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- 35. August 18th - Applications open for the Ontario Automotive Modernization Program
- 36. June 17th (**Update**)- Ontario Implements Temporary Ban on Commercial Evictions: **Currently Active**
- 37. June 11th - Ontario and Canada Helping Small Businesses Go Digital
- 38. May 8th –Ontario and Canada Take Additional Steps to Protect Agri-Food Workers During COVID-19 - Provincially licensed meat processing plants – **Application opens May 12th**
- 39. April 30th - Ontario Providing Employers with Workplace Safety Guidelines – **Currently Active**

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40. April 28th – Launch of the *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers* website - New Website Accepting Proposals for Temporarily Changing Rules and Regulations – **Currently Active**

41. April 1st - \$50 million Ontario Together Fund: **Currently Active**

42. March 25th - Stop the Spread Business Information Line Now Open at 1-888-444-3659 – **Currently Active**

43. March 19th - *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020* - Supply Chain - Temporary Changes to Municipal Noise By-Laws: **Currently Active**

44. March 19th - Commercial Vehicles - Extension of validation Periods for Driver, Vehicle and Carrier Products: **Currently Active**

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45. October 20th - Ontario Protects Workers, Volunteers and Organizations Who Make Honest Efforts to Follow COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines and Laws

46. October 20th - Ontario Invests \$550 Million to Build and Upgrade Schools

47. October 20th - Ontario Extends COVID-19 Orders to Protect the Public

48. October 19th - Ontario Onwards: Digital Identity Project

49. October 19th - Ontario Making Government Services More Convenient, Reliable, and Accessible

50. October 16th - Ontario Moving Additional Region to Modified Stage 2

51. October 15th - Delivering High-Speed Internet in Oxford County

52. October 15th - Ontario Adding Over 200 More Transitional Care Beds Across the Province

53. October 14th - Outings on Hold for Long-Term Care Homes in Areas of Higher Community Spread

54. October 14th - Ontario Hiring Hundreds More Contact Tracers and Case Managers

55. October 9th - Ontario Implementing Additional Public Health Measures in Toronto, Ottawa and Peel Region

56. October 9th - Increased COVID-19 Precautions for Congregate Care Settings

57. October 7th - Ontario Welcomes Construction of Largest Renewable Natural Gas Plant in the Province and New Program for Enbridge Customers

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- 58. October 7th - Ontario Helping Apprentices Cover Living Expenses during Training
- 59. October 7th - Ontario Building a Modern, Connected and Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions System
- 60. October 6th - New COVID-19 Precautions at Long-Term Care Homes
- 61. October 6th - Ontario Surpasses Four Million COVID-19 Tests
- 62. October 6th - Ontario Increases Mental Health Funding for Postsecondary Students
- 63. October 5th - Ontario Releases \$35 Million to Hire More Staff, Improve Remote Learning in Targeted Communities
- 64. October 5th - Ontario Supports Training for Personal Support Workers in Niagara
- 65. October 2nd - Ontario Taking Action to Improve Child Care
- 66. October 2nd - Ontario Implementing Additional Public Health and Testing Measures to Keep People Safe
- 67. October 1st - Ontario Provides \$461 Million to Temporarily Enhance Wages For Personal Support Workers
- 68. October 1st - Ontario Revises COVID-19 Screening Guidance for Schools and Child Care
- 69. September 30th - Ontario Releases Updated COVID-19 Modelling for Second Wave
- 70. September 30th - Ontario Modernizes Social Assistance to Help More People Re-enter the Workforce
- 71. September 29th - Ontario Providing over Half a Billion Dollars to Protect Vulnerable Seniors against Second Wave of COVID-19
- 72. September 28th - Delivering High-Speed Internet in Dufferin-Caledon
- 73. September 28th - Ontario Investing \$52.5 Million to Recruit, Retain and Support More Health Care Workers
- 74. September 25th - Ontario Investing Nearly \$2 Million for Job Training in Sudbury
- 75. September 25th - New Public Health Measures Implemented Provincewide to Keep Ontarians Safe
- 76. September 25th - Canada and Ontario Invest in Affordable Housing in Kemptville
- 77. September 25th - Ontario Investing \$741 Million to Reduce Surgeries Backlog and Expand Access to Care

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78. September 24th – Ontario Investing More Than \$1 Billion to Expand COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing

79. September 24th - Ontario Extends Critical Delivery Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

80. September 23rd - Ontario Reaffirms Commitment to Doubling Funding for Autism Services

81. September 23rd - Ontario Restores Transparency and Accountability to the Province's Finances

82. September 23rd - Ontario Expands COVID-19 Testing to Pharmacies

83. September 23rd - Ontario Set to Employ the Largest Number of Labour Inspectors in Provincial History

84. September 23rd - Ontario Modernizing Justice Sector to be more Accessible, Responsive and Affordable

85. September 22nd - Ontario Set to Launch Largest Flu Immunization Campaign in Province's History

86. September 19th - Ontario Limits the Size of Unmonitored and Private Social Gatherings across Entire Province

87. September 18th - Canada and Ontario invest in modern and more accessible public transit infrastructure across Central, North and Southern Ontario

88. September 18th - Canada and Ontario invest in modern public transit and active transportation infrastructure for residents of Durham Region

89. September 18th - Ontario Introduces Legislation to Provide Support for More Ontario Veterans and their Families

90. September 18th - Ontario Supports Telephone-Based Social and Educational Programs for Seniors

91. September 17th - Ontario Introduces Legislation to Freeze Residential Rent in 2021

92. September 17th - Lower Limits for Unmonitored and Private Social Gatherings in Ottawa, Peel and Toronto Regions

93. September 16th - Ontario Launches New COVID-19 Screening Tool to Help Protect Students and Staff

94. September 14th - Health Preparedness and Rebuilding the Economy Top Priorities in Ontario's Fall Legislative Agenda

95. September 14th - Ontario Investing in Hospital Upgrades and Repairs

96. September 11th - Ontario Launches COVID-19 School and Licensed Child Care-specific Web Page

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97. September 10th - Ontario Expanding Innovative Mental Health and Addictions Services

98. September 10th - Ontario is investing over \$2.9 million to fund eight research projects that aim to support Ontario's response to COVID-19

99. September 8th - \$1.3 Billion Investment to Reopen Schools Safely

100. Emergency Assistance – Support for individuals and families in financial crisis – **Currently Active**

COVID-19 – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

101. October 20th - Support for small businesses through the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund: **Open for Applications as of October 26th**

102. October 19th - Government of Canada invests to help maximize community and business growth opportunities throughout Parry Sound – Muskoka

103. October 16th – Government of Canada launches new COVID-19–related challenges to help reduce environmental impact of PPE in Canada

104. October 15th - FedNor invests to establish Northern Ontario Agri-Tech Hub and boost agriculture production in the Algoma region

105. October 15th - FedNor invests to help businesses innovate, grow and weather the economic impact of the coronavirus in the Sault and Algoma region

106. October 14th - Government of Canada invests to support innovators and create good jobs in Greater Sudbury

107. October 13th - FedDev Ontario investment drives next level innovation at world-class test environment in Ottawa

108. October 13th - Online Tool Kit Helps Workplaces Build Customized COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

109. October 9th - Government of Canada and provincial partners support research addressing mental health impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians

110. October 9th – Federal Investments to boost Toronto’s Health Tech Sector

111. October 9th - Government announces new, targeted support to help businesses through pandemic

112. October 8th - Government of Canada supports tourism in Prince Edward County: **Now Open to Applicants**

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- 113. October 2nd (**UPDATE**) - Small Business and Community Support Measures - Now accepting applications for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)
- 114. October 1st - Prime Minister announces infrastructure plan to create jobs and grow the economy
- 115. September 25th - Government provides update on support for furloughed employees under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy
- 116. September 25th - Temporary Measure to Compensate for the Lack of Insurance Coverage for Production Stoppages due to Confirmed COVID-19 Cases on Film Sets in the Audiovisual Industry
- 117. September 18th - Support for women entrepreneurs in the tech sector in southern Ontario
- 118. September 18th - FedDev Ontario supports regional tourism across southern Ontario
- 119. September 17th - New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support youth, scientists, and researchers across Canada
- 120. September 16th – Investments to support technology, business growth and community recovery efforts in Nipissing-Timiskaming
- 121. September 9th - Support for Black entrepreneurs and business owners
- 122. September 8th (**Update**)- Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program - Ontario Provides Urgent Relief for Small Businesses and Landlords – **Applications now available.**
- 123. August 31st (Update) - Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) – Various Enterprise Loans – Currently Active
- 124. August 31st (Update) – \$40,000 Business Loans - Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) – **Currently Active**
- 125. August 25th - More support for women entrepreneurs in southern Ontario
- 126. August 24th - New temporary public policy will allow visitors to apply for a work permit without having to leave Canada
- 127. August 24th (Update) - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - 75% Wage Subsidy - (Currently Accepting Applications– Direct deposits will begin to appear in employers’ accounts as of May 7th)
- 128. August 11th - Government of Canada launches updated Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Calculator to support employers
- 129. August 5th (**Update**)- **Seafood** Stabilization Fund to help Canada’s fish and seafood processing sector & Support for Canada’s fish harvesters (**Open for Applications as of August 24th**)

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- 130. July 17th - FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario
- 131. June 23rd - Temporary extension of time periods given to employers to recall employees laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic: **Effective June 22nd**
- 132. June 9th - Government of Canada creates a hub for organizations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment: **Currently Active**
- 133. May 20th (**Update**) - Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) – **Applications Open**
- 134. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Term Loans – Currently Active
- 135. Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Oil and Gas Sector Financing - Deployment Strategy to be Finalized in Near Future
- 136. April 27th (Update) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately
- 137. *The Pandemic Response Challenge Program*: National Research Council of Canada (NRC) – Currently Active
- 138. March 18th - Deferral of Income Tax: Currently Active
- 139. March 18th – BCAP - BDC Working Capital loans: Currently Active
- 140. March 15th- Support for employers and workers through the Work-Sharing program: Currently Active
- 141. March 15th - Changes to the Employment Insurance sickness benefits: Currently Active
- 142. March 11th - Public Works and Government Services Canada – COVID-19 Supplier Purchasing Program

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- 143. October 7th - New interest relief measure to provide much-needed help to Canada Student Loan borrowers on medical or parental leave
- 144. October 2nd (**UPDATE**)- New recovery benefits and extended funding for COVID-19 measures receives Royal Assent
- 145. September 25th - Flexible, more accessible EI system to help support Canadians through the next phase of the recovery
- 146. September 15th - Government of Canada's fall support measures to help students

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- 147. September 11th - Green job opportunities to 1,200 youth across Canada who face barriers to employment
- 148. September 11th - Open call for applications for the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative: **Application deadline: October 16th**
- 149. September 3rd - The Government of Canada announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19
- 150. August 28th - Over 900 new green internship opportunities available for students as Canada builds back better
- 151. August 20th - Government of Canada announces plan to help support Canadians through the next phase of the recovery
- 152. July 27th - The Canada Revenue Agency announces an extension to the payment deadline and offers interest relief on outstanding tax debts during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 153. June 16th (**Update**) - Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB): **Applications opened April 6th**
- 154. May 15th (**Update**) - Extension of Tax Filing Deadline and Benefit Payment Dates: **Currently Active**
- 155. March 18th - Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) – Minimum Withdrawals
- 156. March 18th - Deferral of Canada Student Loan Payments: **Implementation by Early April**

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1. September 30th - Ontario Delivers \$2.8 Billion COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan
 - The Ontario government has developed a **\$2.8 billion COVID-19 fall preparedness plan** to ensure the province's health care, long-term care and education systems are prepared for the immediate challenges of the fall, including a second wave of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season.
 - [*Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19*](#) will enable the province to **quickly identify, prevent and respond to surges and waves of the virus** to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians.
 - The Keeping Ontarians Safe plan focuses on **key areas** to rapidly identify and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks and surges, build health system capacity, and reinforce the province's health care workforce. These areas are:

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1. [Maintaining strong public health measures, including continued expansion of testing and case and contact management](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$1.376 billion** to enhance and expand efforts to test, trace and isolate new cases of COVID-19.
 - [Up to 80 pharmacies in Ontario are currently offering free COVID-19 testing by appointment only.](#)
 - The province has also added over 1,700 staff to assist with case and contact management.

2. [Implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history](#)
 - Ontario is investing nearly **\$70 million** to purchase and distribute flu vaccines to deliver a robust and expanded campaign this year.
 - In addition, Ontario is investing **\$26.5 million** to purchase and administer additional flu vaccine doses if required and **\$2 million** to purchase additional antiviral medication to support outbreak management of influenza in institutions.

3. [Quickly identifying, managing and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$30 million** to build on its efforts to rapidly identify and contain any COVID-19 outbreaks.

4. [Accelerating efforts to reduce health service backlogs](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$283.7 million** to assist the health system's ongoing efforts to reduce surgery backlogs by supporting extend hours for additional priority surgeries and diagnostic imaging.
 - The government is also **adding 139 critical care beds and 1,349 hospital beds** in hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province to support more surgical procedures.

5. [Preparing for surges in COVID-19 cases](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$457.49 million** to ensure that the health system is prepared to respond to any waves or surges of COVID-19 without interrupting routine health services.
 - This includes helping up to **850 alternate levels of care patients** access the proper care in a home or community setting to help add more capacity in hospitals; expanding digital health and virtual services; improving access to mental health and addictions

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services and supports with a **\$26.75 million** investment; and increasing home and community care service by **adding 484,000 nursing and therapy visits** and **1.4 million personal support worker hours**.

6. Recruiting, retaining, training and supporting health care workers, while also continuing to engage families and caregivers

- Ontario is investing a total of **\$52.5 million** to recruit, retain and support over **3,700 more frontline health care workers and caregivers** to ensure the health care system can meet any surge in demand, while continuing to provide safe and high-quality care to patients and long-term care residents.

7. Supporting Long-Term Care Homes

- To support the six key areas of focus of Ontario's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, the province also released [COVID-19: Long-term care preparedness](#), a plan that includes nearly **\$540 million** in long-term care investments to prepare long-term care homes for future waves of COVID-19.

8. Supporting Schools and Child Care Centres

- Earlier this month, Ontario released a **\$1.3 billion plan** to [reopen schools safely](#) and provided **\$234.6 million** through the federal Safe Restart Agreement for [child care and early years settings](#), which complements existing provincial and federal investments to help keep children and families safe.
- For schools, this includes funding to hire **more teachers to keep class sizes small, funding to hire additional nurses to facilitate public health and preventative measures**, including screening, testing, tracing and mitigation strategies, and **funding to hire 1,300 custodians** to enhance cleaning in schools and buses.

- For more details, please visit:
[Fall Preparedness Plan for Health, Long-Term Care and Education](#)

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2. Ontario Releases 2020-21 First Quarter Finances

- The Ontario government is continuing to support the province's recovery from COVID-19 over the long-term while delivering on its commitment to transparency and accountability with the release of **2020-21 First Quarter Finances** and an update to **Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19**.
- To protect the health and economic well-being of the people of Ontario, the **government continues to invest and budget for further contingencies in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak**, including providing support to families, businesses, workers, municipalities, long-term care homes and those on the front-lines of the pandemic.
- These investments bring the government's **COVID-19 response action plan to a projected \$30 billion**, up from \$17 billion announced in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 on March 25, 2020.
- Since announcing the first steps in the government's response to the global pandemic, the government is making additional investments in the fight against COVID-19, including:
 - i. An **increase of \$4.4 billion** for a total of **\$7.7 billion** to provide **ongoing support for health care** to build hospital capacity, prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, ramp up testing and purchase personal protective equipment and critical medical supplies.
 - ii. An **increase of \$7.3 billion** for a total of **\$11.0 billion** to **support people and jobs**, which supports investments in a temporary pandemic pay for more than 375,000 eligible frontline workers totaling over \$1.5 billion, \$4 billion in targeted funding to help municipal partners and transit agencies to continue to deliver critical services, and temporary immediate relief for residential, farm, small business, industrial and commercial electricity consumers.
- The government is now projecting a **deficit of \$38.5 billion in 2020-21**, which incorporates the most up to date economic information and additional supports for the pandemic recovery period and the safe restart framework.
- Private-sector forecasts, on average, **project that Ontario's real GDP will decline by 6.6 per cent in 2020**, down significantly from when the March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update was finalized.

