



Guide for Municipal Leaders on Canada's and Alberta's Economic Response to COVID-19

Created: March 25, 2020
Updated: May 19, 2020



Executive Summary

In March 2020, the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta began announcing comprehensive plans involving various financial supports to help stabilize the economy due to the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus. AUMA has developed this guide for municipalities to determine which programs may be applicable to their operations or to communicate with residents and employers about available programs that can help alleviate financial pressures.

This Executive Summary simply summarizes the various support programs for employers and workers, with the next section describing each support program in detail, with links to application information.

Support for employers

| | Government of Canada | Government of Alberta |
|---|---|---|
| Supporting financial stability and avoiding layoffs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferral of 2020 income taxes and GST remittances • Wage subsidies for businesses • Extension of the Work-Sharing program • Investments in energy, fisheries, agriculture, culture, and sport sectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferral of 2020 income taxes • Deferral of WCB premiums • Freeze and deferral of education property tax • Deferral of utility payments • Deferral to remit tourism levies • Doubling of spending on capital renewal and maintenance in 2020 |
| Access to credit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Emergency Business Account • Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility • New Business Credit Availability Program • Rent assistance for businesses • Credit for innovative start-ups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan relief for ATB and credit union customers |

Support for individuals

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| General support for individuals and families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-up of the Canada Child Benefit and GST credit • Extra time to file income tax • Temporary wage top-up for low-income essential workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze of provincial education property tax • Loan relief for ATB and credit union customers • Deferral of utility payments |
| Support for people facing loss of income | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Canada Emergency Response Benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Emergency Isolation Support • Expansion of job-protected leave provisions |
| Support for students and graduates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on repayment of Canada Student Loans • Changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program • New Canada Emergency Student Benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moratorium on repayment of Alberta Student Loans |
| Support for targeted populations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous investments for Indigenous communities, seniors, and homeless persons | |

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to help AUMA members understand the variety of programs available and actions taken by the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta to stabilize the economy as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

How to use this guide

Municipal leaders may use this document as a reference when communicating with residents, not-for-profit organizations, and local businesses about the supports that are available to help alleviate financial pressures on households and employers. In addition, as an employer, municipalities should be aware of programs that are available to mitigate financial impacts on municipal staff as well as the municipal organization.

The guide is segregated into two sections:

- Government of Canada's Economic Response Plan
- Government of Alberta's Economic Response Plan

Future updates

AUMA will regularly update this document as new details emerge. Readers can be notified of updates by subscribing to AUMA's free weekly [Digest e-newsletter](#) or visit AUMA's [online hub for COVID-19](#).

Since the federal and provincial governments may release information more frequently, readers can access the most up-to-date information directly from the [Government of Canada](#) and [Government of Alberta](#) websites.

Revisions to this Guide are summarized in the *Version Control* section at the end of the document.

Limitation

The information set out in this Guide is considered accurate as of the date on page 1; because the situation with COVID-19 is changing rapidly it is important that readers ensure that the most recent update to this Guide is consulted.

While we have endeavored to provide accurate information about the programs set out in this Guide, official information about the programs, including eligibility requirements, deadlines and related terms and conditions, is found in official government publications. We recommend that readers consult those sources for details.

Government of Canada's Economic Response Plan

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Wage subsidy for employers | <p>Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy All employers, who experience a reduction in gross revenues of at least 15 per cent in March or 30 per cent in April or May will be able to access the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Public sector entities are not eligible for this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsidy will cover 75 per cent of an employee's pre-crisis weekly wages, up to a maximum of \$847 per week for each employee. The program applies to remuneration paid from March 15 to August 29, 2020. Employers are expected to make best efforts to top up salaries to 100 per cent of the maximum wages covered. <p>Employers can estimate their subsidy using an online calculator.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements Apply through CRA's online My Business Account</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | ✓ |
| | <p>Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers Employers who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy can take advantage of the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent remuneration paid to employees, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. This program does not require a reduction in revenue.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements No application required</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | ✓ |
| Work Sharing Program | <p>This program provides employment insurance (EI) benefits to workers who agree to reduce their working hours instead of being laid off when there is a temporary reduction in business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. Due to COVID-19, the maximum duration of Work-Sharing agreements is extended from 38 weeks to 76 weeks. Eligibility requirements Application</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | n/a |

