



## Summary of Programs Available for Businesses and Business Owners As of November 19, 2020

Programs that are highlighted reflect the fact that they have been added or changed since our last update on October 16, 2020  
For more COVID -19 resources visit – <https://www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca/covid-19.html>

In this document:

[Nova Scotia Supports for Businesses](#)

[Government of Canada Supports for Businesses](#)

[Other Supports for Businesses](#)

Nova Scotia Supports for Businesses			
Program	Link	Deadlines	Notes
Agriculture Response Program	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/agriculture-response-program/">https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/agriculture-response-program/</a>	<b>May 15 - December 31, 2020</b>	<p>This program is for farms, agri-businesses, agricultural industry associations, and Mi'kmaq First Nations and other indigenous organizations involved in agriculture business.</p> <p>There are 4 streams for funding under the COVID-19 Response and Mitigation Program. The funding doesn't need to be repaid.</p> <p><b>Stream 1: COVID-19 Mitigation and Adaptation for Health Protocol</b> Applicants are eligible for 75% funding assistance on total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per program year, to help applicants comply with recommended health protocols.</p>

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			<p><b>Stream 2: COVID-19 Marketing, Product Movement and Distribution</b> Agriculture companies and registered Nova Scotia farms as applicants are eligible for 50% funding assistance on total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$20,000 per project.</p> <p><b>Stream 3: COVID-19 Strategic Projects</b> Initiatives at a sector or industry level will be reviewed for funding on an individual basis. If they're deemed to meet the objectives of the Program, they will be assessed on an individual merit, impact and reach basis.</p> <p><b>Stream 4: COVID-19 Abattoir Efficiency and Development</b> Applicants are eligible for 75% funding assistance on total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per program year.</p>
Co-op Education Incentive	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/programs/co-op-education-incentive/">https://novascotia.ca/programs/co-op-education-incentive/</a>	<b>Apply between December 15, 2020 – January 15, 2021 for the Summer 2021 co-op term.</b>	<p>This program helps employers hire post-secondary co-operative education students for work placements across Nova Scotia. The program allows organizations to hire a student for a work term of 12-16 weeks, and receive a subsidy of \$7.50 an hour (\$9.00 if the student is a member of designated diversity group). Due to COVID-19, this program has also implemented some positive changes to support employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cash Advance:</b> Employers may be eligible for an advance of 60% of the Co-op Education Incentive (CEI) subsidy at the beginning of the term, when the student starts work.</li> <li>• <b>Timing Flexibility:</b> More flexible in terms of work placement duration, start and end dates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Incentive “Stacking”:</b> Due to the current COVID 19 crisis, the CEI currently allows the combining of CEI funds with other wage subsidy programs such as the Student Work Placement Project. The full list of those SWPP partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BioTalent</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Canadian Council for Aviation &amp; Aerospace (CCAA)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Magnet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Environment Careers Organization Canada (ECO Canada)</a></li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Electricity Human Resources Canada (EHRC)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Venture for Canada</a></li> </ul>
Digital Adoption Program	<a href="https://nsbi.ca/dap">nsbi.ca/dap</a>	<b>December 1, 2020.</b>	<p>The Digital Adoption Program supports Nova Scotia businesses to rapidly adopt digital tools and innovation. The program will provide financial incentives to Nova Scotia small businesses to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build or improve their online presence to retain and create new sales opportunities and improve firm resilience and flexibility to keep pace with the changing nature of business;</li> <li>• Adopt digital tools and implement process improvements related to e-commerce solutions and to support remote working; and</li> <li>• Implement machinery and equipment upgrades, including control software and control hardware, industrial automation and monitoring, and digital supply chain implementations.</li> </ul> <p>The program contributes up to 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 CAD. Minimum project cost is \$2,000 CAD. New eligibility requirements have been implemented, shifting focus towards exporters.</p>
Graduate to Opportunity (GTO) (Existing Program modified due to COVID-19)	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/programs/graduate-to-opportunity/">https://novascotia.ca/programs/graduate-to-opportunity/</a>	ongoing	<p>Graduate to Opportunity (GTO) is helping to build a stronger workforce and retain young people in Nova Scotia with a salary incentive that makes it easier to hire recent graduates.</p> <p>Employers receive 25% of the first year's salary – 35% if the new graduate is a member of designated diversity group – and 12.5% of the second year's salary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The position must be new, permanent, full-time and pay at least \$30,000 a year.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The graduate you hire must have successfully completed a post-secondary program within one year from the day you submit your application.</li> <li>• A business may now “stack” this funding agreement with the federal Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The subsidy combination cannot exceed 100% of the wage that is paid.</li> </ul>
<p>Innovate to Opportunity (ITO) (Existing Program modified due to COVID-19)</p>	<p><a href="https://novascotia.ca/programs/innovate-to-opportunity/">https://novascotia.ca/programs/innovate-to-opportunity/</a></p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Innovate to Opportunity (ITO) is helping well-educated graduates start their careers in Nova Scotia while helping businesses become more innovative and export-oriented. The program provides an incentive to hire recent masters and PhD grads for jobs that are focused on research and innovation that will help businesses begin, prepare for, or expand exports.</p> <p><b>Innovation Stream.</b></p> <p>Employers receive 35% of the graduate’s annual salary in Year 1, 20% in Year 2, and 12.5% in Year 3, up to an annual salary of \$100,000.</p> <p>The work should be expected to help the company prepare for, begin or expand exports. At least 25% of the new graduate's time must be spent on any combination of activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• applied research</li> <li>• product and service development</li> <li>• market analysis for new complex products or activity</li> <li>• improvement of product quality, customer services and business efficiencies</li> <li>• process development or improvement</li> <li>• technical feasibility studies and pilots for product launches or market entry</li> </ul> <p><b>Advanced Innovation Stream.</b></p> <p>Employers receive: 50% of the graduate’s annual salary in Year 1, 25% in Year 2, and 12.5% in Year 3, up to an annual salary of \$100,000.</p>