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- Total revenue is projected to be \$150.6 billion in 2020-21, \$5.7 billion lower and program expenses are projected to be \$13.1 billion higher than forecast in the March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update.
- As Ontario gradually reopens, following the plan outlined in *A Framework to Reopen Our Province*, there have been **recent signs of economic recovery**.
 - i. In June and July, **Ontario's employment increased by 528,600 net jobs** and **the unemployment rate decreased to 11.3 per cent**.
 - ii. **Home resales in the province rose 56.6 per cent in May and 67.0 per cent in June**, after declining for two consecutive months.
 - iii. **Ontario manufacturing sales increased 17.5 per cent in May**, while **retail sales rose 14.2 per cent**, after both declined for two consecutive months.
- The Province's next fiscal update will be a multi-year provincial Budget, to be delivered no later than **November 15, 2020**.
- Ontario was the first in Canada to release a fiscal outlook that reflected the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

3. August 12th - Ontario Provides Update to Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19

- Since announcing the first steps in the government's response to the global pandemic on March 25, 2020, the government has made additional investments and budgeted for further contingencies in the fight against COVID-19.
- This includes allocating more support for people, jobs, a safe reopening, and the prevention of - or response to - a second wave.
- With these investments, the government's COVID-19 response action plan is now a projected **\$30.0 billion**, up from \$17 billion announced in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 on March 25, 2020.

Supporting Health Care

- Since releasing the Action Plan, the government has committed even more resources to bolster health care and support frontline workers. Key investments and initiatives include:
 - i. Funding of **\$610 million** for the purchase of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies;

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- ii. **\$53 million** to ensure vulnerable people continue to have access to prescription medication during the pandemic;
- iii. **\$50 million** to the Ontario Together Fund to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment to help stop the spread of COVID-19;
- iv. **\$15 million** to support the design and implementation of the new Ontario Health Data Platform. This data platform provides recognized researchers and health system partners with access to anonymized health data that will allow them to better detect, plan and respond to COVID-19;
- v. **\$15 million** in provincial support for 110 municipalities across the province towards the enhanced cleaning of transit systems;
- vi. **\$14 million** in funding to provide additional community-based mental health and addictions services for people in Ontario with mental health needs;
- vii. **\$12 million** to provide virtual mental health supports, including services to support frontline health care workers; and
- viii. To ensure that the resources are in place to support the health of the people of Ontario, the COVID-19 Health Contingency Fund has been increased by **\$4.3 billion**.

Supporting People and Jobs

- o Since releasing the Action Plan, the government has committed even more resources to support people and protect jobs through the crisis and in the long term. Key new investments and initiatives include:
 - i. Up to **\$4 billion** for municipalities and transit systems to provide one-time assistance, in partnership with the federal government, to help local governments address budget shortfalls related to COVID-19 and maintain the critical services people rely on every day;
 - ii. An investment of over **\$1.5 billion**, together with the federal government, providing a temporary pay increase of \$4 per hour for more than 375,000 eligible workers for work performed from April 24, 2020 to August 13, 2020.
 - iii. **\$340 million** to provide temporary immediate relief for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan by deferring a portion of Global Adjustment charges, which is expected to be recovered over a 12-month period beginning in January 2021;

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- iv. **\$241 million** in funding committed by Ontario to partner with the federal government in order to provide over \$900 million in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through a new program, Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance;
- v. An increase of \$56 million for a total of **\$176 million**, to provide to May 31, 2020 the off-peak price of electricity for 24 hours a day for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers;
- vi. **\$50 million** to increase the government's contribution to the Risk Management Program for a total contribution of \$150 million annually. This funding supports farmers with unforeseen challenges such as fluctuations in market prices or production costs;
- vii. **\$25 million** to ensure Ontario's food supply chain remains strong and ready to recover, including up to \$15 million to enhance health and safety measures on farms and in food processing facilities, and up to \$10 million in emergency assistance for beef and hog farmers;
- viii. **\$10 million** to provide financial support for Indigenous small- and medium-sized enterprises experiencing reduced or no revenue due to COVID-19;
- ix. **\$10 million** for the Connecting Links program, for a total investment of **\$40 million** in 2020-21, to support municipalities by helping them build, repair or replace municipal roads and bridges that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a community or to a border crossing;
- **\$8 million** for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB) to provide support to businesses struggling with bill payments as a result of the outbreak;
- **\$8 million** to help small businesses reach more customers through the Digital Main Street platform. This program, in partnership with the federal government, will help up to 22,900 Ontario businesses create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than 1,400 students;
- **\$5 million** to support food rescue organizations to purchase critical infrastructure to ensure food is safely redistributed to those in need and help prevent nutritious food from ending up in landfills;
- The Support for People and Jobs Fund has been increased by **\$3 billion** to ensure that Ontario has the resources to continue responding to the needs of the people of Ontario through the economic reopening and recovery phases; and

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- The standard Contingency Fund has been increased by **\$2.2 billion** to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19 – Provincial Government – Support for Businesses

- The Provincial government is reaching out on a daily basis to leaders at businesses big and small, including at our financial institutions, as well as unions, to ensure we have the latest information, and that there is an open line of communication as the government works to address COVID-19's impact on the economy.
 - Please visit the following page for additional resources:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-businesses>
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4. October 19th - Ontario Supporting Farmers Through Advanced Agriculture Research

- The Ontario government, through the **Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO)**, is working with the **University of Guelph** to invest **\$6.5 million** into the construction of a **new Field Crop Services building** on the Ridgeway campus.
- The investment will centralize agronomy research services, reduce operating costs and significantly modernize the field crops research operations on campus.
- The new building will support the study of crop production, including best management strategies in crop genetics, nutrient inputs, and integrated pest management.
- Ontario-based agri-food research produces new products and practices which help Ontario farmers be more competitive and efficient.
- Construction started in late September 2020 and will be **completed by Spring 2022**.

5. October 16th - Ontario Supports the Production of Critical Supplies to Fight the Spread of COVID-19

- The Ontario government continues to work together with businesses and the manufacturing sector to expand production of domestic PPE to ensure preparedness, both now and for the future.
- To support the fight against COVID-19, **Greenfield Global is investing a total of \$75 million at their facility in Johnstown Ontario** to produce the **medical-grade alcohol** critical to making hand sanitizers used by Ontario individuals, families, and front-line workers.
- The Ontario government is investing **\$2.5 million** through the **Ontario Together Fund** in support of this project.
 - The government launched the \$50 million Ontario Together Fund to help businesses retool their operations to produce PPE and develop technology-driven solutions and services for businesses to reopen safely.
- The project will help reduce Ontario's dependency on other jurisdictions as a source of high-grade alcohols and will strengthen the province's position as a leader in PPE production, while creating new jobs.

6. October 16th - Ontario Supports Innovation and Job Creation in the Life Sciences Sector

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- The Ontario government welcomes the decision by **Roche** to invest **\$500 million over five years** to **establish a Global Pharma Technical Operations site** to oversee its global supply chain in Mississauga.
 - This investment is expected to create **500 jobs** — 200 by the end of 2020 and up to 300 more by the end of 2023. It will enhance Ontario's competitiveness and leadership in the life sciences sector.
 - The Global Pharma Technical Operations site will be responsible for supporting Hoffmann-La Roche Limited's global manufacturing and supply chain operations, including monitoring safety, quality and distribution of pharmaceutical products shipped around the world.
 - In 2012, Roche Canada established Mississauga as a Product Development Site, overseeing clinical trials both in Canada and globally.
 - The success of this site, along with Ontario's highly skilled science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, world-class colleges and universities and competitive business environment, saw the **province win out over 12 international locations and Roche sites** to secure this new investment, while positioning the province for future opportunities.
 - Through the **Better for People, Smarter for Business Act**, the government **is further reducing regulatory burdens** and encouraging investment in the life sciences sector by **allowing businesses to write off in-year capital costs on new equipment** and delivering on the government's commitment to **cut corporate income taxes through the \$3.8 billion Ontario Job Creation Investment Incentive**.
7. October 13th - Governments Investing \$26.6 Million to Further Protect Ontario Agri-Food Workers During COVID-19
- The governments of Canada and Ontario are taking additional steps to **help farmers better protect the health and safety of agri-food workers in the province** during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure the continued supply of locally grown food all year round.
 - A new agreement between Ontario and the federal government will see Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada invest an additional **\$11.6 million** to help support efforts by Ontario producers to stop the spread of COVID-19 on their farms.
 - Actions such as building physical barriers for worker separation, upgrading HVAC systems and enhancing hand-washing facilities will be eligible for this funding.

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- The federal funding that will be delivered by Ontario is in addition to the Ontario government's commitment in June of up to \$15 million to support workplace safety enhancements in the sector through the [Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program](#).
 - Under the expanded program, the amount farmers can claim for preventive expenses including a combination of workplace modifications, PPE, transportation and temporary housing will double to \$15,000.
 - The program will also include a new category for small capital projects of up to \$100,000 for housing modifications, workplace modifications and equipment to allow greater physical distancing for workers.

 - For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58785/governments-investing-266-million-to-further-protect-ontario-agri-food-workers-during-covid-19>
- 8. October 13th - Ontario Continues to Support Restaurants During COVID-19 Pandemic**
- The Ontario government is encouraging everyone to support local restaurants and the food services industry during COVID-19.
 - To **provide relief for local restaurants and other businesses** impacted by new public health measures, Ontario announced **\$300 million** to help **offset fixed costs, including property taxes, hydro and natural gas bills**.

 - The government is also supporting small business through its [Main Street Recovery Plan](#) by:
 - Committing to permanently allow licensed restaurants and bars to include alcohol with food as part of a takeout or delivery order before the existing regulation expires;
 - Permanently allowing 24/7 deliveries to restaurants;
 - Supporting the distribution of local food and food products by increasing the range of products sold at the Ontario Food Terminal;
 - Ending outdated and duplicative rules so businesses can focus on their work;
 - Modernizing regulations to allow businesses to innovate and meet the challenges of today;
 - Providing mental health supports to business owners and employees who are struggling;

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- Providing \$57 million with federal partners through the Digital Main Street program and creating new Digital Main Street squads to help small businesses grow online; and
 - Launching a new portal to assist small businesses to quickly find the supports and information they need.
- 9. October 13th - Ontario Helps Keep Energy Costs Low for Families, Small Businesses and Farmers**
- The Ontario government is helping to **keep the cost of energy low for families, small businesses and farmers** by **keeping electricity rates stable** and providing customers with more choice and energy assistance programs.
 - Customers eligible for the [Ontario Electricity Rebate \(OER\)](#) will automatically receive a **33.2% reduction off their energy bill** when [new electricity rates](#) for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) customers come into effect **November 1, 2020**.
 - At the same time, customers paying Time-of-Use (TOU) rates under the RPP will also have the option to switch to tiered rate pricing.
 - Time-of-use electricity rates vary by time of day and are comprised of three different rate periods of off-peak, mid-peak and on-peak pricing.
 - Tiered electricity rates provide customers with a set rate for electricity up to a certain level of consumption.
 - The province has also revised the eligibility requirements for the **COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB)**.
 - Households, small businesses and charitable organizations who made partial payments on amounts owing before the COVID-19 emergency period are now eligible for the CEAP and CEAP-SB one-time on-bill credit to help pay down electricity bill debt.
 - Ontario is also introducing a new streamlined **Energy Affordability Program (EAP)** for households struggling to pay their electricity bills. Beginning the week of **January 4, 2021**, EAP will:
 - Provide free electricity saving measures to help participating households manage their electricity-use and lower their electricity costs by up to \$1,000 per year;

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- Tailor energy-efficiency upgrades based on household income, home heating system, location, and an energy needs assessment; and,
 - Simplify access to new and updated electricity saving measures through a single program that replaces the Affordability Fund Trust and Home Assistance Program, which are ending in 2020.
- The **Energy Affordability Program** is part of Ontario's new **2021-2024 electricity Conservation Demand Management (CDM)** Framework, which also offers energy-efficiency programs for on-reserve First Nations consumers and Ontario business and industrial consumers to increase competitiveness and lower electricity costs.
 - The new Framework will come into force **January 1, 2021**, immediately following the end of the current Interim Framework on December 31, 2020.
 - For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58782/ontario-helps-keep-energy-costs-low-for-families-small-businesses-and-farmers>

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10. October 13th - Ontario Increases Production of COVID-19 Testing Supplies

- The Ontario government is investing over **\$1.4 million in Mississauga-based Microbix Biosystems to expand production of COVID-19 testing supplies** and further support the province in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.
- With Ontario's support, Microbix will make viral transport media, which is the solution used to preserve and transport a patient's test specimen.
- This viral transport media will be used in COVID-19 patient sampling kits to support the province's urgent need for testing supplies and reduce the pressure on labs to assess variable international sources while also processing thousands of tests daily.
- Through the **Ontario Together Fund**, the government is delivering targeted investments that will increase the province's stockpile of Ontario-made products and PPE.
- Businesses and individuals looking to help in the fight against COVID-19 can submit their proposals through the [Ontario Together web portal](#).
-

11. October 9th - Ontario Adding and Expanding Highway Rest Areas in the North

- The Ontario government is **improving travel for drivers in Northern Ontario by building four new rest areas and repairing or expanding 10 existing facilities along provincial highways**.
- The new amenities will include more bathrooms, improved lighting and increased parking.
- This is part of the government's plan to connect communities, build safer and better highways, help combat human trafficking, and **keep our supply chain strong** in every part of the province.
- For the 2020-21 fiscal year, Ontario is investing **\$2.6 billion** to repair and expand provincial highways and bridges, including construction funding of \$625 million in northern Ontario.
- These smart investments are estimated to create or sustain approximately **15,830 direct and indirect jobs** and improve quality of life for workers, families and small businesses across Ontario.
- Ontario 511 and the 511 app, with its easy to use map view and drive mode, will be updated whenever a rest area is expanded or developed to identify new facilities for truckers.

12. October 8th - Ontario Supporting Local Festivals and Events: Application period: Oct 8th to Dec 1st

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- Ontario is investing **\$9 million** through the new **Reconnect Festival and Event Program** to **support municipalities and event organizers** during COVID-19.
- This funding will be used to maintain public safety requirements and allow people to reconnect with their communities through online, drive-through and other innovative experiences.
- Organizers will be developing creative programs such as virtual Remembrance Day events, reverse holiday parades with drive-by static floats, drive-in music concerts and movies, holiday tree lightings and New Year's Eve displays that light-up iconic buildings.
- The [Reconnect Festival and Event Program](#) is open to organizers with a minimum \$50,000 operating budget and the capacity to safely reconnect Ontarians with their communities.
- Tourism is a key economic driver in Ontario, supporting more than **400,000 jobs** and generating over **\$36 billion** in spending.
- This year, through Celebrate Ontario, the government invested **\$9.75 million** to support more than [250 festivals and events](#) in communities across the province, including Blockbuster events.
- The application period for the [Reconnect Festival and Event Program](#) runs from **October 8 to December 1, 2020**.

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13. October 8th - Historic Ford Canada Investment Transforming Ontario into Global Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Hub

- The Ontario government is matching a **\$295 million** investment with the federal government to retool **Ford of Canada's Oakville Assembly Complex** into a **global hub for battery electric vehicle production**.
- This **\$1.8 billion** investment represents one of the **most significant investments in the province's auto sector** in a generation.
- Ford's Oakville plant directly employs over **3,000 people** and will be modernized with a flexible manufacturing system able to accommodate multiple battery electric vehicle (BEV) models.
 - It will also include the installation of a battery-pack assembly line.
 - The Oakville Assembly Complex will become **one of Ford's highest volume BEV plants in North America**, with the first electric vehicles expected to roll off the production line in 2025.
- In addition to securing the future of the Oakville Assembly Complex, this investment is a major win for the auto parts industry in Ontario and its **63,000 workers** who help build parts and components for vehicles assembled in the province and abroad.
- Ontario is the only place in North America where five major automakers build vehicles — Fiat Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda and Toyota — as well as truck manufacturer Hino.
- Ontario is also home to more than **250 companies** and organizations active in the development of connected and **autonomous vehicle technologies**.
 - This expertise is woven together by Ontario's [Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network \(AVIN\)](#).