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Supplementary unemployment benefit plan | This program is available to employers to top up employees’ EI benefits during a period of unemployment due to a temporary or indefinite layoff. No changes are proposed for SUBP due to COVID-19 but AUMA is sharing for awareness. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |
| Credit for small and medium-sized businesses | <p>Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to cover operating costs if they have been affected by COVID-19. • Organizations must have paid \$20,000 to \$1.5 million in total payroll. • If loans are repaid by December 2022, the borrower can qualify for up to \$10,000 in loan forgiveness. <p>Initially the program was not available to businesses that were owned by individuals holding political office. Following advocacy by AUMA and other municipal associations, the Government of Canada updated the program to only exclude businesses that are owned by Members of Parliament or Senators.</p> <p>On May 19, 2020, the government announced that CEBA will be expanded to be eligible to organizations that have payroll less than \$20,000 but have non-deferrable expenses of at least \$40,000 and have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements Apply through your financial institution</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |
| | <p>Loan Guarantees and Co-Lending for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs may access new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million that are guaranteed by Export Development Canada. • SMEs may enter into co-lending agreements with the Business Development Bank of Canada to access incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million. <p>Eligibility requirements Apply through your financial institution</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Credit for medium-sized businesses | BDC's Mid-Market Financing Program A new program offered by the Business Development Bank of Canada will provide commercial operating loans ranging from \$12.5 million to \$60 million for medium sized businesses that have revenues of least \$100 million per year. Application details yet to be released. | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | EDC's Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program A new program by Export Development Canada will guarantee 75 per cent of new operating credit and cashflow loans ranging from \$16.75 million to \$80 million. The program is available to businesses with annual revenues of \$50 million to \$300 million. Application details yet to be released. | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Credit for large businesses | Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) A new program that will offer bridge financing to large businesses whose cashflow needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing. Eligible businesses must have revenues exceeding \$300 million per year, seek financing of \$60 million or more, and have a significant workforce in Canada. Application details are yet to be released. | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Credit for farmers | Farm Credit Canada is offering loan payment deferral plans as well as increasing near term credit to farmers and the agri-food sector. Eligibility requirements | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) | <p>A new program that provides a taxable benefit of \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks. This benefit will apply to any Canadian who stops working for reasons related to COVID-19 and who had income of at least \$5,000 in the previous year. This applies to wage earners, contract workers, gig industry individuals and self-employed.</p> <p>In April, CERB was updated to allow individuals to earn up to \$1,000 per month and still be eligible. This ensures that elected officials in small communities, volunteer fire fighters and other individuals with part-time income can still access CERB.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements Application</p> | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | ✓ |
| Canada Summer Jobs | <p>The Canada Summer Jobs program has been updated with new temporary measures including an increase in the wage subsidy from 50% to 100% of the provincial minimum hourly wage, part-time positions are now eligible, the job placement period is extended to February 2021, and increased flexibility for eligible job activities. The changes are designed to support employment for youth workers.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements Application for the 2020 season closed in February, however, with the changes to the program, Members of Parliament (MP) can still recommend essential service employers to be included in the 2020 intake. Therefore, municipalities and employers who did not apply for the 2020 intake may contact their MP about accessing the program.</p> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |
| Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits | <p>Provides up to 15 weeks of partial income replacement for individuals who cannot work for medical reasons. Individuals who became eligible for EI sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, will automatically have their claim processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Changes for COVID-19 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The one-week waiting period for benefits is waived for quarantined claimants. • Applicants do not require a medical certificate if they are quarantined. <p>Eligibility requirements Application</p> | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | Restrictions |

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits | No changes are announced to the EI regular benefits program. If you have stopped working due to COVID-19, you should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit . EI regular benefits continues to be available for persons who have lost their jobs for other reasons. Eligibility requirements Application | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | Restrictions |
| Extension for filing and payment of income tax | The deadline for individuals to file their 2019 income tax return is extended from April 30, 2020 to June 1, 2020. The deadline for individuals and self-employed individuals to pay any balance due is extended to September 1, 2020. No application required. | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | ✓ |
| | For businesses, the deadline to pay any income tax amounts or instalments that become owing or due after March 18, 2020 and before September 1, 2020 is extended to September 1, 2020. No application required. | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | All charities with a Form T3010, Registered Charity Information Return due after March 18, 2020 will have until December 31, 2020 to file. | n/a | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a |
| Extension for GST remittance | Vendors now have until June 30, 2020 to remit current year GST/HST amounts to the federal government. No application required. | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | ✓ |
| Extension for customs duty payments | Businesses who have to pay customs duties and sales tax on imported goods now have until June 30, 2020 to make payment. This applies to statements of accounts for March, April, and May of 2020. No application required. | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | ✓ |
| Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) | The new ECSF program will deliver \$350 million to community organizations that support vulnerable populations. The funding will flow to national organizations such as the United Way , Canadian Red Cross , and the Community Foundations of Canada who will be tasked with delivering funding to local not-for-profit organizations. Application details will be available on each organization's website. | n/a | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a |