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			<p>At least 75% of the new graduate’s time must be spent on any combination of the activities required of the Innovation Stream. The work must also have an explicit connection to export development or growth.</p> <p>A diversity bonus of an additional 10% can be provided in the 1st and 2nd years of both streams, if the graduate is a woman in an under-represented occupation, self-identifies as a racially visible minority, is Mi’kmaq or Indigenous, an international student or a person with a disability.</p> <p>A business may now “stack” this funding agreement with the federal Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The subsidy combination cannot exceed 100% of the wage that is paid.</p>
Small Business Development Program	<a href="https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/programs-services/business-development-program">https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/programs-services/business-development-program</a>	January 15, 2021	<p><b>Stream 1:</b> This stream facilitates access to a private-sector consultant to provide professional expertise to overcome a certain pain point keeping your business from growing. The minimum project cost for Stream 1 is \$5,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding provided at 50% up to a maximum of \$15,000 per fiscal</li> </ul> <p><b>NEW - Stream 2:</b> Focused on senior executives, this stream will help you and your company identify and develop the leadership skills needed to grow. Work with business experts to understand and address how to overcome barriers to successfully scale your company and increase sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies must have a minimum of \$500,000 in revenue to be eligible for this stream</li> <li>• The minimum project cost for Stream 2 is \$10,000</li> <li>• Funding is provided at 75% up to a maximum of \$30,000 per fiscal</li> <li>• Companies are allowed one project per fiscal</li> </ul>
Small Business Loan Guarantee Program	<a href="http://www.novascotia.coop/programs/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/">http://www.novascotia.coop/programs/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/</a> for a list of participating Credit Unions	ongoing	<p>For businesses that have an existing loan through one of the existing Small Biz Loan Guarantee Programs (SBLGP), principal and interest payments are deferred until June 30<sup>th</sup>. A new COVID-19 SBLGP has been announced where the provincial government will guarantee 100% of the loan up to \$100,000. Loans can be approved up to \$500,000 partially guaranteed by the province.</p> <p><b>Note: Not all businesses who apply will be approved. For example, it would be unlikely that an established business that was consistently losing money prior to the COVID-19 Crisis would be approved.</b></p> <p><b>Note: Applications to this program are high so you may experience delays in having the applications processed</b></p>