14. October 7th – Ontario Supports Small Main Street Businesses with \$60 Million in Funding through PPE Grant

- The Ontario government is continuing to help businesses rebuild, reinvest and create good jobs across the province.
- The Provincial government has announced **Ontario's Main Street Recovery Plan** and intends to introduce the **Main Street Recovery Act, 2020**, proposed legislation that would **support small businesses and modernize rules** to allow them to innovate and meet the challenges of today.

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- i. If passed, the act will **remove hurdles faced by small businesses** and allow them to pursue new opportunities — while maintaining or enhancing protections for public health, safety and the environment.
- o The plan includes:
 - A **one-time grant** of up to **\$1,000** for eligible main street small businesses — in retail, food and accommodations, and other service sectors — with two to nine employees to **help offset the unexpected costs of personal protective equipment (PPE)**;
 - Ontario's **Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network**, which links 47 Small Business Enterprise Centres across the province as places where small businesses can access tailored advice and information on local, provincial and federal programs;
 - **Digital Main Street Squads** to help small businesses grow online;
 - **Mental health supports** for families, frontline workers, young people, children, and Indigenous communities;
 - **Ontario's Small Business Recovery Webpage** to provide single window access to small business supports.
- o The plan's **regulatory and legislative changes, if passed**, will:
 - Commit to exploring options to permanently **allow licensed restaurants and bars to include alcohol** with food as part of a **takeout or delivery** order before the existing regulation expires;
 - Permanently allow **24/7 deliveries to businesses** that include retail stores, restaurants, and distribution facilities;
 - Support the **distribution of local food and food products** by increasing the range of products sold at the Ontario Food Terminal;
 - Enable **Community Net Metering** demonstration projects to help support local communities to develop innovative community projects like net-zero or community micro-grids;
 - Modernize the **Assistive Devices Program**;
 - Support **Ontario's Taxi and Limousine Industry** by increasing fines for illegal operators.
- o Ontario is helping businesses overcome the unique challenges created by this pandemic with **50 temporary regulatory changes** made to help them adapt and about 400 more roadblocks being explored.

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- The Ontario government **reduced the small business Corporate Income Tax** rate by 8.7%, starting on January 1, 2020. This will deliver up to \$1,500 in annual savings to more than 275,000 businesses.

15. October 7th - Ontario Supporting Scientists Developing the Next Generation of Antibiotics

- The Ontario government is investing **\$1 million** to support the **creation of a Canadian Compound Library for Antibiotic Discovery at McMaster University**.
- This investment will help researchers discover and develop the next generation of antibiotics to help combat antibiotic resistance.
 - Antibiotic resistance means that a growing number of infections, such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and food-borne illnesses, are becoming harder to treat as the antibiotics used to treat them become less effective.
- The research being undertaken will identify a set of rules and guidelines that can be adopted by **researchers and the private sector** to accelerate antibiotic drug discovery and development, create an antimicrobial chemical library and develop and disseminate online education modules to provide timely information on antibiotic advancements to the public, researchers and clinicians.

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- Ontario universities' research and development sector contributes nearly **\$11 billion** a year to Ontario's economy.
- Recently, the government announced **35 projects** on preventing, detecting, and managing COVID-19 through Ontario's [COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund](#). The projects focus on a broad range of topics including vaccine development, diagnostics, drug trials, social sciences and mental health supports.
- For more details, please visit:
[Learn more about the David Braley Centre for Antibiotic Discovery](#).

16. October 6th - Making Ontario Better for People and Smarter for Business

- The Ontario government continues to deliver on its commitment to **remove regulatory roadblocks, cut red tape and support job creation** with the introduction of the **Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020**.
- The legislation is part of the province's made-in-Ontario plan for growth, renewal and economic recovery.
- If passed, the act will strengthen Ontario's economic recovery, support businesses on the ground, and help government deliver clear and effective rules that promote public health and safeguard the environment without sacrificing innovation, growth and opportunity.
- The **proposed changes** in the act, along with other measures, include:
 - i. Requiring gas and electric utilities to adopt the Green Button Connect My Data and Download My Data standard to help Ontarians understand their energy use and reduce costs;
 - ii. Supporting renewable and alternative fuels and emissions reduction technology;
 - iii. Allowing single traffic studies for an entire specified highway corridor or area to reduce duplication and enable developers to get shovels in the ground faster;
 - iv. Protecting the environment and the health and safety of Ontarians by improving hazardous waste tracking;
 - v. Consulting on amendments to clarify when pre-start reviews are required in factories in order to make it easier for businesses to comply;
 - vi. Making it easier for property developers to get the environmental information they need by moving from a manual paper-based

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- process to a much faster separate alternative digital delivery platform;
 - vii. Requiring water bottling companies to receive support from the host municipality prior to applying for a new or increased permit to take ground water;
 - viii. Helping intercommunity bus carriers fill service gaps and meet local community transit needs.
- The proposed Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2020 is the latest in a series of red tape reduction and regulatory modernization efforts to make Ontario more competitive, attract investment and create jobs.
 - For more details, please visit:
[Making Ontario better for people and smarter for business](#)

17. October 5th - Ontario Supporting Independent Book and Magazine Publishers

- The Ontario government is investing nearly **\$5 million in grants** to help **independent local book and magazine publishers** access new markets and bring Canadian creative content to new audiences, both at home and around the world.
- The funding will be used for business development, enable participation in virtual industry activities and events, allow for the development of business strategies, and support innovative business practices.
- Ontario Creates, an agency of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, **approved 95 grants to Ontario-based businesses** to support the recovery of Ontario's culture industry.
- Ontario's culture sector contributes over **\$25 billion** to the provincial economy and supports almost **270,000 jobs**.
- Please visit [Ontario Creates](#) for more information on funding eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

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18. October 2nd - Canada and Ontario Strengthening Farmers and Food Supply Through Skilled Trades Training

- The governments of Canada and Ontario today announced they are investing in several projects that will **support labour and training needs in the farming sector**, including committing more than **\$180,000** for the development of a **new college program** that will provide education and training in the **latest agricultural equipment**.
- The federal and provincial governments will assist **Conestoga College** in the creation, launch and delivery of a pilot program to expand the training opportunities for current farm sector employees and better prepare those interested in careers in agriculture to work on farms in key areas.
- Through a targeted intake under the **Partnership's Place to Grow: Agri-Food Innovation Initiative**, the governments have also recently committed up to **\$594,000** to projects to boost labour supply and training in the agri-food sector.
- Since June 2018, both the federal and provincial governments have committed support to more than **3,900 projects**, through the Partnership, to help eligible Ontario farmers, processors, businesses and sector organizations innovate and grow.
- The Ontario agri-food sector supports more than **837,000 jobs** in Ontario and contributes more than **\$47.5 billion** each year to the province's economy.

- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58637/canada-and-ontario-strengthening-farmers-and-food-supply-through-skilled-trades-training>

19. October 1st - Ontario Investment Helps Complete Boundary Bridge Project and Strengthen Local Community

- The Ontario government has reached a milestone in its support of communities through **smart investments in local infrastructure**.
- The new Boundary Bridge (also known as Hawkins Bay Bridge), in the **Municipality of Tweed**, is one of the first projects to be completed under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- ICIP is a 10-year, **\$30-billion federal, provincial and municipal fund** that provides support to help communities repair and build priority infrastructure.

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- A total of almost **\$1.8 million** was invested in this project, shared by the federal government, provincial government and the municipality of Tweed under ICIP's Rural and Northern stream.
- Ontario invested \$590,274 to ensure that residents and visitors to the area can get where they need to go more reliably.

20. September 28th - Ontario Supporting the Province's Vibrant Film and TV Sector

- The Ontario government is investing nearly **\$1.3 million** through **Ontario Creates grants**, providing **99 organizations** with funding to help bring **Canadian film, TV and digital content to audiences around the world**.
- Ontario Creates is an agency of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries that provides industry support through several investment programs, including:
 - i. 67 grant recipients were approved through the [Film and TV Export Fund](#), supporting export development activities such as market event attendance and targeted sales trips that will encourage company growth and success.
 - ii. 20 recipients through the [Industry Development Program](#), supporting activities that help businesses in the book, magazine, film, television, and interactive digital media sectors expand skills, business capacity, market share, sales, and innovation.
 - iii. 12 recipients through the [Interactive Digital Media Fund's](#) Marketing Support and Global Market Development streams, helping to strengthen and stimulate economic growth in the interactive digital media sector by supporting opportunities for producers of interactive content to create new products, access existing and new markets and grow their business.
- **Ontario Creates** awarded **\$29.2 million** in grant funding to **655 projects last year**.
- Please visit [Ontario Creates](#) for more information on funding eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

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21. September 28th - Ontario Launches Recovery Program for Northern Businesses Impacted by COVID-19: Applications open October 1, 2020

- The Ontario government has announced the creation of a **new short-term Northern Ontario Recovery Program (NORP) to help businesses adapt to new COVID-19 public health guidelines and protect employees and customers.**
- Companies can apply to NORP for assistance with projects that help them adjust to the impacts of COVID-19, such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Building renovations and new constructions
 - ii. Customer and employee safety installations
 - iii. Equipment purchases, including personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - iv. Marketing for new business initiatives
 - v. Restructuring of business operations
- Applications will be open from **October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020**, with the **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)** administering the new program.
- The current NOHFC program streams will close for applications as of **September 30, 2020**, to allow the NOHFC to focus exclusively on NORP funding applications.
- A new and improved NOHFC program is set to be launched in **January 2021**.
 - i. The new program will make it easier for more people and businesses to apply and support more projects in rural northern communities.
 - ii. The program will target both existing and emerging market opportunities, provide more work opportunities for Indigenous people and address the skilled labour shortage in the north.
- The **NOHFC** promotes economic prosperity across Northern Ontario by providing **financial assistance to projects** - big and small, rural and urban - that stimulate recovery, growth, job creation and skilled workforce development.
- More information is available on the [NOHFC's website](#)

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- i. Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more **than \$193 million in 1,386 projects in Northern Ontario**, leveraging more than \$748 million in investment and creating or sustaining **3,912 jobs**.

22. September 25th - Ontario Supports North Bay's Innovative Manufacturing Sector

- o The Ontario government is investing over **\$2.5 million in five manufacturing projects in North Bay**.
- o The funding is being delivered through the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) (NOHFC) and will help create **15 new full-time jobs and promote economic development in the north**.
- o The NOHFC promotes economic development across Northern Ontario by providing financial assistance to projects that stimulate growth, job creation and skilled workforce development.
 - Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than **\$193 million in 1,386 projects** in Northern Ontario, leveraging more than **\$748 million** in investment and creating or sustaining **3,912 jobs**.
- o For full details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58545/ontario-supports-north-bays-innovative-manufacturing-sector>

23. September 24th – Ontario Advances Infrastructure Projects to Strengthen Communities and Create Jobs

- o The Ontario government is moving forward with **40 major infrastructure projects** across the province using the public-private partnership (P3) model.
- o The projects are listed in the most recent [P3 Market Update](#).
- o The projects in this update, valued at more than **\$60 billion**, show progress on many important priority infrastructure projects including subways, highways, health care and community safety projects.
- o The P3 Market Update, released on a quarterly basis, is a list of public projects in the pre-procurement and procurement stages for which Ontario has committed investments.
 - The list helps potential local and global private-sector partners organize their time and resources to make sure Ontario gets robust, innovative and competitive bids for its P3 infrastructure projects.

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24. September 24th - Ontario Supports Job Creation and Expansion in the Forestry Sector

- The Ontario government is providing **\$2 million to the wood products company, Oxford Pallet**, to expand its operations and introduce innovative robotic and vision equipment to boost productivity and create local jobs.
- Oxford Pallet is the first company to be approved for funding under the [Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program](#), a program designed to help Ontario forestry companies develop and implement innovative technology.
- The investment will create **20 new jobs**, double the plant's production capacity, **and increase lumber purchases from regional sawmills and lumber wholesalers in Ontario by more than 30 per cent.**
- The innovative equipment and technology planned in the company's expansion is a first of its kind in North America's pallet industry.
- Ontario's forest industry generates over \$18 billion in revenue and supports approximately 147,000 direct and indirect jobs in regions with few other industries.

25. September 23rd - Ontario Partners with Scarborough-Based Auto Parts Manufacturers

- The Ontario government **is investing in new technology adoption with two local auto parts manufacturers** in Scarborough to help improve efficiency, productivity and build capacity in the province's world-class automotive supply chain while creating and protecting jobs.
- Today the Provincial government announced that an investment of more than **\$175,000** from the [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program \(O-AMP\)](#) will be matched 1:1 by the recipient companies for these projects:
 - [Innotech Precision Inc.](#) — provides tooling, engineering and injection-molded components for the auto industry. The company is receiving \$98,582 towards real-time automated monitoring systems, which includes vision and production data analytics technology.

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- [Kobay Enstel Ltd.](#) — specializes in complex stampings, welded seating assemblies and tube fabrication. The company is receiving \$78,410 towards custom computer software and hardware that will support real-time data gathering and analysis of the stamping press.
 - O-AMP supports manufacturing technology adoption and/or adoption of lean manufacturing processes. Funding covers up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs up to \$100,000, with recipient companies contributing the remainder through their own resources.
 - The current intake for O-AMP applications is open until **October 7th, 2020**.

26. September 22nd - Ontario Investing to Support Francophone Businesses and Recovery

- The Ontario government is pleased to announce a **new investment of \$500,000 to support Franco-Ontarian entrepreneurs and businesses**.
- \$250,000 will support the creation of a new online platform — the Francophone Business Network — that will help businesses share their expertise and best practices and form new strategic partnerships. The remaining \$250,000 will fund a campaign focused on promoting Franco-Ontarians products and services.
 - To set up the Network, the government will issue today a call for proposals targeting francophone organizations known for their expertise and reach out to the francophone business sector in Ontario.
- Ontario is also investing **\$1 million for Francophone economic and community development** through the Francophone Community Grants Program in 2020-21.
 - Recipients for this year's edition will be announced in October 2020.

27. September 18th - Ontario Supporting Jobs and Economic Growth in Rural Communities

- The Ontario government is committing nearly **\$1 million** in cost-share funding to **help rural communities diversify their economies, retain skilled workers and create jobs**.

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- The funding is being provided through a new targeted intake of the **Rural Economic Development program (RED)**.
- The intake is directed at not-for-profit organizations with a mandate towards regional economic development and eligible projects would be eligible for up to **70 per cent of total costs** to a maximum of \$75,000 in provincial funding.
- This funding will support economic development efforts such as:
 - Capital improvements to enhance an uptown arts and cultural hub to increase tourism;
 - Implementing new and accessible streetscaping to develop a more inviting downtown;
 - Waterfront development to expand and revitalize local trails.
- Applications will be accepted **from September 21 – October 9, 2020**.
- All costs must be incurred on or before March 31, 2021. Projects will not be extended beyond that date.
- For more details, please visit:
[Rural Economic Development program](#)

28. September 17th – Proposal to extend the temporary ban on evictions for commercial tenants.

- The Provincial government has **proposed to change the Commercial Tenancies Act to extend the temporary ban on evictions for commercial tenants.**
 - i. The ban was initially in place from May 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, to align with the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses.
 - ii. This temporary ban would continue to apply to businesses that are eligible for federal-provincial rent assistance through the CECRA for small businesses, but their landlord chose not to apply for the program.
 - iii. The ban will protect small businesses from being locked out or having their assets seized during COVID-19.

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29. September 15th - Province Ramps Up Production of Ontario-Made Ventilators

- The Ontario government is investing **\$2.5 million** through the **Ontario Together Fund** in **Guelph-based Linamar Corp.** to support the retooling of its assembly line to **manufacture ventilator components to produce 10,000 Ontario-made e700 ventilators.**
- O-Two Medical Technologies partnered with Linamar Corp. and other partners, including Bombardier, to produce these lifesaving devices to enhance future preparedness and help patients with severe cases of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.
- Through the Ontario Together Fund, the government is delivering targeted investments that will increase the province's stockpile of Ontario-made products and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Businesses and individuals looking to help in the fight against COVID-19 can submit their proposals through the [Ontario Together web portal](#).