| Federal Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) | <p>CECRA is a new program that supports commercial property owners to temporarily lower rental costs for small business tenants. Property owners can receive forgivable loans equivalent to 50% of three monthly rent payments. The loans will be forgiven if the property owner reduces the tenant’s rent by at least 75% for April, May and June 2020, which can be retroactive. As a result, the tenant is responsible for 25% of their monthly rent, the property owner will cover 25%, and the federal and provincial government will cost-share the remaining 50%.</p> <p>Qualifying tenants are businesses, not-for-profit, and charitable organizations who pay less than \$50,000 in monthly rent per location, generate less than \$20 million in consolidated gross annual revenues, and have experienced at least a 70% decline in pre-COVID-19 revenues.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements Property owners, not tenants, must apply and application details will be released soon.</p> | n/a | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | TBD |

Other notable announcements by the Government of Canada

Support for individuals and organizations

- Low-income individuals and families who received the GST credit in 2019 will automatically receive a [one-time top-up in May](#). The average amount will be \$400 for individuals and \$600 for couples.
- Families that received the [Canada Child Benefit](#) (CCB) in 2019-20 will receive a one-time top-up of \$300 per child in May 2020.
- Canada Student Loan borrowers are receiving an [interest-free moratorium](#) on the repayment of their student loan until September 30, 2020.
- A new [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#) will provide \$305 million to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities. Deadlines apply.
- Canada’s [Reaching Home](#) initiative will receive \$157.5 million to invest in beds and physical barriers to support social distancing and securement of accommodation for the homeless.
- [Women’s shelters and sexual assault centres will receive \\$50 million](#) to help with their capacity to manage COVID-19 issues.

- Various community organizations will receive a total of [\\$100 million to purchase and deliver food and basic necessities](#) to persons experiencing food insecurity.
- A new [Canada Emergency Support Student Benefit](#) will deliver financial assistance to students and new graduates that are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. Eligible students will receive \$1,250 per month and students with dependents or permanent disabilities can receive \$2,000 per month from May to August 2020.
- Seniors eligible for Old Age Security pension will receive a one-time tax free payment of \$300 and those eligible for Guaranteed Income Supplement will receive an additional \$200.
- A new [Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage, and Sport Organizations](#) will provide \$500 million in temporary relief for organizations impacted by COVID-19.
- The Government of Canada plans to provide up to \$3 billion in support to temporarily top-up wages of low-income essential workers. Each province or territory will determine which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive. Details are not yet available.

Support for businesses

- The [Canada Account](#) will change to allow the government to provide additional support to export companies through loans, guarantees or insurance policies.
- The Bank of Canada will [broaden the scope](#) of the current Government of Canada bond buyback program. This is intended to add market liquidity and support price discovery.
- The [Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions](#) (OSFI) lowered the Domestic Stability Buffer by 1.25 per cent of risk-

weighted assets, which will allow Canada's large banks to inject \$300 billion of additional lending in to the economy.

- The Government of Canada launched an [Insured Mortgage Purchase Program](#) (IMPP), which 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 and add liquidity to **Canada's mortgage market.**
- Businesses that have previously been funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada may access additional funding through the new [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#), which will invest \$962 million across Canada to recover from the pandemic.
- The [Industrial Research Assistance Program](#) received \$250 million to support innovative and early-stage businesses to access other COVID-19 supports. Applications are now closed.

Support for industries

- The governments of British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, and the Alberta Orphan Well Association will receive up to [\\$1.7 billion to clean up orphan/inactive oil and gas wells](#). In Alberta, grants will be paid directly to oilfield service companies that complete the work and is expected to [create 5,300 direct jobs](#).
- Farmers and agricultural employers who rely on temporary foreign workers will receive \$1,500 for each worker to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period after arriving in Canada.
- Numerous other programs have been announced to support businesses operating in the [agriculture and fishing sector](#).

Additional programs and details on Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is available at canada.ca.