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## Government of Canada Supports for Businesses

<u>Program</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>Notes</u>
ACOA-led Regional Relief Recovery Fund (RRRF)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/acoa-apeca/documents/Application%20for%20RRRF.pdf">https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/acoa-apeca/documents/Application%20for%20RRRF.pdf</a>	Open	<p>The Regional Relief Recovery Fund is a program to support Atlantic Canadian businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. The fund is intended to support business owners and organizations that have fallen through the cracks and have not qualified for other federal emergency support efforts such as the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).</p> <p><b>The RRRF is complementary to other federal COVID-19 programs</b></p> <p><b>Businesses must first apply for other federal support measures</b> such as the Canada Emergency Business Account benefit, the Wage Subsidy benefit and the Commercial Rent assistance for small businesses, among others. Applicants are required to attest that they applied for other federal benefits and were approved, rejected or deemed ineligible. If companies are eligible for other programs they should apply for those programs and apply to the Regional Relief Recovery Fund for the operating costs that other federal programs do not cover.</p> <p>This program is available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Profit businesses and Not-For-Profit organizations undertaking commercial activities</li> <li>• Not-For-Profit organizations providing technical support to businesses to help them mitigate COVID-19 impacts</li> </ul> <p>Funds are to be used for working capital needs to help with operating costs for up to 6 months. It can be applied retroactively as far back as March 15, 2020. Eligible costs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent, property taxes, rent/lease of equipment and machinery</li> <li>• Salaries and benefits</li> <li>• Utilities, Insurance, professional fees</li> <li>• Safety measures, cleaning supplies</li> <li>• Bank interest charges, interest portion of loan payments</li> <li>• Vehicle operating expenses, office supplies</li> <li>• Other fixed overhead costs</li> <li>• One-time stabilization expenditures</li> <li>• <b>Ineligible costs</b> include refinancing of other debt or the purchase of land.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Businesses in sectors that are critical to the resilience and survival of Atlantic Canada's economy, such as advanced manufacturing, ocean industries, clean growth technology, and tourism, may be given priority.</p>

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<p>Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)</p>	<p>edc.ca/bcap-guarantee Apply through Chartered Banks and Credit Unions</p>	<p>June 2021</p>	<p><b>EDC Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This program provides credit and cash flow term loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. Canadian businesses in all sectors that were otherwise financially viable and revenue generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak are eligible to apply.</li> <li>• It allows financial institutions to issue operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to existing clients, with 80 per cent guaranteed by EDC.</li> <li>• This money is to be used for operational expenses, not for dividend payouts, shareholder loans, bonuses, stock buyback, option issuance, increases to executive compensation or repayment/refinancing of other debt.</li> <li>• <b>This program is now available at various financial institutions and credit unions.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>BDC Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium Enterprises</b> This program provides term loans for operational and liquidity needs of businesses, which could include interest payments on existing debt. Similar to the EDC program, this program is available to businesses that were financially viable and revenue-generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p><b>The program is designed in three segments to target support to different business sizes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loans of up to \$312,500 to businesses with revenues of less than \$1 million.</li> <li>• Up to \$3.125 million for businesses with revenues between \$1 million and \$50 million.</li> <li>• Up to \$6.25 million for businesses with revenues in excess of \$50 million.</li> <li>• Loans would be interest-only for the first 12 months, with a 10-year repayment period.</li> </ul> <p><b>BDC's Mid-Market Financing Program</b></p> <p>BDC's Mid-Market Financing Program will provide commercial loans ranging between \$12.5 million and \$60 million to medium-sized businesses whose credit needs exceed what is already available through the Business Credit Availability Program and other measures.</p> <p>BDC anticipates that qualifying companies will have annual revenues in excess of approximately \$100 million.</p> <p><b>EDC's Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program</b></p> <p>EDC's Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program will bring liquidity to companies who tend to have revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million, to sustain operations during this uncertain</p>
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			<p>period. EDC will continue to work with Canadian financial institutions to guarantee 75 per cent of new operating credit and cash-flow loans – ranging in size from \$16.75 million to a maximum of \$80 million. These expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada.</p>
Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)	<a href="https://ceba-cuec.ca/">https://ceba-cuec.ca/</a> Apply through Chartered Banks and Credit Unions	March 31, 2021	<p><b>Now open to businesses that were using personal banking accounts before March 1, 2020.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$60,000 to small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits, who paid wages/salaries between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in 2019, to help cover operating costs.</li> <li>If 75% of the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% of the loan will be forgiven.</li> <li><i>Forgiveness is calculated on the highest amount drawn from your CEBA loan at any point on or before March 31, 2021.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Applications must be made online through your Chartered Banks or Credit Union</b></p>
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	This measure is pending the passage of legislation in the House of Commons and Senate.	<p>Picking up where the CECRA program left off, CERS provides direct, targeted, and accessible rent support to organizations without going through landlords until June 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rent subsidy will be provided directly to tenants.</b></li> <li>Businesses, charities, and non-profits all suffering a revenue drop due to COVID-19 are eligible.</li> <li>Subsidy is for eligible fixed property expenses, including rent and interest on commercial mortgages. Will cover a percentage of these expenses up to a maximum of 65% until December 19, 2020.</li> <li>Organizations will be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.</li> <li>Current program parameters will apply until December 19, 2020. Future parameters in 2021 will be adapted and targeted as needed.</li> <li><b>Organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority will receive a top-up of 25% in addition to the 65% subsidy.</b></li> </ul>
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html</a>	Closed	<p><b>The CRA is continuing to accept and process retroactive applications for period 7 (August 30 to September 26, 2020).</b></p> <p>This taxable benefit provided \$2,000 every four weeks for up to 28 weeks to workers who stopped working or whose work hours were reduced due to COVID-19.</p>
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	Extended until June 2021	<p>This program has been developed to encourage employers to keep employees on their payroll. It will allow employers to keep their work force intact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This program is retroactive to March 15 and has been extended to June 2021.</li> <li>Businesses will receive a 65% rebate on wages.</li> </ul>