30. September 11th - Ontario Supports Film and Television Industry in the North

- The Ontario government is providing more than **\$5.5 million** to help **support the thriving film and television industry, create jobs and promote economic development in North Bay and surrounding area.**
- Funding is being delivered to four production companies through the **Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC).**
- The NOHFC promotes economic development across Northern Ontario by providing financial assistance to projects - big and small, rural and urban - that stimulate growth, job creation and skilled workforce development.
- Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more **than \$193 million in 1,386 projects in Northern Ontario**, leveraging more than \$748 million in investment and creating or sustaining 3,912 jobs.

- For more details, please visit:

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<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58354/ontario-supports-film-and-television-industry-in-the-north>

31. September 11th - Ontario Supports Training for the IT & Tech Sectors

- The Ontario government is investing more than **\$2.2 million** to help over **600 job seekers in Ottawa** develop the skills they need to establish **careers in the technology and Information Technology (IT) sector**.
- The funding is being distributed as follows:
 - Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre is receiving \$499,254 for an employer-led IT training project that will help up to 400 workers rapidly upgrade their skills and prepare them for high-demand jobs;
 - Lighthouse Labs is receiving \$456,646 to train up to 60 newcomer women in technical IT skills;
 - Information and Communications Technology Council is receiving \$497,155 to train 25 jobseekers in financial technology skills, followed by a work placement;
 - Carleton University is receiving \$466,302 to create accessibility videos and materials for employers and employees to support the employability of post-secondary students with disabilities; and
 - Le Collège La Cité is receiving \$313,951 to train up to 120 francophones in IT.
- Online job postings in the region show that software engineers and designers, and information system analysts are two of the top four in-demand workers.
- These projects encourage synergies between industry, education and training providers to drive innovation, help employers find skilled workers, and help job seekers find well-paid careers.

32. September 11th - New Gold Mine Will Support Economic Recovery in Northern Ontario

- The Ontario government is supporting the construction of **IAMGOLD's new Côté Gold Mine**, a project that will drive **long-term economic growth and support a strong recovery in Northern Ontario**.
- When fully operational, the mine is expected to **employ 450 people, generate more than \$5 billion in wages, and contribute \$10 billion to Ontario's gross domestic product** over its 18-year life span.

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- The government continues to work collaboratively with IAMGOLD, First Nation and Métis communities, the federal government, interest groups and forest industry to reduce delays and remove regulatory barriers for permitting and approvals to help support construction of the project.
- The Côté Gold Mine project has gold reserves of more than seven million ounces.
- During the **construction phase** alone, the **project will create more than 1,000 jobs** and generate business for hundreds of local mining supply and services companies.
- Once construction is complete, the mine is expected to reach full production by 2023.

33. September 10th - Governments Help Ontario Farmers Bring High-Quality Products to Market

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing more than **\$7.9 million** through the **Canadian Agricultural Partnership** to help **farmers improve their business operations and bring more safe, high-quality foods to markets**.
- This funding will support more than **670 projects across Ontario** for eligible farmers and agri-food businesses.
 - The projects were approved following a competitive, merit-based application intake that took place from January 8 to January 29, 2020.
- Examples of projects supported through this programming include:
 - Improving food safety systems on farms to meet or exceed international certification standards;
 - Planting over-wintering cover crops to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion losses;
 - Actions to help prevent pest damage at greenhouse operations;
 - Developing a product that will open new sales markets for a farm business; and
 - Upgrades to animal-handling equipment and improved biosecurity measures.
- The funding is in addition to programming launched this year to assist the sector in meeting challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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- Such programming includes the launch of a [portal](#) to connect farms and other agri-food sector business with labour needs to job seekers; the creation of the Enhanced [Agri-food Workplace Protection Program](#); and the [recent investment](#) of an additional \$50 million into the Risk Management Program for this year, one year earlier than originally promised.

34. September 3rd - Ontario extending protection to prevent temporary layoffs from automatically becoming permanent job losses

- The Ontario government is **helping protect jobs and businesses by extending protection to prevent temporary layoffs from automatically becoming permanent job losses.**
- Although Ontario is now in Phase 3 of reopening, this extension will give businesses more time to reopen and return to full operations. This **extension will last until January 2, 2021.**
 - Under Ontario labour laws, termination of an employee after 13 weeks of being temporarily laid off triggers costly payouts which, for many businesses, could be the difference between survival and closure.
 - This regulatory amendment delays these terminations and severance liabilities.
- Employees at businesses that have fully reopened continue to have job protection through the [Infectious Disease Emergency Leave](#) if they need to stay home to isolate or quarantine or take care of a loved one due to COVID-19.
 - This includes parents who decide not to send their children back to school due to concerns about COVID-19.

35. August 18th - Applications open for the Ontario Automotive Modernization Program

- The Ontario government is launching the next round of applications for the [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program \(O-AMP\)](#).
- An important part of the government's *Driving Prosperity* auto plan, the **\$10-million O-AMP provides auto parts companies with funding to invest in new technologies and support innovation** in Ontario's automotive supply chains.

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- Ontario's [Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network \(AVIN\)](#) connects the province's world-leading automotive and technology sectors, high-quality post-secondary institutions, first-class talent and regional infrastructure to support entrepreneurship and create jobs.
 - The Ontario government will continue to promote the innovation of the Ontario advanced manufacturing sector through its support for the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters' [Ontario Made](#) program.
- O-AMP supports manufacturing technology adoption and/or adoption of lean manufacturing processes.
- Funding covers up to **50 per cent of eligible** project costs up to **\$100,000**, with recipient companies contributing the remainder through their own resources.
- For more details, please visit: [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program \(O-AMP\)](#)

36. June 17th (Update)- Ontario Implements Temporary Ban on Commercial Evictions: Currently Active

June 17th Update

- On June 17th, the Ontario government passed the *Protecting Small Business Act*, **temporarily halting or reversing evictions of commercial tenants** and **protecting them from being locked out or having their assets seized** during COVID-19.
- The legislation applies to businesses that are eligible for federal/provincial rent assistance for evictions from **May 1, 2020** until **August 31, 2020**.
- Landlords and tenants are encouraged to participate in the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)** for small businesses.
 - i. The pause on evictions does not apply to those participating in CECRA for small businesses, as the program requires landlords to enter into a rent reduction agreement with their impacted small business tenants and commits them to a moratorium on evictions for three months.

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- In partnership with the federal government, Ontario is committing **\$241 million** to CECRA for small businesses, which will provide more than **\$900 million** in support for small businesses and their landlords.
 - i. CECRA for small businesses provides forgivable loans to eligible commercial landlords for the months of April, May, and June 2020.
 - ii. Small business landlords would be asked to forgive at least 25 per cent of the tenant's total rent, tenants would be asked to pay up to 25 per cent of rent and the provincial and federal governments would share the cost of the remaining 50 per cent.

Additional Resources

- Tenants and landlords can learn who is eligible and how to apply at [Ontario.ca/rentassistance](https://ontario.ca/rentassistance). The application deadline is **August 31, 2020**.
- [Canada Emergency Rent Assistance Calculator](#)

37. June 11th - Ontario and Canada Helping Small Businesses Go Digital

- The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government, is **helping small businesses** reach more customers through **the Digital Main Street platform**.
- It is a **\$57-million program** which will help up to **22,900 Ontario businesses** create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than **1,400 students**.
- Businesses will be able to take advantage of three new programs to support their digital transformation:
 - i. **shopHERE** powered by **Google** will leverage Ontario's strengths by hiring **highly skilled and trained students** to build and support the launch of online stores for businesses that previously did not have the capacity to do so themselves.
 - ii. **Digital Main Street Grant** will help main street small businesses be digitally more effective. Through a **\$2,500 grant** administered by the Ontario BIA Association, small businesses will be able to adopt new technologies and embrace digital marketing.
 - iii. **Future-Proofing Main Street** will provide specialized and in-depth **digital transformation services** and support that helps existing main-street firms adapt to changes in their sector and thrive in the new economy.

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- In addition, the **Recovery Activation Program**, operated through the Toronto Region Board of Trade, will help **businesses grow and digitize their operations** with custom consulting sessions, online resource sharing, learning webcasts and business planning.
- As a result of the investment announced today, the program will be offered **province-wide and at no cost to businesses**.
- Along with the [Digital Main Street](#) platform, the province is investing an additional **\$150 million** in rural broadband which will help open the digital road for many Ontario small businesses.

Additional Resources

For more information on the Digital Main Street, go to:

digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario

38. May 8th –Ontario and Canada Take Additional Steps to Protect Agri-Food Workers During COVID-19 - Provincially licensed meat processing plants – Application opens May 12th

- The Governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **\$2.25 million in provincially licensed meat processing plants** to better protect employees and ensure the continued supply of healthy products
- Through *the Canadian Agricultural Partnership*, the first stream of the Agri-food Workplace Protection Program will provide funding to implement COVID-19 health and safety measures in provincially licensed meat plants
- The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) will begin accepting applications on **May 12, 2020**.
- More information about this targeted intake and the program guidelines can be found online on **May 12, 2020** at: <http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/index.htm> or by **calling: 1-877-424-1300**

39. April 30th - Ontario Providing Employers with Workplace Safety Guidelines – Currently Active

- The Ontario government is ensuring employers have the **safety guidelines** they need to protect workers, customers, and the general

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public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a **gradual reopening of the provincial economy**.

- The Government safety guidelines released today will provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector.
- Find the new Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development Guidelines [here](#).
- The Ontario government works closely **with four provincial health and safety associations (HSAs)** to help set, communicate and enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, the HSAs have released a series of more than **90 technical sector guidance documents** to further support employers and employees in remaining safe in the workplace during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The government will work with **Ontario's health and safety associations** to bring forward **additional workplace safety guidelines** for more sectors in the coming days and weeks.

Resources

- i. [Infrastructure Health and Safety Association](#) (IHSA) serves the construction, electrical and utilities, aggregates, natural gas, ready-mix concrete and transportation sectors. IHSA guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- ii. [Public Service Health and Safety Association](#) (PSHSA) serves hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, residential and community care, universities and colleges, school boards, libraries and museums, municipalities, provincial government and agencies, police, fire and paramedics and First Nations. PSHSA guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- iii. [Workplace Safety North](#) (WSN) serves the forestry, mining, smelters, refineries, paper, printing and converting sectors. WSN guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- iv. [Workplace Safety and Prevention Services](#) (WSPS) serves the agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors. WSPS guidance documents can be found [here](#).

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- v. Additional resources organized by sector can be found [here](#).
- o Starting this week, **58 new inspectors** will join the hundreds of existing provincial labour inspectors on the ground.
- o The inspectors will be tasked with communicating **COVID-19 safety guidelines** to essential workplaces or enforcing emergency measures, including physical distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses.
- o The Government is committed to a careful, stage-by-stage approach to loosening emergency measures and **reopening Ontario's economy**.
- o Ontario also recently **doubled** the capacity of Ontario's Health and Safety Call Centre to deal with a large increase in calls.

Additional Resources

- i. The government is also issuing posters to promote a variety of useful **safety tips**.
- ii. The posters offer helpful advice on physical distancing and sanitation. They are [downloadable from the Ontario.ca website](#) so employers can print and post them in their workplaces.

40. April 28th – Launch of the *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers* website - New Website Accepting Proposals for Temporarily Changing Rules and Regulations – Currently Active

- o The Ontario Government has launched the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website to help businesses **overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic**.
- o Businesses working to retool their operations to produce health-related products, or those that want to continue their operations in this new environment of physical distancing, can submit any potential roadblocks to the website.
- o The province is prepared to allow **temporary changes** to provincial rules and regulations in order to **remove any barriers** that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain.
- o In order to help Ontario businesses focus on overcoming today's challenges, the province is also **pausing or extending** any existing public

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consultations, delaying non-urgent related consultations while the emergency situation remains in place, and considering extending deadlines for reports and audits.

- *The website builds on steps the government has already taken to help businesses respond to COVID-19, including:*
 - i. Providing **\$10 billion** in provincial tax deferrals, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board premium deferrals, and other business supports;
 - ii. Providing more than **\$900 million** in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through a new program, the **Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA)**;
 - iii. Providing **\$50 million** to help businesses such as manufacturers and distilleries retool so they can produce health-related products and supplies, such as ventilators, gowns, face masks and hand sanitizer;
 - iv. Permitting **24-hour construction** for critical infrastructure;
 - v. Permitting **24-hour deliveries** in every municipality across the province to help grocery stores and pharmacies keep their shelves stocked; and
 - vi. Allowing **restaurants and bars** to sell alcohol with food takeout or delivery orders.

- Visit the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website.

41. April 1st - \$50 million Ontario Together Fund: Currently Active

- The Ontario government is launching a new **\$50 million Ontario Together Fund** to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment, including:
 - i. Gowns
 - ii. Coveralls
 - iii. Masks & face shields
 - iv. testing equipment
 - v. ventilators
- This new Fund will support the development of proposals **submitted by businesses through the [Ontario Together web portal](#)**.

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- The government will be looking for the most viable, innovative proposals that can quickly provide critical goods and services and the greatest benefit to the people of Ontario.
- The fund is time-limited and will be available to companies and organizations across the province.

42. March 25th - Stop the Spread Business Information Line Now Open at 1-888-444-3659 – Currently Active

- The province has launched a toll-free line **1-888-444-3659** to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about the province's recent **emergency order** to close at-risk workplaces.
- Help is available from Monday to Sunday, from 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- Businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment can call the **Stop the Spread Business Information Line**.

43. March 19th - Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 - Supply Chain - Temporary Changes to Municipal Noise By-Laws: Currently Active

- The new legislation ensures that for the near future, the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise by-laws that may unintentionally be impeding such deliveries when they are most urgently needed.
- The new legislation will waive local noise by-laws allowing delivery trucks to operate overnight.
- These temporary changes will allow businesses to transfer goods between their warehouses and retail stores 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

44. March 19th - Commercial Vehicles - Extension of validation Periods for Driver, Vehicle and Carrier Products: Currently Active

- New regulations include extensions for driver licences, licence plate validation, Ontario Photo Cards, and **Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration certificates**, among others.
- The Ministry of Transportation is also automatically extending the due dates for medical or vision reports
- This extension will be in place until such time that, based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, the current situation improves.

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COVID-19 – Provincial Government – Support for Individuals

- The Province is working with partners across the healthcare system, from public health to hospitals and community care, to do everything possible to contain the virus and ensure that the system is prepared to respond to any scenario.
 - Please visit the following pages for additional information:
 - https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-workers?_ga=2.140418355.1292956891.1588614181-1305037528.1580157468
 - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
-

45. October 20th - Ontario Protects Workers, Volunteers and Organizations Who Make Honest Efforts to Follow COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines and Laws

- The Ontario government is introducing the **Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act, 2020**, that if passed, will **provide liability protection for workers, volunteers and organizations** that make an honest effort to follow public health guidelines and laws relating to exposure to COVID-19.
 - At the same time, it will maintain the right of Ontarians to take legal action against those who willfully, or with gross negligence, endanger others.
- If passed, the Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act, 2020 will provide targeted protection for those who are making an honest effort to follow public health guidelines and laws, including:
 - Healthcare workers and institutions;
 - Frontline workers who serve the public everywhere from grocery stores to restaurants and retail stores;
 - Businesses and their employees;

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- Charities, non-profit organizations; and
 - Coaches, volunteers and minor sports associations.
- The proposed changes will also ensure court resources are used where they are needed most: to hold accountable bad actors who ignore public health guidance and laws or act with gross negligence.

