ensure travellers are self-isolating.
- If you cannot safely self-isolate at home, email covid19info@gov.yk.ca for information and advice. All Yukoners who return home and have respiratory symptoms (cough, fever, or difficulty breathing) are asked to phone 811 to get advice on COVID-19 testing.

Health and Wellness

- Please find a full of services for COVID-19 counselling and crisis support which are available to Yukoners during social isolation or physical distancing measures here, <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/find-covid-19-counselling-and-crisis-support>.