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	<a href="#">response-plan.html#businesses</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employers who are eligible for the CEWS are entitled to receive a <b>100% refund</b> for certain employer contributions to Employment Insurance, and the Canada Pension Plan paid in respect of <b>employees who are on leave with pay</b>.</li> <li>▪ Business Owners and their family's wages will likely be covered if they received a salary and T4. However, if a family member was not employed in the business prior to the crisis, they will not be subsidized if they started working for the business after March 15, 2020.</li> <li>▪ Eligible businesses can be small or large, and from any sector of the economy</li> <li>▪ This program applies to existing employees hired prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as well as employees hired since March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, except for family / non-arm's length employees hired since March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</li> <li>▪ Businesses must re-apply for this subsidy each month</li> <li>▪ Companies must pay employees first and then CRA will reimburse them. Businesses must be able to cashflow the wages in the interim period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Businesses should sign up for direct deposit as it will streamline and speed up the process of being reimbursed.</b></p>
Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	Ongoing	Provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who have stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19, and who are not eligible for EI.
Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	Ongoing	The CRCB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are unable to work at least 50% of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19</li> <li>• Because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine or is at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	Ongoing	The CRSB provides \$500 a week for a maximum of two weeks for workers who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they contracted COVID-19</li> <li>• Are self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19</li> <li>• Have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sickness that, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, person in authority, government or public health authority, would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.</li> </ul>
CBDC-led Regional Relief Recovery Fund	<a href="https://www.cbdc.ca/en/nova-scotia-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-rrrf">https://www.cbdc.ca/en/nova-scotia-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-rrrf</a>	March 31, 2021	<b>*CBDC has received additional funding from the Government for this fund.</b> The Regional Relief Recovery Fund is a program to support Atlantic Canadian businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. The fund is intended to support business owners and