46. October 20th - Ontario Invests \$550 Million to Build and Upgrade Schools

- The Ontario government is investing **\$550 million** to build **20 new schools and eight permanent school additions** across the province in 2020-21.
- These new projects will create nearly **16,000 new student learning spaces** and **870 new licensed child care spaces** as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve and build modern schools.
- The government is investing over **\$12 billion** in capital grants over 10 years, including \$500 million in 2019-20 and the \$550 million for 2020-21, and working with school board partners to identify other priority large-scale school-based capital projects.
- Today's announcement continues to build upon the government's up to **\$1 billion** commitment over five years to create up to **30,000 new child care spaces**, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools.
- School boards with successful projects will be notified by the Ministry of Education by October 30, 2020.

47. October 20th - Ontario Extends COVID-19 Orders to Protect the Public

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is **extending most orders** currently in force under the **Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA)**.
- This extension will be in effect until **November 21, 2020** to ensure the government continues to have the necessary tools to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- Ontario is also amending emergency orders for regions under modified Stage 2 regulations (Toronto, Ottawa, York and Peel Regions) to clarify that **classes delivered for the purpose of teaching or training amateur or professional dancers in dance techniques** are permitted to operate provided specified conditions are met.
 - This change to the regulation recognizes that dance styles such as ballet, hip hop, and ballroom, can still be taught and

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- practised safely when certain public health measures are followed, similar to other permitted activities, such as cheerleading and gymnastics.
 - Dance classes that do not meet the specified criteria (e. g. a Zumba class) would not be permitted.
- Additionally, regulations Rules for Areas in Stage 2 and Rules for Areas in Stage 3 have been amended to remove restrictions on in-person teaching and instruction for fire departments.
- The list of orders under the ROA that have been extended can be found online [on the Government of Ontario's website](#).

48. October 19th - Ontario Onwards: Digital Identity Project

- Ontario is committed to becoming the leading digital jurisdiction in the world in order to improve the services the people of Ontario rely on every day.
- Through the **Digital Identity project**, people and businesses in Ontario will be able to securely and conveniently **prove their identity online**, setting up a Digital Identity on a mobile device for **easier and more convenient access to services**.
- A Digital Identity is established by first verifying your identity. Digital Identity documents are then saved in a Digital Wallet on a mobile device - helping people and businesses verify their identity anywhere.
 - With Digital Identity, Ontario is helping to combat identity fraud and protect data.
 - By using this technology there will no longer be the need to scan and send identification insecurely through email.
 - For example, a small business owner can cut through red tape by registering for licenses and permits and open accounts online. A farmer could register a farm vehicle online without needing to spend a day in the car travelling to government offices. A senior could securely share health information with caregivers.
- **Starting in January**, the government will consult with industry on how the province could introduce a secure Digital Identity for the people of Ontario by the **end of 2021**.
- Digital Identity is just one of the many projects announced today as part of *Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-*

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Focused Government that will make government work more effectively for Ontario's people and businesses.

49. October 19th - Ontario Making Government Services More Convenient, Reliable, and Accessible

- The Ontario government released an action plan to **make government services simpler, easier to use, and more convenient and accessible during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.**
- [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#) includes more than **30 projects** that will improve the way people and businesses interact with government, saving them both time and money.

- The Action Plan is a roadmap to make public sector services more customer-focused and digital- and data-driven, while increasing the speed of government operations and decision-making. Through it the government is focusing on:
 - **Making government services more digitally accessible**, such as providing new and improved digital health solutions to frontline care personnel, so they can rapidly and securely access a patient's health records from anywhere and from any device.
 - **Reducing red tape and simplifying policies while protecting public health and safety**, such as reducing barriers to development and construction approval by allowing a digital application process to get shovels in the ground faster on transit and housing projects.
 - **Improving government purchasing** by leveraging the combined bulk-buying power of the province, while taking advantage of the world-class capabilities of local Ontario businesses, to transform how the government purchases goods and services, so the province can have the supplies it needs.
 - **Creating more responsible and flexible public services**, such as re-designing core internal processes or permit applications, so citizens can get what they need faster and easier, such as driver's licences and health cards.

- More details about each of the projects are included in the Action Plan and will be announced in the coming weeks and months.

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50. October 16th - Ontario Moving Additional Region to Modified Stage 2

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Public Health Measures Table, local medical officers of health and other health experts, the **Ontario government is introducing additional health measures for York Region.**
- This public health region will be subject to modified Stage 2 restrictions for a **minimum of 28 days** and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- Effective **Monday, October 19, 2020** at 12:01 a.m., York Region will join Ottawa, Peel and Toronto public health regions in a modified Stage 2, as a result of their trends in public health indicators, including higher than average rates of COVID-19 transmission.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58842/ontario-moving-additional-region-to-modified-stage-2>

51. October 15th - Delivering High-Speed Internet in Oxford County

- Canada and Ontario are delivering on their commitment to create even more economic and educational opportunities in rural, remote and underserved areas of the province through an improved, modern broadband network in Southwestern Ontario.
- Today, the province announced that all contracts are signed in **Oxford County** through the **Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT)** project, ensuring that construction of up to **\$9.9 million** in broadband infrastructure will now move forward.
- When complete, these projects will connect approximately **1,670 more homes and businesses in the area to fast, reliable internet.**
- Work continues to bridge the gaps in broadband access in Southwestern Ontario, as part of a combined **\$191 million** investment to bring fast, reliable internet to thousands of homes and businesses.

52. October 15th - Ontario Adding Over 200 More Transitional Care Beds Across the Province

- The Ontario government is expanding innovative and proven reactivation care models across the province by adding **over 200 more transitional care beds.**
- These new beds will help ease pressures on hospitals, reduce wait times for patients by getting those who no longer need to be in a hospital, but

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are waiting to transition to home, community or long-term care, the right level of care in the right setting, and help end hallway health care.

- Ontario will be developing five new reactivation care centres where patients, including those living with dementia or in need of personal support, will benefit from services such as physiotherapy, nursing and support for daily living, with a focus on restorative care to help improve their health outcomes.
- The majority of these new beds are expected to be completed in **2021-22** and are in addition to previously announced plans to provide up to [128 transitional care beds](#) at the Branson Site Reactivation Care Centre in Toronto which is beginning construction this month and is set to open early next year.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58823/ontario-adding-over-200-more-transitional-care-beds-across-the-province>

53. October 14th - Outings on Hold for Long-Term Care Homes in Areas of Higher Community Spread

- The Ontario government is adding to the precautions taken last week to protect residents and staff in the province's long-term care homes.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective October 16 and until further notice, short-term and temporary absences for social or personal reasons will not be allowed at long-term care homes in areas of the province where there is higher community spread of COVID-19.
 - Only absences for medical or compassionate reasons will be allowed.
- The communities where these restrictions apply are:
 - City of Ottawa
 - Region of Peel
 - City of Toronto

54. October 14th - Ontario Hiring Hundreds More Contact Tracers and Case Managers

- The Ontario government is taking immediate action to **expand case and contact management to help track, trace and isolate new cases of COVID-19.**

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- The province has hired **100 new contact tracers**, many of whom are starting work this week, with up to **500 more recruits** expected to be hired by mid-November.
- These new positions are part the province's fall preparedness plan, [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#), which dedicates **\$1.376 billion** to enhance and expand testing and contact tracing in the province.
- Ontario Public Service (OPS) staff are also volunteering for redeployment to provide surge support for contact tracing this fall and winter, and over 600 Statistics Canada employees have been onboarded since July to assist with contact follow-up.
- There are currently more than **2,750 case and contact management staff** active across all public health units, tracing and managing COVID-19 cases — up from approximately 1,500 staff in the spring.
 - These 600 new recruits and 600 personnel from Statistics Canada will bring the total number of case and contact management staff to nearly 4,000.

55. October 9th - Ontario Implementing Additional Public Health Measures in Toronto, Ottawa and Peel Region

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Public Health Measures Table, and local medical officers of health and other health experts, the Ontario government is **introducing additional targeted public health measures in the Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto public health unit regions**.
- These modified Stage 2 restrictions will be for a **minimum of 28 days** and reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- **Effective Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.**, these targeted measures are being implemented in Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto as a result of their higher than average rates of transmission. Measures under a modified Stage 2 include:
 - Reducing limits for all social gatherings and organized public events to a maximum of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained. The two limits may not be combined for an indoor-outdoor event;
 - Prohibiting indoor food and drink service in restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, including nightclubs and food court areas in malls;

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- Closing of:
 - Indoor gyms and fitness centres (i.e., exercise classes and weight and exercise rooms);
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments;
 - Indoor cinemas;
 - Performing arts centres and venues;
 - Spectator areas in racing venues;
 - Interactive exhibits or exhibits with high risk of personal contact in museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, etc.;
- Prohibiting personal care services where face coverings must be removed for the service (e.g. makeup application, beard trimming);
- Reducing the capacity limits for:
 - Tour and guide services to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors
 - Real estate open houses to 10 people indoors, where physical distancing can be maintained.
 - In-person teaching and instruction (e.g. cooking class) to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, with exemptions for schools, child care centres, universities, colleges of applied arts and technology, private career colleges, the Ontario Police College, etc.
 - Meeting and event spaces to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, and
- Limiting team sports to training sessions (no games or scrimmages).
- Schools, child care centres, and places of worship will remain open in these communities and must continue to follow the public health measures in place. Before-school and after-school programs will also be exempt from these new restrictions.
- Effective [Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.](#), updated public health measures will apply to wedding receptions, including new gathering limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors at event spaces.
- As these necessary public health measures come at a cost to small businesses, Ontario has planned to and will make **\$300 million** available

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to assist significantly **affected businesses with fixed costs, including property taxes, hydro and natural gas bills.**

- This support will be provided by the province and will be made available in any region where these measures are necessary. **More details will be released in the coming days.**
- This funding builds on the actions the government has taken to support small businesses throughout the pandemic, including putting in place a temporary moratorium on commercial evictions, making **\$60 million** available for a \$1,000 grant for small businesses to offset the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE), and exploring options to permanently allow restaurants and bars to include alcohol with food as part of a takeout or delivery order.

56. October 9th - Increased COVID-19 Precautions for Congregate Care Settings

- The Ontario Government is setting out **increased precautions for congregate care settings in areas where there is a high rate of community spread of COVID-19** to ensure the province's most vulnerable and those who care for them are safe.
 - Those settings include homes serving adults with developmental disabilities, shelters for survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking, children's residential settings, youth justice facilities and Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy residential programs that support Indigenous individuals and families both on- and off-reserve.
- The ministry recognizes the importance of visits for both residents and their families and wherever possible, essential visits such as those necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety of a resident will be permitted to continue unless the local public health unit directs otherwise as part of outbreak management.
 - An [essential visitor](#) may include, but is not limited to, a parent or guardian, a social service worker or a health care provider.
- A list of the regions covered by each precaution level is posted [online](#). The province will update the list as the areas with higher community spread change.

57. October 7th - Ontario Welcomes Construction of Largest Renewable Natural Gas Plant in the Province and New Program for Enbridge Customers

- Ontario will soon be home to a **new renewable natural gas (RNG) facility**, which will create local jobs and stimulate regional economic development, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.

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- The **Niagara Falls Renewable Natural Gas plant** will be the largest of its kind in Ontario and will generate enough clean renewable energy from landfill waste to **heat 8,750 homes** across the country and **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 48,000 tonnes**.
- The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has also approved an application from Enbridge to implement a **pilot Voluntary Renewable Natural Gas Program in Ontario starting in 2021**.
 - Through the program, customers can choose to support the transition to clean energy through a small monthly contribution to purchase carbon-neutral renewable natural gas.
 - During the first five years of the program, Enbridge Gas anticipates up to 28,000 customers could participate reducing CO2 emissions by 8,000 tonnes, equivalent to taking 1,600 cars off the road for one year.

58. October 7th - Ontario Helping Apprentices Cover Living Expenses during Training

- The Ontario government is making the **skilled trades** more accessible by investing an additional **\$75 million** over the next two years **to help apprentices cover living expenses during their in-class training**.
- The government is also appointing a five-member Skilled Trades Panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development on developing a new approach to training and certification.
- This \$75-million investment includes:
 - The **Grant for Apprentice Learning**, a \$5.8 million commitment to support those ineligible for Employment Insurance (EI) while attending in-class training, including a boost of \$1.3 million this year and next year.
 - The **Apprentice Development Benefit**, a \$24 million commitment to increase the maximum benefit rates for EI-eligible apprentices attending full-time in-class training, including a boost of \$4 million this year and next year.
 - The **In-Class Enhancement Fund**, a \$211.9 million commitment to support training providers so they can deliver higher quality training, including a boost of \$11.8 million this year and \$22.3 million next year.
 - The **Apprenticeship Capital Grant**, a \$24 million commitment to training providers to upgrade their facilities with state-of-the-art and modern equipment, including an additional \$10 million next year.

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- \$5.1 million for **training delivery agents**, and an additional \$500,000 for **pre-apprenticeship training service providers**, to assist them with implementing COVID-19 health and safety measures during the pandemic (e.g. purchase personal protective equipment, cleaning products and digital supports).
- \$4.7 million as part of a multi-year \$19.4 million investment in the **development of a client-facing digital system** to support the skilled trades and apprenticeship system in Ontario. The portal will provide skilled trades and apprenticeship clients with secure and convenient access to online information and services and will bring Ontario in line with digital delivery channels in other provinces.
- \$2.5 million this year and \$7.5 million next year to launch the new **non-repayable Tools Grant**.

- For more details, please visit:
[Simplifying the System](#)

59. October 7th - Ontario Building a Modern, Connected and Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions System

- The Ontario government is providing an additional **\$176 million** this year to help **expand access for critical mental health and addictions supports** during COVID-19.
- This funding is part of the province's investment of **\$3.8 billion over 10 years** and enables Ontario's comprehensive plan, ***A Roadmap to Wellness***, to deliver high-quality care and build a modern, connected and comprehensive mental health and addictions system.
- The increased funding will help address urgent gaps in care, enhance access to mental health and addictions services, create new supports and expand programs in several priority areas, including:
 - Community-based services in English and French, including services for children and youth;
 - Mental health and justice services;
 - Supportive housing for individuals with serious mental health and addiction challenges, and who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;

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- Community and residential addictions, including treatment and care for opioid addictions;
 - Increased supports for Indigenous peoples, families, and communities; and
 - More hospital in-patient beds for mental health and addiction patients.
- The Province also joins the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in celebrating the **grand opening of the third phase** of a historic redevelopment project.
 - The **McCain Complex Care and Recovery Building** and the **Crisis and Critical Care Building** (Toronto) will transform mental health care in the province, with spaces that support recovery and promote community integration for patients in a connected and coordinated system of care.
 - This includes capacity for 235 inpatient beds, Ontario's first 24/7 emergency department dedicated to mental health, and new and expanded ambulatory programs.
 - The province is providing **\$633 million** to support the CAMH project.
- The province has started to fill urgent gaps in care as identified by system partners. This year's **\$176 million** increase builds on the **\$174 million** the government invested last year in more funding for mental health and addictions programs, bringing new base investments across the sector since 2019-20 to a total of more than **\$350 million**.

60. October 6th - New COVID-19 Precautions at Long-Term Care Homes

- The Ontario government is taking **new precautions to protect residents and staff** in the province's **long-term care homes**.
- The province has updated its visitor policy to address areas where there is higher community spread of COVID-19.
 - Starting **Wednesday, October 7, 2020**, **general visitors will not be allowed in long-term care homes** in the following communities.
 - City of Ottawa
 - Region of Peel
 - City of Toronto
 - Only essential visitors, including up to one caregiver per resident, will be allowed to visit.

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- If the home is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 the local public health unit will provide direction on further visitor restrictions and other measures.
 - People planning a visit to a long-term care home are advised to contact the home in advance, to make sure the home is free of outbreaks and to get information on the home's visitor policy and any restrictions.
 - For more details, please visit:
[COVID-19: Long-term care homes in areas with visitor restrictions](#)

61. October 6th - Ontario Surpasses Four Million COVID-19 Tests

- Ontario has completed **over four million COVID-19 tests** since the beginning of the pandemic and continues to **lead the country in both the number of tests completed and daily testing capacity**.
- To ensure the province's health care system is prepared for the second wave of COVID-19, the government will add more testing locations to improve access and reduce wait times, as well as increase processing capacity within the provincial laboratory network.
- At the start of the outbreak, Ontario was conducting 4,000 tests per day. The province is now well on its way to building the capacity to process **50,000 daily tests by mid-October and 68,000 daily tests by mid-November** to ensure readiness to effectively respond to any surges in cases or outbreaks.
- The province has expanded testing sites to participating pharmacies. Currently, **77 pharmacies** across the province are collecting COVID-19 samples with over 5,800 samples collected since September 25, 2020.
- Testing is available by appointment only for those within provincial testing guidance at assessment centres and participating pharmacies. To find the closest assessment centre or pharmacy, please visit [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest).