Government of Alberta's Economic Response Plan

| Provincial Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Freeze of provincial education property tax | <p>The province has reversed its Budget 2020 decision to increase provincial education property taxes. Instead, provincial education property taxes will be frozen at the 2019-20 level of about \$2.5 billion. This will reduce the 2020-21 provincial education taxes by \$55 million for residential and farmland properties and \$32 million for non-residential properties compared to what was planned.</p> <p>Municipalities can access their updated 2020 requisition for provincial education property taxes on Milenet or the comparison listing is available on the Government of Alberta's website.</p> | Municipalities will implement | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Deferral of non-residential education property taxes | <p>Effective April 2020, provincial education property taxes for non-residential property is deferred for six months or if the municipality chooses, the education property tax and municipal property tax are collectively deferred for a shorter time, which is equivalent to a six-month deferral of the education property tax portion.</p> <p>Municipalities are to follow the normal practice for setting the local rates for provincial education property taxes, but the collection of non-residential education property taxes must be deferred until a later date.</p> <p>Commercial landlords are encouraged to pass on the savings to their tenants through reduced or deferred payments in the short term.</p> <p>Details on how to implement the deferral is available in Municipal Affairs' Non-Residential Property Tax Deferral Guidelines.</p> | Municipalities will implement | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |

| Provincial Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Vacation pay, leave or banked overtime | <p>Employees required to self-isolate may request to use available vacation pay, leave or banked time, but employers are not required to grant the request.</p> <p>Employers can request employees voluntarily take vacation leave and/or use their vacation pay or banked overtime but cannot force them to do so. Details are available on the Government of Alberta website.</p> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | n/a |
| Flexibility for loans and access to credit | <p>Small business customers of ATB can apply for a deferral on their loans and lines of credit as well as access additional working capital to improve cash flow. Interest will continue to accrue at the interest rate of the loan.</p> <p>Contact ATB for eligibility and application.</p> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | n/a | n/a |
| | <p>Personal banking customers of ATB Financial can apply for a deferral on their loans, lines of credit and mortgages for up to 6 months. Interest will continue to accrue at the interest rate of the loan.</p> <p>Contact ATB for eligibility and application.</p> | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | ✓ |
| | <p>Personal and business banking members of Alberta credit unions may contact their credit union to discuss solutions to ease difficulties with loans and cash flow.</p> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Deferral of WCB premiums | <p>To support short-term business cashflow, the Government of Alberta is deferring all 2020 Worker Compensation Board (WCB) premiums until 2021. When WCB resumes invoicing for 2020 premiums in 2021, small- and medium-sized private sector employers will have 50 per cent of their 2020 premiums waived. Employers who have already paid their 2020 premium will automatically receive a refund.</p> <p>Eligibility requirements No application required</p> | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | ✓ |

| Provincial Program | Description | Applies to employers | | | Applies to | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | | Municipal Government | Private Sector | Not-for-Profit | Employee/individual | Self-employed |
| Deferral of tourism levy remittances | Effective March 27, 2020, hotels and lodging providers can defer payment of the tourism levy until August 31, 2020. Hotels and lodging providers must still collect the tourism levy during this period. Deferred remittances will not be subject to penalties or interest. Details No application required | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Deferral of utility payments | Residential, farm, and small commercial customers can apply to defer electricity and natural gas bill payments up until June 18, 2020. This applies to customers who consume less than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity or 2,500 gigajoules of natural gas per year. To apply, households and businesses must contact their utility provider directly. Details are available on the Government of Alberta's website . | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Following a survey of members in April 2020, AUMA notes that most urban municipalities are offering deferral programs for municipal utilities including water, wastewater, recycling and solid waste. The most common approach used is to offer a 90-day deferral without penalty, similar to the provincial deferral. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Deferral of corporate income tax | Corporate income tax balances and instalment payments will be deferred from March 19, 2020 until September 1, 2020. This measure aligns with the Government of Canada's deferral of income tax payments. | n/a | ✓ | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Emergency Isolation Support | The Emergency Isolation Support program offered a one-time payment of \$1,146 to eligible persons to assist in the period before the federal government's emergency programs began in April 2020 . The program was designed for persons who had experienced a significant loss of income and were not receiving compensation from any other source. The program is now closed after distributing approximately \$108 million to over 94,000 Albertans. | n/a | n/a | n/a | ✓ | TBD |

Other notable announcements by the Government of Alberta

Supports to individuals and organizations

- Alberta Student Loan borrowers are automatically receiving a six month [interest-free moratorium](#) on the repayment of their student loan. This aligns with the Government of Canada's moratorium on Canada Student Loan payments until September 30, 2020.
- A new [Alberta Cares Connector](#) website provides a platform for volunteer organizations and volunteers to collaborate in service delivery to Albertans.