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			<p>organizations that have fallen through the cracks and have not qualified for other federal emergency support efforts such as the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). Regional Relief &amp; Recovery Fund will provide a loan of up to \$40,000 to small and medium-sized businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If 75% of the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% of the loan will be forgiven.</li> </ul> <p>This program is available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small- medium sized enterprises that may be a corporation, proprietorship, partnership or joint venture, social enterprise or cooperative conducting business on a year-round or seasonal basis undertaking commercial activities</li> </ul> <p>Funds are to be used for working capital needs to help with operating costs for up to 6 months. It can be applied retroactively as far back as March 15, 2020. Eligible costs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent, property taxes, property and liability insurance</li> <li>• Maintenance and repair of premises</li> <li>• lease of equipment and machinery</li> <li>• Payroll and supplies</li> <li>• Utilities and communications, professional fees, marketing, training</li> <li>• Safety measures(PPE), cleaning supplies</li> <li>• Bank interest charges, interest portion of loan payments Equipment and vehicle lease payments</li> <li>• Pandemic technical aid for; compliance with public health legislation, orders, directives and guidelines. Developing and implementing protocols to mitigate risk inherent to business operations, premises or environment</li> <li>• <b>Ineligible costs</b> include refinancing of other debt or the purchase of land, purchase of assets for more than market value, goodwill, costs covered by other pandemic relief measures.</li> </ul>
Deferral of Loan Repayments	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19.html</a>	automatic	The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), will apply a deferral on all payments due to the government, as of April 1, 2020.
EI – fishing benefits	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#industry">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#industry</a>	Ongoing	Allowing EI fishing benefits for self-employed fish harvesters and sharespersons to be calculated using either their actual fishing earnings for their current claim, or their fishing earnings from their claim for the same season from the previous year, whichever is higher.

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Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)	<a href="https://www.cdev.gc.ca/home-ceefc/">https://www.cdev.gc.ca/home-ceefc/</a>	Ongoing	<p>This program will provide bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going.</p> <p>This program is delivered by the Canada Development Investment Corporation, in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Department of Finance.</p>
Temporary Changes to Employment Insurance (EI) Program	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses</a>	Ongoing	<p>As of September 27, you may be eligible for EI if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were employed for at least 120 insurable hours in the past 52 weeks</li> <li>• Received the CERB, the 52-week period to accumulate insured hours will be extended</li> <li>• Stopped working through no fault of your own</li> <li>• Have not quit your job voluntarily</li> <li>• Are ready, willing, and capable of working each day</li> <li>• Are temporarily unable to work while you care for someone else or yourself</li> </ul> <p>Minimum taxable benefit rate of \$500 per week or \$300 per week for extended parental benefits.</p>
Work Sharing (WS) Program	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/temporary-measures-forestry-sector.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/temporary-measures-forestry-sector.html</a>	March 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021	<p>Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Work-Sharing is an agreement between employers, employees and the Government of Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows Employers to: -retain qualified and experienced workers, and -avoid recruiting and training new employees</li> <li>• Allows employees to: -keep their jobs, and -maintain their work skills</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business must have experienced a recent decline in business activity of at least 10%</li> <li>• Work-sharing can be up to 76 weeks</li> <li>• The application process has been streamlined</li> <li>• <b>The requirement to apply at least 30 days before the commencement of a work sharing program has been removed</b></li> <li>• Not limited to one specific sector or industry</li> <li>• Extension of the maximum possible duration of an agreement from 38 weeks to 76 weeks</li> </ul>

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## Other Supports for Businesses