62. October 6th - Ontario Increases Mental Health Funding for Postsecondary Students

- The Ontario government is investing **\$19.25 million** into **mental health supports for postsecondary students in 2020-21**, an increase of \$3.25 million over last year.
- This funding will help students by strengthening community partnerships and increasing the number of mental health workers and programs at colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes.

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- Today's announcement is part of **Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness**, the government's new plan to build a connected and comprehensive mental health and addiction system that ensures children, youth, and adults in Ontario receive appropriate services where and when they need them.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58688/ontario-increases-mental-health-funding-for-postsecondary-students>

63. October 5th - Ontario Releases \$35 Million to Hire More Staff, Improve Remote Learning in Targeted Communities

- The Ontario government is announcing the allocation of **\$35 million** to provide additional **immediate school board supports** in the communities of **Peel, Ottawa, Toronto and York Region** to enhance public health measures and protection strategies as they confront higher rates of transmission in their communities.
- This funding is part of the government's robust and comprehensive [\\$1.3 billion plan to safely reopen classrooms](#) across the province, including additional resources to help school boards hire more staff, keep class sizes low, and enhance cleaning in schools.
- To further enhance the safety of students and staff, this funding will be used for:
 - Providing increased distancing between students through the hiring of additional teachers, early childhood educators, and educational assistants; and
 - Providing increased remote learning supports, including the hiring of additional teachers, early childhood educators and educational assistants, as well as devices for students who have chosen to learn remotely.
- The province is also providing funding to public health units to support the hiring of **625 school-focused nurses**, while establishing a mandatory masking policy for grades 4-12, and a surveillance strategy to monitor the virus and detect cases and outbreaks quickly in schools.
- For more details, please visit:
[Ontario Releases \\$35 Million for Schools in Priority Communities](#)

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64. October 5th - Ontario Supports Training for Personal Support Workers in Niagara

- The Ontario government has invested **\$500,000 to help 92 Niagara-area residents** train for careers as **personal support workers (PSWs)**.
- This training is helping people from all walks of life gain the skills they need to pursue careers providing care and comfort for those living in long-term care homes or at home with an illness or injury.
- This training project is part of Ontario's **\$37-million investment** to help more than **15,000 people train for new jobs** and upgrade their skills to fit the evolving needs of the province's economy.
- For more details, please visit:
[Employment and training services in Ontario](#)

65. October 2nd - Ontario Taking Action to Improve Child Care

- The Government of Ontario is releasing **two child care reports**: [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#) and the [Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020](#).
- The [Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario](#) report details how Ontario is helping to provide more child care and before and after school spaces for parents, as well as increasing opportunities for home child care providers.
- The government has also posted the [Early Years and Child Care Annual Report 2020](#), which provides an annual overview and year-over-year trends of Ontario's early years and child care sector.
- In 2019-20, the total number of **licensed child care spaces** in Ontario **grew by 16,206 spaces**, almost 4 per cent, from 446,596 in 2018-19 to **462,802 spaces in 2019-20**. A
- As of September 30, 2020, 5,158 licensed child care centres and 131 licensed home child care agencies have reopened following the emergency closures resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. This represents 93 per cent of the 5,565 child care centres and 131 home child care agencies that were licensed as of March 31, 2020.
- Ontario will commit up to **\$1.0 billion over five years to create up to 30,000 child care spaces in schools**, including up to 10,000 spaces in new schools
- For full details on government actions to improve Child Care, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58649/ontario-taking-action-to-improve-child-care>

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66. October 2nd - Ontario Implementing Additional Public Health and Testing Measures to Keep People Safe

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local medical officers of health and public health experts, the Ontario government is **tightening public health measures**.
- At the same time, in response to the second wave of COVID-19 and in preparation for the cold winter months, the government is taking action to **reduce testing turnaround times** while prioritizing those who are at the greatest risk.

New Measures for Testing

- Transitioning to **appointment-based testing** at Ontario assessment centres beginning **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**, providing certainty to patients as to when they can receive a test during the cold winter months and allowing assessment centres to conduct enhanced screening to ensure adherence to [the guidelines released on September 24, 2020](#);
 - Beginning on **Sunday, October 4, 2020**, assessment centres will discontinue walk-in testing services, so the province's lab network can make significant progress in processing tests and to allow assessment centres the necessary time to reset, deep clean and ensure preparedness for the new appointment-based model;
 - Continuing **mobile testing and pop-up testing centres** to reach **vulnerable populations** and provide targeted testing for long-term care, congregate care, and other vulnerable populations;
 - **Expanding the number of pharmacies** where people with no symptoms within provincial testing guidance can get tested; and
 - **Implementing updated testing guidance for children** to help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.
- Ontario is also taking longer-term actions to increase the province's test processing capacity so people can get their results faster, including:
 - Increasing **testing and processing capacity to 50,000 tests per day by mid-October** and **68,000 tests per day by mid-November**; and

New Public Health Measures

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- As the number of new cases continues to rise, the province is taking decisive action to prevent and stop the spread of the virus and avoid future lockdowns.
 - They include **mandating the use of face coverings in all public indoor settings across the province**, such as businesses, facilities and workplaces, with limited exemptions, including corrections and developmental services.
 - Targeted measures will also be implemented in **Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto** as a result of their higher than average rates of transmission. These include:
 1. Setting an **indoor capacity limit** to restrict occupancy at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs) to the number of patrons who can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other patron, to a maximum of 100 patrons, permitting no more than six patrons per table, requiring operators to ensure patrons lining up or congregating outside of their establishment maintain physical distancing, and mandating that the name and contact information for each patron be collected;
 2. Restricting group exercise classes at **gyms and other fitness settings** to 10 individuals, as well as restricting the total number of people allowed at these facilities to a maximum of 50; and
 3. Setting a limit on the number of people allowed at **meeting and event facilities, including banquet halls**, to six people per table and 50 people per facility.
- This amended order will come into effect on **Saturday, October 3, 2020** at 12:01 a.m.
 - In addition, the government is:
 - **Extending the pause on any further reopening of businesses, facilities, and organizations** for an additional 28 days, unless already permitted to open under O. Reg 364/20;
 - **Pausing social circles** and advising that all Ontarians allow close contact only with people living in their own household and maintain two metres physical distancing from everyone else.

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67. October 1st - Ontario Provides \$461 Million to Temporarily Enhance Wages For Personal Support Workers

- The Ontario government is supporting **personal support workers (PSWs) and direct support workers in the home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services sectors** by investing **\$461 million to temporarily enhance wages**.
- This investment will help the province attract and retain the workforce needed to care for patients, clients and residents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The province is providing a temporary wage **increase effective October 1, 2020** to over **147,000 workers** who deliver publicly funded personal support services:
 - \$3 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers in home and community care;
 - \$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers in long-term care;
 - \$2 per hour for approximately 12,300 eligible workers in public hospitals; and
 - \$3 per hour for approximately 47,000 eligible workers in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services for the activities of daily living.

- The temporary wage enhancement will be reviewed on a regular basis and **could extend through March 31, 2021**, in connection with regulations made under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020.
- This temporary wage enhancement continues to build on the province's [COVID-19 fall preparedness plan](#), which includes an investment of \$26.3 million to support PSWs and supportive care workers.

68. October 1st - Ontario Revises COVID-19 Screening Guidance for Schools and Child Care

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is **updating its COVID-19 school and child care screening guidance**.

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- This additional information will help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.
- The school and child care screening guidance is being updated with two sets of questions about symptoms and information to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school or child care, need to consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19.
- The guidance can be found immediately at the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#), and the refreshed online tool will launch on **Friday, October 2** for download.
- The **first set of questions** asks about symptoms such as fever or cough. Students and children with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.
- The **second set of questions** asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache.

69. September 30th - Ontario Releases Updated COVID-19 Modelling for Second Wave

- The Ontario government today released updated **COVID-19 modelling**, which shows the **province is experiencing a second surge** in cases similar to what other jurisdictions have experienced.
- The province is providing the public with full transparency about the consequences if Ontarians are not vigilant in adhering to public health measures.
- Ontario has developed a comprehensive plan, ***Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19***, to ensure the health care system is prepared for the immediate challenges of the fall including future surges and waves of COVID-19 and flu season.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58602/ontario-releases-updated-covid-19-modelling-for-second-wave>

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70. September 30th - Ontario Modernizes Social Assistance to Help More People Re-enter the Workforce

- The Ontario Government is unveiling plans to build a **more responsive, efficient and person-centred social assistance system** that will **get people back to work and help the economy recover** from the COVID-19 crisis.
- As part of the first phase of the social assistance recovery and renewal plan, the province will be focusing **on improved access to employment and training services, developing new digital tools and modern service options, and ways to process financial assistance faster.**
- The initial phase of the plan will be rolled out in the **coming months** with measures that build on the enhancements already underway to improve the system.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58607/ontario-modernizes-social-assistance-to-help-more-people-re-enter-the-workforce>

71. September 29th - Ontario Providing over Half a Billion Dollars to Protect Vulnerable Seniors against Second Wave of COVID-19

- The Ontario government is investing close to **\$540 million** to protect **residents, caregivers, and staff in long-term care homes** from future surges and waves of COVID-19.
- The funding is part of the province's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, **Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19.**
- As part of the Fall Preparedness Plan, the government is enabling necessary renovations and measures to improve infection prevention and control, shoring up personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpiles, and building a strong health care workforce.
- The province will also be making changes to its visitor policy to long-term care homes, to ensure that long-term care homes in areas of highest community spread are able to continue to keep residents safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their homes.
 - Effective **Monday, October 5, 2020**, visitors to long-term care homes in these areas will be restricted to staff and essential visitors only, which includes essential caregivers.
- For more details, please visit:

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<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58590/ontario-providing-over-half-a-billion-dollars-to-protect-vulnerable-seniors-against-second-wave-of-c>

72. September 28th - Delivering High-Speed Internet in Dufferin-Caledon

- Canada and Ontario are delivering on their commitment to create even more economic and educational opportunities in rural, remote and underserved areas of the province through an **improved, modern broadband network in Southwestern Ontario**.
- The construction of up to **\$16.6 million in broadband infrastructure in Dufferin County and the Town of Caledon** will now move forward.
- The Ontario government's **Broadband and Cellular Action Plan** is expected to generate up to **\$1 billion in total investment over five years**, resulting in **new connections for up to 220,000 homes and businesses**.
 - This will lead to community, social and economic benefits well beyond the provincial investment.

73. September 28th - Ontario Investing \$52.5 Million to Recruit, Retain and Support More Health Care Workers

- The Ontario government is investing **\$52.5 million** to recruit, retain and support over **3,700 more frontline health care workers and caregivers** to ensure our health care system can meet any surge in demand, while continuing to provide safe and high-quality care to patients and long-term care residents.
 - This investment is part of the province's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, **Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19**.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58580/ontario-investing-525-million-to-recruit-retain-and-support-more-health-care-workers>

74. September 25th - Ontario Investing Nearly \$2 Million for Job Training in Sudbury

- The Ontario government is investing **\$1.9 million** to help more than **2,000 students, underemployed adults, Indigenous community members and other Northern Ontario workers learn the skills they need to find new, better jobs**.

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- Working with local partners, the government's investment in local skills development will help address unemployment in Northern Ontario as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The announcement is part of a **\$37 million investment** by the Ontario government to help **15,000 people** upgrade their skills and train for new jobs.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58541/ontario-investing-nearly-2-million-for-job-training-in-sudbury>

75. September 25th - New Public Health Measures Implemented Provincewide to Keep Ontarians Safe

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and other health experts, the **Ontario government has amended order [O. Reg 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#)** under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, to tighten public health measures in response to the recent rise in cases of COVID-19.
- To ensure the continued health and safety of Ontarians, reduce the risk of transmission, and limit future outbreaks of COVID-19, the amended order will **apply province-wide effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday September 26** and will:
 - Apply additional measures and restrictions to restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs) by prohibiting the sale of alcohol after 11 p.m., and prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on the premises after 12:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. (including employees), and requiring establishments to close by 12:00 a.m. and remain closed until 5:00 a.m. except for takeout or delivery;
 - Close all strip clubs across the province; and
 - Require businesses or organizations to comply with any advice, [recommendations](#), and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening for COVID-19.
- In addition, the province will work with the municipal sector and other partners to encourage increased enforcement of existing businesses, facilities, workplaces, etc. to comply with all public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in the Stage 3 regulation.

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76. September 25th - Canada and Ontario Invest in Affordable Housing in Kemptville

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are providing nearly **\$1.5 million** to help create **new affordable housing in Kemptville**.
- This investment will ensure more families, seniors, people with disabilities and those at risk of homelessness have access to stable housing in their community.
- Spearheaded by Community Living North Grenville, the new 11-unit affordable housing complex is located at 224 Jack Street.

77. September 25th - Ontario Investing \$741 Million to Reduce Surgeries Backlog and Expand Access to Care

- The Ontario government is investing **\$741 million** to help **clear the backlog of surgeries and build more capacity in the health care system** to effectively manage surges and outbreaks in COVID-19 cases.
- This is part of the province's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, *Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19*.
 - The plan will help the province quickly identify, prevent and respond to any scenario in order to protect communities.
- Ontario is making the necessary investments to expand access to services and surgical and procedural backlogs by:
 - Investing up to **\$283.7 million** to support additional priority surgeries including cancer, cardiac, cataract, and orthopaedic procedures;
 - **Extending diagnostic imaging hours** at health care facilities for MRIs, CT scans, and other critical procedures;
 - Adding an **additional 139 critical care beds and 1,349 additional hospital beds** in hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province to support more surgical procedures; and
 - Working to initiate a **centralized waitlist and a program to optimize the use of the operating rooms** to improve the use of existing resources and increase the number of surgical procedures in hospitals by hundreds on average per year and improve patient flow by leveraging available surgical capacity in each region.
- Ontario is also preparing to respond to any potential surges of COVID-19 without interrupting the delivery of routine health care services.

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- For this reason, the government is investing **\$457.5 million** to increase community capacity, including home and community care, to help reduce pressure on the health care system and expand the delivery of care.
 - Ontario will continue to protect the health and wellbeing of all Ontarians and ensure they can access the routine health services they need by:
 - **Expanding access to virtual emergency department services** and giving patients the option of virtual pre- and post-surgery appointments, to support surgical care transitions when appropriate to do so;
 - Helping up to **850 alternate levels of care patients** access the right level of care in a home or community setting to help add more capacity in hospitals; and
 - Increasing home and community care service volumes by investing **\$100 million** to add an **additional 484,000 nursing and therapy visits and 1.4 million personal support worker hours**.
 - For more details, please visit:
 - <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58557/ontario-investing-741-million-to-reduce-surgeries-backlog-and-expand-access-to-care>

78. September 24th – Ontario Investing More Than \$1 Billion to Expand COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing

- The Ontario government is building on the **largest provincial testing initiative in Canada** by providing **\$1.07 billion** to expand COVID-19 testing and case and contact management.
- The government is also immediately investing **\$30 million** to prevent and manage outbreaks in priority sectors, including the province's long-term care homes, retirement homes and schools.
- These investments are part of the province's comprehensive plan to **prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19**.
- In support of these efforts, the province has also released [new testing guidance](#) to help focus public resources on where they are needed the most.
- Ontario will strengthen public health measures and continue to expand testing and case and contact management through the following:

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- **More Testing Locations:** Working with Ontario Health, local public health units and hospitals, Ontario will expand testing locations based on local needs to provide Ontarians with more access to testing and reduce testing wait times.
 - **More Testing Options:** Ontario will ensure health professionals can provide more people with timely and convenient tests by expanding the methods for COVID-19 testing. Less invasive collection methods, such as throat, nasal swabbing and saliva collection will now be used in addition to nasopharyngeal swabs to test for COVID-19.
 - **More Testing Capacity:** Ontario will continue to expand the capacity of the provincial lab network so more tests can be processed and testing targets can be achieved.
 - **More Case and Contact Managers:** Ontario will continue to add case and contact management staff to prevent the spread of the virus. There are currently more than 2,750 case and contact management staff active across all public health units tracing and managing COVID-19 cases, up from approximately 1,500 staff in the spring.
 - **Better Health Behaviour Information:** Ontario will conduct health behaviour surveillance to track adherence to public health measures across Ontario and to help understand how to better communicate the importance and benefit of continuing to follow public health measures.
- Ontario will continue to improve outbreak management through the following:
- More than **\$510 million** provided through the **Social Services Relief Fund** to municipal Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators to protect vulnerable populations, including supporting physical distancing and enhanced infection control measures in congregate settings and isolation facilities;
 - **Emergency Management Ontario** has developed and distributed an outbreak guidance toolkit to support each ministry's outbreak management planning, ensuring strong sector responses; and
 - **Stress-testing outbreak response protocols and structures** through virtual simulation exercises that have

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been held across the province to address outbreaks in schools, universities and correctional facilities.

