



Summary of Programs Available for Businesses and Business Owners As of April 28, 2021

For more COVID -19 resources visit – <https://www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca/covid-19.html>

Businesses that engage in Business-to-Business transactions can generally continue operations. Business-to-Consumer is where most restrictions are in effect.

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Nova Scotia Supports for Businesses

**** The Small Business Impact Grant is to be reintroduced with more information to come in the following days. Applications are not expected to open until sometime in May.**

Agriculture Response Program – Applications will be accepted between April 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/agriculture-response-program/>

This program is for farms, agri-businesses, agricultural industry associations, and Mi'kmaq First Nations and other indigenous organizations involved in agriculture business. There are 2 streams for funding under the COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program. The funding doesn't need to be repaid.

Stream 1: COVID-19 Mitigation and Adaptation for Health Protocol

Applicants are eligible for 50% funding assistance on total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$30,000 per program year, to help applicants comply with recommended health protocols.

Stream 2: COVID-19 Strategic Projects

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.

Small Business Loan Guarantee Program

<http://www.novascotia.coop/programs/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/>

Credit unions can provide financing up to \$500,000 in the form of term loans, working capital and lines of credit. Loans may be granted for a term of up to 10 years. The maximum guarantee by the Province of Nova Scotia will be 90% of the value of all term loans and 75% on lines of credit. **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.**

Rely on Government Websites for accurate information as the situation is changing daily. If there are any discrepancies between this summary and government websites, the government websites should be taken as the most accurate and as the most up to date.

Government of Canada Supports for Businesses

ACOA-led Regional Relief Recovery Fund (RRRF)

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/acoa-apeca/documents/Application%20for%20RRRF.pdf>

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).

The RRRF is complementary to other federal COVID-19 programs. Businesses must first apply for other federal support measures 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. **Funds are to be used for working capital needs to help with operating costs for up to 6 months.**

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)

<https://www.edc.ca/content/dam/edc/en/solution/edc-bcap-guarantee.pdf>

The EDC Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) Guarantee minimizes the risk your financial institution takes on when they provide you with a new loan or operating line of credit. EDC covers most of the money you borrow in the event of default. If your business needs additional cash flow to cover operating costs as a result of the pandemic, you may be eligible. **Eligibility is subject to additional requirements from your financial institution.**

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) – Extended to June 2021

<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

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. **** There has been an additional \$20,000 expansion to the original \$40,000 made available ****

- If 75% of the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% of the loan will be forgiven.

Note: Applications must be made online through your Chartered Banks or Credit Union

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) – Deadline to apply is May 20, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html>

CERS provides direct rent and mortgage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses to qualifying businesses.

Organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority will receive a top-up of 25% to a total of 90%.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) – Deadline to apply is May 20, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

This program has been developed to encourage employers to keep employees on their payroll. It will allow employers to keep their work force intact. CEWS covers up to 75% of an employer's wages for eligible businesses. Employers who are eligible for the CEWS are entitled to receive a **100% refund** for certain employer contributions to Employment

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Insurance, and the Canada Pension Plan paid in respect of **employees who are on leave with pay**. Companies must pay employees first and then CRA will reimburse them. Businesses must be able to cashflow the wages in the interim period. **Note: Businesses should sign up for direct deposit as it will streamline and speed up the process of being reimbursed.**

Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) – Extended to Sept 4, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>

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) – Extended to Sept 4, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit.html>

The CRCB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers who:

- 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
- 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.

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)- Extended to Sept 4, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>

The CRSB provides \$500 a week for a maximum of two weeks for workers who:

- Are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they contracted COVID-19
- Are self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19
- 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.

Temporary Changes to EI – Extended to Sept 4, 2021

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>

As of September 27, 2020, you may be eligible for EI if you:

- Were employed for at least 120 insurable hours in the past 52 weeks
- Stopped working through no fault of your own
- Have not quit your job voluntarily
- Are ready, willing, and capable of working each day
- Are temporarily unable to work while you care for someone else or yourself

Minimum taxable benefit rate of \$500 per week or \$300 per week for extended parental benefits.

Work Sharing Program – COVID -19

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/notice-covid-19.html#_Employers

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.

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- Allows Employers to: -retain qualified and experienced workers, and
-avoid recruiting and training new employees
- Allows employees to: -keep their jobs, and
-maintain their work skills
- Business must have experienced a recent decline in business activity of at least 10%
- Work-sharing can be up to 76 weeks
- The application process has been streamlined
- **There no longer is a requirement to apply at least 30 days before the commencement of a work sharing program.**
- Not limited to one specific sector or industry

Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) Guarantee – Deadline to apply is June 30, 2021

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/special-support/hascap?ref=shorturl-hascap>

Businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 can access guaranteed, low-interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1 million to cover operational cash flow needs. These loans are for small and medium sized businesses that have seen a 50% decrease or more in revenues as a result of COVID-19. **You have to apply through our Financial Institution.**