<u>Program</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce	<a href="https://amherstchambers.ca/covid-19-information-page/">https://amherstchambers.ca/covid-19-information-page/</a>		A good source of COVID related information for local businesses
Business Resilience Service	Call <b>1-866-989-1080</b> to connect with a business advisor from the accounting profession. The service is available 7 days a week from 8am – 8pm ET		Having trouble figuring out what program is the best for your business? The Business Resilience Service is offering over the phone consultation with those in the accounting profession.
Canadian Federation of Independent Business	<a href="https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/small-business-resources-dealing-covid-19">https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/small-business-resources-dealing-covid-19</a>		If you require general business assistance, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has a help line for businesses to call. This help line is now open to both members and non-members of the CFIB
CBDC -Cumberland	<a href="https://www.cbdc.ca/en/find-my-cbdc/ns">https://www.cbdc.ca/en/find-my-cbdc/ns</a>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Business Development Corporations across Atlantic Canada postponed principal repayments on all small business loans for the Months of April – June 2020. In addition, the CBDC's have waived the interest on these loans for this 3-month period</li> <li>The CBDCs continue to lend to existing and new businesses at this time</li> </ul>
COVID-19 Employer Assessment Tool	<a href="https://covid19-employer-assessment.novascotia.ca/en">https://covid19-employer-assessment.novascotia.ca/en</a>	ongoing	To slow the spread of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia, some businesses and organizations are required to close. Others can stay open if they can meet certain public health requirements. Answering the questions on this employer self assessment clarifies which businesses can remain open, and what they need to do during this state of emergency.
eBay (Retail Revival program)	<a href="https://www.ebayinc.com/impact/retail-revival-halifax/materials/">https://www.ebayinc.com/impact/retail-revival-halifax/materials/</a>	Ongoing	Over the past year, eBay has worked with a number of businesses in Nova Scotia on a program called Retail Revival. <b>eBay has tools and information to help retailers get their products online to reach new domestic and export clients</b>
Funding Tool Search	<a href="https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/online-tools/funding-search-tool">https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/online-tools/funding-search-tool</a>	ongoing	Funding portal is a snapshot of potentially available government support programs and services.
Ignite Labs	<a href="https://igniteatlantic.com/covid19-industry/">https://igniteatlantic.com/covid19-industry/</a>	Ongoing	<b>Industry Personal Protective Needs and/or Manufacturing Capability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you in need of personal protective equipment to keep your operations running but you are unsure of where to source it? If so, tell Ignite Labs what and how much you need. We will work with you to find the right source.</li> <li>Can you manufacture personal protective equipment? If so, sign up to join a list of local industries looking to supply others. We will connect with you and work to put</li> </ul>

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			resources behind you so that you can start or increase your production of PPE as soon as possible.
Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency	1-800-494-5651 Or <a href="mailto:apprenticeship@novascotia.ca">apprenticeship@novascotia.ca</a>		As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is committed to support apprentices and trades workers in their training and journey towards certification. We remain open for business and can be reached by phone or email.
Nova Scotia Business Navigators	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/business-navigators.asp">https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/business-navigators.asp</a>	ongoing	<b>If your business needs help dealing with matters of provincial concerns</b> , including if your business is allowed to be open or not, please contact the Province of Nova Scotia's Business Navigators at 1-844-628-7347 from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
Nova Scotia Reopening Online Resource	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/">https://novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia/</a>		To support businesses that are currently open, and those planning to reopen or expand their services, the province has developed an online resource. The information will help businesses as they begin to develop plans and procedures to keep themselves, their staff and the public safe.  Questions on protocols, re-opening plans, and current health guidelines? Email: <a href="mailto:NSEconomy@novascotia.ca">NSEconomy@novascotia.ca</a> .
NSCC Virtual Hub	<a href="https://www.nsc.ca/sites/covid19-business-support/business@nsc.ca">https://www.nsc.ca/sites/covid19-business-support/business@nsc.ca</a>		This centralized online hub connects businesses with support programs available from post-secondary institutions and other regional organizations. Business support workers will help connect businesses with the programs they need.
Occupational Health and Safety Tips	<a href="https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/covid19/">https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/covid19/</a>	Ongoing	<b>The Canadian Centre for Health and Safety has developed a series of tip sheets to guide businesses when operating during pandemic, including COVID-19. Each document offers health and safety tips and good practices, for both employers and workers, specific to each industry or sector.</b> Organizations and businesses can adopt this guidance to protect their workers and prevent the spread of infections. The tip sheets cover a range of occupations and industries from construction and trucking to healthcare and daycares.
Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre – COVID-19 support	<a href="https://smuec.ca/">https://smuec.ca/</a>		Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre is offering free virtual one-on-one strategy sessions to Atlantic Canadian entrepreneurs. The sessions aim to provide support, insight, and additional resources to help entrepreneurs overcome current challenges.
Small Business Virtual Training	<a href="https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/events">https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/events</a>	ongoing	NSBI is providing digital content to support businesses by allowing them to access programming at times that work for them. The virtual workshops and training courses provide companies with vital strategies and hands-on tips on how to deal with the current crisis.

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