- Additional scenario planning exercises are focusing on Indigenous communities, long-term care homes and retirement homes.
- With current **capacity of more than 40,000 daily tests**, Ontario has been processing an average of 39,500 tests per day over the past seven days and is working on building testing surge capacity.
- Testing is available at any of the province's **151 assessment centres** currently open and at **participating pharmacies starting Friday, September 25**. To find the closest assessment centre or pharmacy, please visit [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest).
- Since the launch of the [Case and Contact Management Strategy](#), Ontario continues to consistently reach more than 90% of new cases within 24 hours of a case receiving a positive test result.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58515/ontario-investing-more-than-1-billion-to-expand-covid-19-testing-and-contact-tracing>

79. September 24th - Ontario Extends Critical Delivery Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

- The Ontario government is **extending the Ontario Community Support Program until March 2021**.
- This will ensure that **low-income seniors and people with disabilities**, many who are self isolating due to COVID-19, can continue to get **meals and other essential supplies delivered to their homes in the upcoming winter months**.
- The program was launched in partnership with the [Ontario Community Support Association](#) (OCSA) in April. Since then, it has enabled more than **230,000 deliveries of meals and essential supplies** across the province, helping seniors and people with disabilities as they stayed home to protect themselves from COVID-19.
 - In April, Ontario announced the launch of the Ontario Community Support Program with an **\$11 million investment** to support the delivery of meals, medications and other essentials to low-income seniors and people with disabilities.

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- To access the Ontario Community Support Program and request a service, visit www.ontariocommunitysupport.ca.
 - Those without Internet access or who require service in a language other than English or French, can dial 211 or 1-877-330-3213 (toll free). TTY service is also available by calling 1-888-340-1001.

80. September 23rd - Ontario Reaffirms Commitment to Doubling Funding for Autism Services

- The Ontario government will be spending a combined **\$1.2 billion** over the 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years to support **children and youth during the transition to the new Ontario Autism Program**.
- To date, more than **28,000 children** are receiving support through existing behaviour plans, childhood budgets and interim one-time funding, more children than ever before.
- The government has committed to providing interim one-time funding for all families who were on the waitlist for autism services.
- Families can use their childhood budget or interim one-time funding for eligible services including Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), Speech and Language Therapy (SLP), Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy, as well as technology, respite, family supports and equipment.
- Get help navigating Ontario's health care system and connecting with the programs or services you're looking for. [Learn more](#)

81. September 23rd - Ontario Restores Transparency and Accountability to the Province's Finances

- The Ontario government is releasing the **2019-20 Public Accounts** and delivering on the government's commitment to **restore transparency and accountability to the province's finances**.
- For the third year in a row, the Auditor General has provided a **clean audit opinion on the Province's Public Accounts**.
- The Public Accounts provides a retrospective look at the government's fiscal performance over the previous fiscal year, comparing the financial results against those projected in the 2019 Budget.
- The Public Accounts reports a 2019-20 **deficit** of \$8.7 billion — **\$1.6 billion lower than the 2019 Budget projection** — reflecting stronger revenue growth led by higher than anticipated employment and wage growth and housing resales in 2019.

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- Total expenses for 2019-20 were \$3.7 billion higher than the previous year, mainly driven by increased investment in the health sector, including funding to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, and the education sector.
- To build on the government's capacity for enterprise risk management, the government of Ontario recently created the Office of the Comptroller General, a new deputy minister-level position tasked with identifying and mitigating potential financial and policy risks before they take hold, protecting taxpayer dollars in the process.
- For more details, please visit:
[2019-20 Public Accounts](#)

82. September 23rd - Ontario Expands COVID-19 Testing to Pharmacies

- The Ontario government is providing people with convenient and timely access to **free COVID-19 testing at pharmacies in the province**.
- As of Friday September 25th, up to 60 pharmacies in Ontario will begin offering testing by appointment only, with further locations coming online in the coming weeks.
- This initiative will **expand testing capacity well beyond the province's 150 assessment centres**.
- The expansion of COVID-19 testing to pharmacies is part of the province's comprehensive plan to prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19.
- Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19 will help the province quickly identify, prevent and respond to any scenario in order to protect communities.

83. September 23rd - Ontario Set to Employ the Largest Number of Labour Inspectors in Provincial History

- The Ontario government is launching a **recruitment campaign to increase its team of frontline health and safety inspectors** by 98 and help ensure workplaces across the province are doing their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- With these new hires, there will be **more labour inspectors on the ground than ever before in the province's history**.

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- The new inspectors will play a key role in protecting workers by checking and enforcing that workplaces are following occupational health and safety legislation.

84. September 23rd - Ontario Modernizing Justice Sector to be more Accessible, Responsive and Affordable

- The Ontario government is making it **easier, faster and more affordable to access the justice system by investing in technology and providing more services online.**
- This will enable the province to provide more remote proceedings and reduce the number of courthouse visits, making the justice system safer to access during the COVID-19 outbreak and recovery period.
- These new and expanded services include:
 - Electronic filing for more than 400 types of civil and family court documents through the Justice Services Online platform.
 - A cloud-based document sharing and e-hearing platform. Currently being piloted for select civil matters in Toronto, the platform will enable parties and/or their lawyers to share filed court documents of any size, file format prior to and during a specific court hearing and will be accessible 24/7.
 - An online tool that makes it easier for people to search court case information from anywhere.
 - The ability to dispute traffic tickets and other provincial offences remotely by audio or video where available.
 - An online pre-screening and check-in for potential jurors, allowing people to spend less time in a courthouse before jury selection.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/58476/ontario-modernizing-justice-sector-to-be-more-accessible-responsive-and-affordable-1>

85. September 22nd - Ontario Set to Launch Largest Flu Immunization Campaign in Province's History

- The Ontario government is implementing **the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history.**

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- The province is investing almost **\$70 million to purchase flu vaccines** to deliver a robust and expanded campaign this year.
 - The campaign is part of the province's comprehensive plan to prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19.
 - The plan, entitled **Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19**, sets out a series of steps to prevent, identify and respond to any outbreak scenario this fall.
 - Given the size and complexity of the Keeping Ontarians Safe plan, the province will release details over the coming days.
- The Keeping Ontarians Safe plan will:
 - Maintain strong public health measures, including continued expansion of testing and case and contact management;
 - Quickly identify, manage and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks;
 - Accelerate efforts to reduce health service backlogs;
 - Prepare for surges in COVID-19 cases;
 - Recruit, retain, train and support health care workers, while also continuing to engage families and caregivers; and
 - Implement the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history.
- Ontario has implemented several measures, such as:
 - Ordering **5.1 million flu vaccine doses** in partnership with the federal government and other provinces and territories, **700,000 more than the approximated usage last year**. This includes **1.3 million high-dose vaccine doses for Ontario seniors**, especially those with pre-existing health conditions;
 - Prioritizing early distribution of the flu vaccine for **vulnerable populations** in long-term care homes, hospitals and retirement homes;
 - Investing an additional **\$26.5 million to purchase additional flu vaccine** doses if required and made available through the national vaccine bulk procurement program;
 - For the first time in Ontario's history, improving access by allocating high-dose flu vaccines for seniors to participating pharmacies; and
 - Launching a public education campaign to encourage getting the flu shot.
- The flu shot will be available in the **coming weeks at primary care provider offices and public health units** for anyone over the age of six

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months, and **participating pharmacies for anyone five years of age or older.**

86. September 19th - Ontario Limits the Size of Unmonitored and Private Social Gatherings across Entire Province

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Measures Table, is **reducing limits on the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored and private social gatherings across the entire province.**
 - Earlier this week, the government imposed these restrictions in Toronto, Peel Region and Ottawa.
- Unmonitored and private social gatherings include functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, BBQs or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas.
- These new limits are **effective immediately.**
- The new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored private social gathering across the province is:
 - 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
 - 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100).
 - Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. Gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted.
- The new limits will not apply to events or gatherings held in staffed businesses and facilities, such as bars, restaurants, cinemas, convention centres, banquet halls, gyms, places of worship, recreational sporting or performing art events.
 - Existing rules, including public health and workplace safety measures for these businesses and facilities, continue to be in effect.

87. September 18th - Canada and Ontario invest in modern and more accessible public transit infrastructure across Central, North and Southern Ontario

- Joint federal, provincial and municipal funding through the **Investing in Canada infrastructure plan will support 30 public transit projects around Central, North and Southern Ontario.**
- These investments will support more modern and accessible public transit for communities.

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- The Government of Ontario is providing over **\$19.1 million**, while the municipalities are contributing more than **\$17.5 million** in total toward these projects.
- The Government of Canada is investing more than **\$23 million** in these projects through the **Public Transit Infrastructure Stream (PTIS)**.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/58427/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-and-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-across-central>

88. September 18th - Canada and Ontario invest in modern public transit and active transportation infrastructure for residents of Durham Region

- Joint federal, provincial and municipal funding through the **Investing in Canada infrastructure plan will support 11 public transit projects in the Durham Region**.
- These investments will support more accessible and sustainable public transit and active transportation for communities.
- The Government of Ontario is providing over **\$37.7 million**, while The Regional Municipality of Durham is contributing more than **\$43.2 million** in total toward these projects.
- The Government of Canada is investing more than **\$45.3 million** in these projects through the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream (PTIS).
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/58417/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-resi-1>

89. September 18th - Ontario Introduces Legislation to Provide Support for More Ontario Veterans and their Families

- The Ontario government has introduced legislation **to provide financial assistance to more veterans in need**.
- **The Soldiers' Aid Commission Act, 2020, if passed**, will ensure **veterans of all ages and their families**, not just those who served in the Second World War and the Korean War, will be eligible to apply for financial assistance.

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- To support the next generation of service men and women, the government is proposing to increase its investment in the [Soldiers' Aid Commission](#) to more than \$1.5 million annually.
- The funding provided by the commission will continue to support veterans who are unable to pay for health-related items such as hearing aids, wheelchairs and glasses, home-related items such as home accessibility modifications and repair costs, and personal items and support services such as clothing and counselling.

90. September 18th - Ontario Supports Telephone-Based Social and Educational Programs for Seniors

- The Ontario government is providing **\$467,500** to the [Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario](#) (OACAO) to administer the new **Seniors' Centre Without Walls Micro-Grants program** and other capacity building initiatives.
- The funding will support a broad range of seniors' organizations and help people stay connected to their communities through telephone-based social and educational programs.
- Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations that serve seniors are eligible to **apply for the program until September 30, 2020**.
- Visit the OACAO's [webpage](#) to find full program guidelines and access an online application.

91. September 17th - Ontario Introduces Legislation to Freeze Residential Rent in 2021

- The Ontario government has introduced the **Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act** that would, **if passed, freeze rent in 2021 for most rent-controlled and non-rent-controlled residential units**.
 - The bill would provide the vast majority of Ontario's tenants with financial relief as the province continues down the path of renewal, growth and economic recovery.
- The Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act also **proposes to change the Commercial Tenancies Act to extend the temporary ban on evictions for commercial tenants**.
 - The ban was initially in place from May 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, to align with the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses.
 - This temporary ban would continue to apply to businesses that are eligible for federal-provincial rent assistance through

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the CECRA for small businesses, but their landlord chose not to apply for the program.

- The ban will protect small businesses from being locked out or having their assets seized during COVID-19.

92. September 17th - Lower Limits for Unmonitored and Private Social Gatherings in Ottawa, Peel and Toronto Regions

- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local medical officers of health and local municipal leaders, the Ontario government has set a **new limit reducing the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored social gatherings and organized public events in three regions** experiencing higher rates of transmission of COVID-19.
 - This includes functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, BBQs or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas.
 - This amended order will come into effect on **September 18 at 12:01am**.
- To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the amended order will set a new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored social gathering to:
 - **10 people at an indoor event** or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
 - **25 people at an outdoor event or gathering** (previous limit of 100).
- The new limits will only apply to persons within the boundaries of **the following public health units**:
 - Ottawa Public Health;
 - Peel Public Health; and
 - Toronto Public Health.
- Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. These are not accumulative and gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted.
- The new limits **will not apply** to events or gatherings held in staffed businesses and facilities, such as bars, restaurants, cinemas, convention centres or banquet halls, gyms, and recreational sporting or performing art events.

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- Existing rules, including public health and workplace safety measures, for these businesses and facilities continue to be in effect.
- These new compliance mechanisms are the most stringent in all of Canada.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/58398/lower-social-gathering-limits-adopted-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19>

93. September 16th - Ontario Launches New COVID-19 Screening Tool to Help Protect Students and Staff

- The Ontario government launched a [new voluntary interactive screening tool](#) to assist **parents, students and staff** with the **daily assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors that is required before attending school**.
- The results will let parents, students, and education staff know whether they should attend school each day or guide at-risk individuals to proper resources.
- This tool is another layer of prevention that the province is using to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the communities where they live and work.
- Users will simply respond to clinician-informed symptom and risk questions, and the tool will then immediately inform users whether it is safe to attend school that day.
 - The tool protects privacy and does not collect any personal health information.
 - The tool was also developed in house by the Ontario Digital Service at no additional cost to taxpayers.
- Earlier this summer, Ontario unveiled the nation's most [comprehensive plan for the safe reopening of schools in September](#).
 - The plan is supported by **\$1.3 billion** in critical supports to hire more teachers and increase physical distancing, purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), enhance cleaning of schools and school buses, improve ventilation, hire more custodians, and add more school leadership positions and administrative support for virtual schools.
 - In addition, local public health units have filled **over 530 nursing positions**, or 85 per cent, of the additional 625

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nursing positions created to help keep students and staff safe.

- In order to ensure that schools are supported from the start of the school year, several public health units have temporarily redeployed existing nurses while recruitment activities continue.
- As part of Ontario's commitment for transparency, and in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Digital Service, the Ministry of Education has also launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#).

94. September 14th - Health Preparedness and Rebuilding the Economy Top Priorities in Ontario's Fall Legislative Agenda

- The Ontario government is returning to the legislature as of September 14th, ready to continue implementing its made-in-Ontario plan for growth, renewal and long-term recovery.
- The government's fall legislative agenda will build on the work undertaken over the summer, focusing on job creation, skills training, attracting investment, strengthening communities, and fortifying the front lines of the province's health care system.
- Priorities for the upcoming session include:
 - Investing in **Ontario's health care system** to ensure the province is prepared for a potential second wave of COVID-19 and for any future public health challenges;
 - Building **Ontario's production capacity** for personal protective equipment, ventilators and other medical gear so the province never has to rely on any other jurisdiction again for these critical supplies;
 - **Protecting families and those most vulnerable** and helping them get back on their feet as the province reopens;
 - Helping **young people and workers** receive the **skills training** they need to join the modern workforce and contribute to the recovery of the province;
 - Accelerating the **construction of critical highway, transit and broadband infrastructure projects** to create jobs and boost the local economies of communities across Ontario;
 - **Providing relief to Mainstreet Ontario and small business owners** so they can recover from the impact of COVID-19 faster and get back to the work of building their business; and

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- **Expanding manufacturing** by creating the conditions to bring investment and jobs to the province and world-class, Ontario-made products to consumers around the world.
 - From March to July, the government was successful in passing 18 pieces of legislation, including emergency measures needed to protect public health and prepare for economic recovery, such as the Economic and Fiscal Update Act, the COVID-19 Support and Protection Act, the Protecting Small Business Act, and the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act.
 - A full list of legislation passed during the summer session is available [here](#).
 - The legislature has sat for 22 days since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 220 hours of committee study to date hearing from nearly 500 witnesses.