Supports to businesses

- As a partner in the new Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program, **the Government of Alberta's [financial contribution is estimated to be \\$67 million](#).**
- The Government of Alberta is [doubling its budget for capital maintenance and renewal projects](#) from \$937 million to \$1.9 billion for 2020-21. The funding increase is applicable to provincially-owned infrastructure, not municipal projects.

Changes to employment standards on a temporary basis

- Employees caring for children affected by school and daycare closures or isolation will have access to unpaid job-protected leave. The length of leave is flexible.

- The maximum time for a temporary layoff is increased from 60 to 120 days and is retroactive to March 17.
- The requirement of 24-hour written notice for shift changes has been removed.
- **Removed the requirement for 2 weeks' notice for changes to work schedules** for persons working under an averaging agreement.
- Removed the requirement for employers to provide group termination notices to employees and unions when 50 or more employees are being terminated.
- Details are available at [alberta.ca](#).

Supports to re-open Alberta's economy

- The [Government of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy](#) outlines a phased approach to reopen businesses and activities while limiting the spread of COVID-19.
- [Alberta's Biz Connect website](#) offers guidance and resources to support workplaces to reopen operations as possible through **Alberta's Relaunch Strategy. Guidance is broken down by sector and type of activity.**

Version Control: Summary of Updates

| Version | Update in content |
|----------------|---|
| March 25, 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial release of the Guide |
| April 1, 2020 | <p>Updates to the Government of Canada's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Announcement that GST/HST remittances are deferred until June 30, 2020. Announcement that customs duty payments are deferred until June 30, 2020. Announcement that eligible charities will receive a filing extension until December 31, 2020. New details on the Business Credit Availability Program involving the new Canada Emergency Business Account and loans for SMEs. Links to eligibility and application for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. <p>Updates to the Government of Alberta's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement that Tourism Levy remittances are deferred until August 31, 2020. Updated eligibility details for the Emergency Isolation Support program. Updated the WCB deferral program to clarify that employers who have already paid their 2020 premium will automatically receive a refund. |
| April 8, 2020 | <p>Updates to the Government of Canada's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New details for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Announcement of the increase in the Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy. Link to eligibility details for the Indigenous Community Support Fund. Announcement of \$100 million in funding to community organizations to purchase and deliver food and basic necessities to Canadians. Updates to various links. <p>Updates to the Government of Alberta's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emergency Isolation Support program is now closed. New details for eligibility of the deferral of utility payments. Announcement of new temporary employment standards. |
| April 21, 2020 | <p>Updates to the Government of Canada's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claimants to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) can now earn up to \$1,000 per month in income and still be eligible for CERB. Eligibility for the Canada Emergency Response Account is expanded to businesses with payroll between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million. Additional details on changes and access to the Canada Summer Jobs program. New \$350 million Emergency Community Support Fund to support not-for-profit organizations that serve vulnerable populations. Agricultural employers will receive \$1,500 for each temporary foreign worker to follow the mandatory isolation period when arriving in Canada. \$1.7 billion additional funding and financing support for businesses. |

| Version | Update in content |
|-----------------------|---|
| | <p>Updates to the Government of Alberta's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to guidelines for municipalities to implement the province's deferral of non-residential education property taxes. |
| <p>April 30, 2020</p> | <p>Updates to the Government of Canada's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of the Canada Emergency Student Benefit program. • Announcement of the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program. • New details on how not-for-profit organizations can apply for the Emergency Community Support Fund. • Link to the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy online calculator. <p>Updates to the Government of Alberta's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of the Alberta Cares Connector program. • Alberta's contribution to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program. |
| <p>May 19, 2020</p> | <p>Updates to the Government of Canada's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is extended to cover employee remuneration until August 29, 2020. The previous end date was June 6, 2020. • The Canada Emergency Business Account is expanded to eligible businesses that have payroll less than \$20,000. • Announcement of a temporary wage top-up for low-income essential workers. • Announcement of the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility. • Announcement of the Regional Relief Recovery Fund. • Announcement of the BDC Mid-Market Financing Program. • Announcement of the EDC Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program. • New details available on the previously announced \$1.7 billion in funding for businesses and organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Details on how to access the \$500 million Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations. ○ Details on how to access funding through the \$962 million Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. ○ Application for the \$250 million investment in the Industrial Research Assistance Program is now closed. • Announcement of a one-time tax free payment to seniors that are eligible for Old Age Security pension or Guaranteed Income Supplement. <p>Updates to the Government of Alberta's plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement to double 2020-21 spending on capital maintenance and renewal projects. • Launch of the Alberta Biz Connect website that offers guidance for businesses and organizations on how to reopen operations. • Launch of the Alberta Relaunch Strategy. |