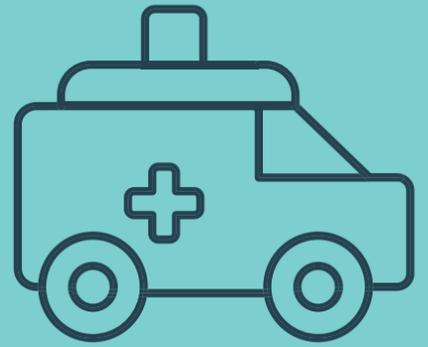


SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES



Current as of March 30, 2020

ALBERTA SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

EMERGENCY ISOLATION SUPPORT

Eligible working Albertans can receive a one-time emergency isolation support payment of \$1,146 if they:

- Experienced total or significant loss of income as a result of having to self-isolate, or are the sole caregiver of a dependent who is self-isolating, and
- Have no other source of compensation, such as workplace sick leave benefits or federal employment insurance benefits
- Visit: www.alberta.ca/emergency-isolation-support.aspx

PROPERTY TAXES

Education property tax rates will be frozen at last year's level

- This reverses the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020

UTILITIES

Residential, farm and small commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bills

- Some municipalities are also deferring water utilities
- Deferrals can be for the next 90 days
- Call your utility provider directly to defer

ALBERTA SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYERS

CORPORATE INCOME TAX

Corporate Income Tax is deferred until August 31, 2020

- Corporate Income Tax balances and installment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020

NON-RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX

Collection of non-residential education property tax will be deferred for 6 months

- Municipalities are expected to set education property tax rates as they normally would, but defer collection.
- Deferred amounts will be repaid in future tax years.

WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUMS

Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer WCB premiums until 2021

- For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021
- Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due
- Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.

CANADA SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20

- This benefit will be delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment in May
- Those who already receive the Canada Child Benefit do not need to re-apply

SPECIAL GST CREDIT PAYMENT

One-time special payment by early May through the GST credit for low and modest income families

- The average additional benefit will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples
- There is no need to apply for this payment. If you are eligible you will get it automatically.

INCOME TAX RETURNS

Filing due date for 2019 tax returns of individuals is deferred

- For individuals (other than trusts), the return filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020.
- Any new income tax balances due, or installments, are to be deferred until after August 31, 2020 without incurring interest or penalties.

CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

Taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months

- Available for workers who must stop working due to COVID 19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support
- For workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID 19
- For working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures
- For workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work
- For wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance
- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will be accessible through a secure web portal starting in early April. Applicants will also be able to apply via an automated telephone line or via a toll-free number

CANADA SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYERS

WAGE SUBSIDIES

Providing small business with wage subsidies

- Up to 75 per cent wage subsidy for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020
- Applicable if revenues have decreased by 30%
- Not determined based on the number of employees
- Up to 75% of salary covered up to \$58,700
- Up to \$847 per week
- Serious consequences for those who attempt to take advantage
- Details about when payment of subsidy will be rolled are still being finalized

FARM CREDIT CANADA

Increasing available credit

- Increasing Farm Credit Canada by \$5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors.
- Offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales

BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY PROGRAM

\$65 billion of additional support through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada

- This program includes:
 - Canada Emergency Business Account - will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.
 - To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.
 - *Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises* - EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million
 - *Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises* - BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to businesses for their operational cash flow requirements.
 - Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.

These programs will roll out in the three weeks after March 27, and interested businesses should work with their current financial institutions.

INCOME TAXES

Business can defer the payment of income taxes

- All businesses can defer until after August 31, 2020 the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020.
- This relief also applies to tax balances due, as well as installments, under Part 1 of the Income Tax Act
- No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

SALES TAX & CUSTOMS DUTY PAYMENTS

Deferral of Sales Tax and Customs Duty Payments

- Businesses, including self-employed individuals, can defer until June 30, 2020 payments of the GST/HST as well as customs duties owing on their imports.
- The deferral will apply to GST/HST remittances for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods for monthly filers; the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period for Quarterly filers; and for annual filers, the amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and installments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year.
- For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April, and May.

WORK SHARING PROGRAM

Extending the Work-Sharing Program

- Extending the maximum duration of the work-sharing program from 38 weeks to 76 weeks.
- The work sharing program is offered to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.

ALBERTA COUNSEL IS HERE TO HELP WITH YOUR POLICY QUESTIONS

All levels of government are responding to the COVID-19 crisis rapidly by rolling out policy responses. Announcements are coming out at a torrid pace, leaving many organizations without a firm grasp of what has been announced and what this could mean in real terms. At Alberta Counsel we have a dedicated team of government relations experts who are ready and willing to help you make sense of it all.

Please visit www.albertacounsel.com/covid to fill out the form and we will attempt to provide you with answers to any questions you may have.



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