



Alberta Government Support

Support for Employers: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx>

- Corporate income tax balances and installment payments can be deferred from March 19 until August 31.
- Farms and commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days.
- Employees are eligible for job protected leave if they are under a 14-day self-isolation period. This may be extended upon advice of the Chief Medical Officer.
- Employers can request employees voluntarily take vacation leave and/or use their vacation pay or banked overtime, but cannot force them to do so under provincial employment rules.
- Businesses can defer **education property tax for six months**. Deferred amount will be paid in future years.
- **WCB premiums can now be deferred** until early 2021. Employers who have already paid their WCB premiums for 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.
- For small and medium businesses, government will cover 50% of the WCB premium when it is due.

AFSC Programs:

- AFSC is offering loan payment relief through interest-only payments, payment re-amortization, or payment deferral option to any client who needs support.
- Call the Client Services Centre at 1.877.899.2372 or local Relationship Manager: <https://afsc.ca/contact/>

Farm Credit Canada (FCC):

- FCC has announced an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity for agriculture business.
- Will include loan payment deferrals and extra access to loans for cash flow needs.
- Contact an FCC relationship manager or customer service at 1.888.332.3301

ATB Financial:

- Small businesses (<50 employees) can apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to six months.
- Access additional working capital if needed.

Support for Albertans:

- Temporary financial support program for adult Albertans who must self-isolate, including persons who are the sole caregiver for a dependent who must self-isolate. This will be a one-time payment installment until federal emergency payments begin in April.
- Eligible people can receive \$573 per week for two weeks, beginning the week of March 23.



- There will be a simple online application through <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-financial-assistance.aspx> next week.
- Residential customers can defer electricity and natural gas payments for the next 90 days.

Government of Canada Support

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Supporting_Canadian_Business

- Worker retention support
 - Government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for up to three months. Subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a max of \$1,375 per employee or \$25,000 per employer. Details on how to apply will be coming.
 - Effective immediately employers can reduce their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration.
- Employment Insurance:
 - Fifteen weeks of income replacement for illness or sickness, or if you have to leave work to care for children.
 - One week waiting period is waived for new claimants who are quarantined.
 - No requirement for medical certificate if quarantined.
- Emergency Care Benefit (applications will be available in April 2020)
 - Provide up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks to provide support to
 - Workers, including self-employed, who are quarantined or sick, or taking care of someone sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
 - Parents with children who require supervision due to school closures and are unable to earn Employment Income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.
- Work Sharing:
 - Available income supplement for employees who are working reduced work hours – intended to supplement EI for part-time reduced employees.



- Need to apply at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html>
- Employer must show a reduction in **business activity** to be eligible, not just a reduction in revenues. Reduction in business activity is in the sale of goods or services greater than 10%.
- Submit application a minimum of 30 days prior to start date of reduced work hours.
- Work share agreements can last for 76 weeks.

- Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFW) and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP)
 - Government of Canada has committed to keep these programs open. Foreign workers coming to Canada are required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to work.

- Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP):
 - Available through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada.
 - Near term credit available to farmers and the agri-food sector will be increased through Farm Credit Canada.
 - Bank of Canada interest rate has been cut to 0.75%.

- Additional support for individuals:
 - Government will provide a one-time special payment in May 2020 through the GST Credit. Boost of ~\$400 for single individuals and \$600 for couples. Targeted to low and modest income families.
 - For families with children who require additional support – increase to the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment by \$300 per child also in May 2020.
 - Effective immediately homeowners facing financial difficulties can defer mortgage payments.
 - For retired individuals, government is reducing the required minimum withdrawal by 25% for 2020.