



COVID-19 Economic Measures for SMEs

March 19, 2020

We have been consulting with the Government of Canada to help small businesses and all Canadians get through this challenging time. A number of the measures announced yesterday by the Prime Minister and Minister Morneau were a direct response to the feedback we shared with the government on behalf of our members.

Whether you are self-employed, a small business owner or an entrepreneur, you shouldn't have to worry about losing your business and your employees shouldn't have to worry about losing their jobs.

Along with the \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses, plus the additional \$55 billion to support Canadian businesses and households through tax deferrals, other measures for businesses announced yesterday include:

- Essentially eliminating the payroll tax for three months by providing a 10% wage subsidy to small businesses.
- Helping businesses with cash flow by deferring tax payments until August 31.
- Increasing credit available to farmers through Farm Credit Canada.
- Introducing a new Emergency Care Benefit of up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks for self-employed people who are not eligible for EI sickness benefits.

This builds on the government's announcements earlier this week to help businesses, including:

- Coordinating with the financial sector to cut interest rates to 0.75% and increase lending capacity by \$300 billion.
- Establishing a Business Credit Availability Program through BDC and EDC worth \$10 billion.
- Enhancing the Work-Sharing Program to help businesses pay wages so they don't have to lay anyone off.

How to Get the Help Your Business Needs

We understand you are anxious about getting the help you need in the face of COVID-19. Here are a few good places to start:

1. Visit the Government of Canada's [website for businesses](#) for information about supporting your employees and your business. It will be continuously updated as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.
2. Download the [Canada Business App](#) to find tailored supports to address your specific needs and questions about COVID-19.
3. Consult our [pandemic preparedness guide](#) to help prepare your business in the days and weeks to come.
4. Contact your bank. Canada's banks have made a commitment to support businesses and individuals through these difficult times. To help provide some stability for businesses through this time of uncertainty, [the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions](#) is lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer requirement, releasing more than \$300 billion of additional lending capacity for Canadian financial institutions.