95. September 14th - Ontario Investing in Hospital Upgrades and Repairs

- The Ontario government is investing **\$175 million** this year to address **critical upgrades, repairs and maintenance in 129 hospitals** across the province, including **\$50 million for COVID-19** related and other urgent projects.
 - Through the **Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund**, this funding will help hospitals maintain their infrastructure and ensure a safe and comfortable environment for patients to receive care.
- As the government continues to work toward bringing Ontario's world class health care system into the 21st century, this funding will help hospitals address urgent issues such as upgrades or replacement of roofs, windows, security systems, backup generators and fire alarms.
- Projects will also support hospitals in their ongoing response to COVID-19, such as updating HVAC systems to enhance patient and staff safety, creating additional isolation spaces and negative air pressure flow rooms to increase capacity, and enhancing infection prevention and control measures.

96. September 11th - Ontario Launches COVID-19 School and Licensed Child Care-specific Web Page

- The government is launching a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#).

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- This page will be **updated every weekday** with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies, if a COVID-19 case is confirmed at a school and where the numbers come from.

97. September 10th - Ontario Expanding Innovative Mental Health and Addictions Services

- The Ontario government is providing an **additional \$14.75 million to increase access to mental health and addictions services across the province.**
- This funding will help support people from all walks of life during this unprecedented time, including families, young people, children, frontline workers, and Indigenous communities.
- This investment was provided through the Support for People and Jobs Fund and will help community-based mental health and addictions programs meet increasing service demands.
- The funding is being distributed as follows:
 - **\$7 million** to safely **expand in-person mental health and addictions services** to bridge current gaps brought on by COVID-19, including community-based services, congregate living and supportive housing;
 - **\$4.75 million** to support **culturally safe services for Indigenous communities**, with a focus on children and youth; and
 - **\$3 million** to expand **virtual and online services** including addictions supports, Internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT) and an online peer support community for mental health.
- The Ontario government is investing an additional **\$2.9 million** in eight research projects that aim to support Ontario's response to COVID-19.
 - These projects will focus on a wide variety of areas such as supporting the mental health and well-being of families and children, assessing the long-term health effects of COVID-19, the development of an app to better manage the care of patients, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of wearing masks to block the virus.
 - These eight research projects were submitted through the **Ontario Together portal**. This is in addition to the 35 projects selected through the \$20 million [Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund](#).

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98. September 10th - Ontario is investing over \$2.9 million to fund eight research projects that aim to support Ontario's response to COVID-19

- The projects will focus on a **wide variety of areas** such as supporting the mental health and well-being of families and children, assessing the long-term health effects of COVID-19, the development of an app to better manage the care of patients, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of wearing masks to block the virus.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/58332/new-research-projects-aim-to-improve-ontarios-response-to-covid-19>

99. September 8th - \$1.3 Billion Investment to Reopen Schools Safely

- As students, teachers and staff return to school, the Ontario government is providing up to **\$1.3 billion** in critical supports and has delivered more than **37 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to safely **reopen classrooms** across the province.
- The government has taken the following steps to make schools as safe as possible:
 - Providing more funding than any jurisdiction in the country to implement physical distancing measures, support hiring of up to **1,300 custodians** and adopt enhanced cleaning protocols in schools and on school buses, and hire more teachers to reduce class sizes.
 - Hiring up to **625 school-focused nurses** to provide rapid-response support to schools and boards, and facilitate public health measures, including screening, surveillance testing, tracing and mitigation strategies.
 - Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to ensure that sufficient PPE has been delivered to all 72 school boards and 10 education authorities, including more than **19.5 million masks, 16 million gloves, 317,000 face shields, 320,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 218,000 containers of disinfectant**, among other critical supplies; and,
 - Providing students and families with clear and transparent standards for those that choose fully remote virtual learning, which is teacher-led, timetabled, live, synchronous, and on a regular daily schedule.

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- The commitment of up to \$1.3 billion in funding to support the safe reopening of our schools is in addition to the landmark investment of over **\$25.5 billion in education**, which represents an **increase of over \$700 million for the 2020-21 school year**.
- For more details, please visit:
[\\$1.3 Billion Investment to Reopen Schools Safely](#)

**100. Emergency Assistance – Support for individuals and families in financial crisis –
Currently Active**

- As part of *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*, a **\$17 billion** package with funding targeted to help families and a variety of sectors across the province, the Ontario government is providing **\$52 million** to better support individuals and families in financial crisis.
- This funding will support those who are not able to access federal assistance to cover needs such as food costs, rent, medicine and other essential services during this time.
- Individuals can easily [apply online](#) for assistance.
- *Eligibility*
 - i. Applicants may qualify if they live in Ontario (not a visitor or tourist), are in a crisis or emergency situation, and do not have enough money for things like food and housing. For example, a crisis or emergency includes situations where applicants:
 1. Have been affected by COVID-19
 2. Are being evicted from their home
 3. Are in or are leaving an abusive relationship
 4. Are worried about their safety
- Those receiving assistance from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program are not eligible for this program.

COVID-19 – Federal Government – Support for Businesses

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As the pandemic situation is still evolving, new programs and supports may be announced in the future.

Websites highlighting useful resources for businesses:

<https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/ressources-entreprises-COVID-19-business-resources.aspx?lang=eng>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

101. October 20th - Support for small businesses through the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund: Open for Applications as of October 26th

- The Federal government has announced an investment of **\$12 million** in the [Canada United](#) Small Business Relief Fund.
- Canada United is a national fundraising campaign created by the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in collaboration with private sector partners and provincial and territorial chambers of commerce, including the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC).
- The campaign has been rallying support from Canadians for local small businesses in every corner of the country.
- The **Canada United Small Business Relief Fund**, which is managed by the OCC, is **supporting Canadian businesses across different sectors and industries with grants of up to \$5,000**.
 - These grants will help thousands of small business owners cover the costs of personal protective equipment, make physical modifications to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements, and enhance their digital or e-commerce capabilities.
- **Starting on October 26**, small businesses can [apply online](#) through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for the next wave of Canada United Small Business Relief Fund grants.
- **Applications are open to small businesses across sectors** and industries in every part of the country that have between \$150,000 and \$3 million in annual sales; have up to 75 employees; are registered in Canada; and would use the grant to cover the costs of personal protective equipment, make physical modifications to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements, and enhance their digital or e-commerce capabilities.

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102. October 19th - Government of Canada invests to help maximize community and business growth opportunities throughout Parry Sound – Muskoka

- **Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC)** are helping **entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses**, and investing in communities to strengthen the economy.
- In **Northern Ontario**, these community-based, not-for-profit organizations are working hard to create jobs and provide a full range of business development services, including access to capital, mentoring, information and referrals, as well as support for community economic development, recovery efforts and special projects.
- The Federal government has announced investments of more **than \$3.4 million** to help communities and businesses expand, prosper and create or maintain jobs across the **Parry Sound-Muskoka region**.
- Provided through **FedNor’s Community Futures Program**, this funding will support four strategic initiatives led by Muskoka Futures and the Parry Sound Area Community Business & Development Centre.
 - These projects will help attract high-growth businesses to the region, create local jobs and support business development, growth and regional recovery efforts throughout the area.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2020/10/fednor-investments-to-support-business-development-growth-and-regional-recovery-efforts-across-parry-sound-muskoka.html>

103. October 16th – Government of Canada launches new COVID-19–related challenges to help reduce environmental impact of PPE in Canada

- Today the Federal Government announced the launch of **two challenges through the Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) program** to make personal protective equipment (PPE) more compostable and recyclable.
 - [Recycling technologies for disposable \(single-use\) PPE used in health care sector:](#)
National Research Council Canada (NRC), in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada (HC), is seeking solutions for the efficient and cost-effective recycling of disposable PPE waste generated in the Canadian health care system.
 - [Compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators used in the Canadian health care system:](#)

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NRC, in collaboration with ECCC, HC and Natural Resources Canada, is seeking solutions for the manufacturing of compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators to be used by health care workers.

- These challenges will close on **November 6 and 17, 2020**, respectively.
- Through the **ISC Challenge Stream**, the Government of Canada invites small and medium-sized Canadian enterprises to propose innovations that address the requirements of published challenges.
 - Under these two challenges, successful applicants could receive up to \$300,000 to develop a proof of feasibility. If accepted into Phase 2, companies could receive up to \$1 million to develop a working prototype.

104. October 15th - FedNor invests to establish Northern Ontario Agri-Tech Hub and boost agriculture production in the Algoma region

- The Federal government has announced nearly **\$2 million** in FedNor investments to **help Northern Ontario's agri-food sector innovate, grow and create jobs**.
- As part of this investment, **Penokean Hills Farms** will benefit from a repayable contribution of more than \$1.4 million to build and equip a state-of-the-art abattoir, meat processing plant and retail butcher shop in Bruce Mines.
- The remaining \$588,744 will allow **Bioenterprise Corporation** to create a **Northern Ontario tech-hub to support the growth of agri-food businesses**.
 - Specifically, this targeted investment will ensure Northern Ontario entrepreneurs have access to sector expertise, best practices and business accelerator services that focus on technology, innovation, exports and access to capital.
 - Once fully implemented, this strategic initiative is expected to help create or maintain more than 50 full-time jobs and provide more than 40 businesses with access to the tools and resources to start up, scale up and commercialize new products.

105. October 15th - FedNor invests to help businesses innovate, grow and weather the economic impact of the coronavirus in the Sault and Algoma region

- The Government of Canada has announced investments of more than **\$2.6 million** to help **small and medium-sized businesses** in the **Sault**

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Ste. Marie and Algoma region to modernize, adopt new technologies, increase their competitiveness and create jobs.

- Provided through FedNor, the funding will support five strategic initiatives that will help businesses innovate, commercialize new products and expand their operations. They will also provide emergency COVID-19 response funding to help businesses to survive and maintain jobs.
- The funding announced today is provided through FedNor’s [Regional Growth Through Innovation Fund](#), which supports the growth of Northern Ontario businesses, their expansion into new markets and their adoption of new technologies and processes.
- For more details, please visit: [Backgrounder: FedNor investments support innovation, business growth and community recovery efforts in Sault Ste. Marie.](#)

106. October 14th - Government of Canada invests to support innovators and create good jobs in Greater Sudbury

- The Federal government has announced a FedNor investment totalling **\$519,000** to help **the Northern Centre for Advanced Technology (NORCAT)** continue to deliver its services to local entrepreneurs as well as implement an important new tech development project.
- As part of this total, \$429,000 was provided through FedNor’s **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** to assist NORCAT in bridging the financial gap caused by the pandemic.
 - Specifically, the funding is helping to keep the organization’s staff working and construction on track for the innovation centre’s state-of-the-art surface facility at its Underground Testing Centre in Greater Sudbury.
 - The remaining \$90,000 will help NORCAT establish a technology hub to **accelerate software, gaming, and app development in Greater Sudbury**. Once fully operational, the new incubation space will help local tech entrepreneurs to start-up, scale-up and access new markets.

107. October 13th - FedDev Ontario investment drives next level innovation at world-class test environment in Ottawa

- Led by [Invest Ottawa](#), Area X.O (formerly known as Ottawa L5) provides a **world-class test environment that enables researchers,**

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entrepreneurs and businesses to create, commercialize and adopt breakthrough innovations in mobility, autonomy and connectivity.

- Comprised of a public and private test track, Area X.O is equipped with advanced telecommunications and networking infrastructure that make it the first integrated test facility of its kind in North America.
- The Federal government has announced a [FedDev Ontario](#) investment of **\$7 million** for Invest Ottawa to bring new, globally unique capabilities to Area X.O and create 200 skilled jobs and maintain 230 jobs in the region.

108. October 13th - Online Tool Kit Helps Workplaces Build Customized COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has launched a **new customizable tool kit resource to help workplaces across Canada operate safely and prevent the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- Anchored by the [COVID-19: Workplace Health and Safety Guide](#), the online hub provides one-stop access to more than 40 free resources to reduce the spread and protect everyone in the workplace.
- The guide includes information on the responsibilities of employers and workers, and what workplaces should do to control risks. Topics covered include how the coronavirus spreads, employers' duties, handling work refusals, hazard and risk assessment identification for COVID-19, and how to control the risk and apply the hierarchy of controls in the workplace.

109. October 9th - Government of Canada and provincial partners support research addressing mental health impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians

- As the national COVID-19 pandemic response continues, the Government of Canada and provincial partners are **joining forces to address the mental health and substance use challenges facing Canadians**, which have increased because of the pandemic.
- The Federal government has announced an investment of more than **\$10.2M in COVID-19 mental health and substance use research.**
- This investment will **support 55 research teams** from across the country to tackle the mental health and substance use crisis that is emerging as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- These researchers will address the mental health and substance use needs of individuals, communities and populations, and the effects on health care systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - They will also develop evidence so that Canadians who need access to mental health and substance use services are able to receive them.
 - The funding is provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.
- For more details please visit:
[Backgrounder - COVID-19 Mental Health and Substance Use Research](#)

110. October 9th – Federal Investments to boost Toronto’s Health Tech Sector

- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of keeping Canada at the **cutting edge of health technology** to offer the best possible care to Canadians, while supporting economic growth.
- The Government of Canada is **partnering with innovative health tech businesses, and organizations** that support them, to nurture promising ideas and talent, while creating good jobs and helping our economy recover from the impact of the global health crisis.
- The Federal government has announced a total **FedDev Ontario** investment of **\$13.4 million** for **four Toronto-based recipients** to advance health innovation.
 - The federal government is proud to announce a \$6.5-million investment for [Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners](#) (TIAP), a membership-based organization of top universities and major research hospitals and institutes in Ontario working together to advance health science technologies by supporting companies from discovery to market.
 - Today’s announcement also includes a total investment of \$6.9 million for [MindBeacon Holdings Inc.](#), [Cyclica Inc.](#), and Healthism Systems Inc. ([InputHealth](#)) to scale up their innovations, including digital mental health treatments, drug discovery software powered by artificial intelligence and

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software solutions for greater patient engagement and coordination of care.

- For more details, please visit:
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/10/background-federal-investments-to-boost-torontos-health-tech-sector.html>

111. October 9th - Government announces new, targeted support to help businesses through pandemic

- The Federal government has announced their intention to introduce **new, targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue.**
- The government **plans to introduce legislation** to provide support that would help these businesses safely get through the second wave of the virus and the winter, cover costs so they can continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery, including:
 - The **new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy**, which would provide simple and easy-to-access **rent and mortgage support until June 2021** for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19.
 - The rent subsidy would be **provided directly to tenants**, while also **providing support to property owners.**
 - The new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a **maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020.**
 - Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.
 - A top-up **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25 per cent for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order** issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy.

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- **The extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until June 2021**, which would continue to protect jobs by helping businesses keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to re-hire their workers.
 - The subsidy would remain at the current subsidy rate of up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible wages until **December 19, 2020**.
 - This measure is part of the government’s commitment to create over 1 million jobs and restore employment to the level it was before the pandemic.

- **An expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**, which would enable businesses, and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans—and that continue to be seriously impacted by the pandemic—to **access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000**.
 - Half of this additional financing would be forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022.
 - Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020.
 - Further details, including the launch date and application process will be announced in the coming days.
 - An attestation of the impact of COVID-19 on the business will be required to access the additional financing.

112. October 8th - Government of Canada supports tourism in Prince Edward County:

Now Open to Applicants

- The Federal government has announced a **FedDev Ontario** non-repayable investment of **\$500,000** to **support Prince Edward County’s tourism industry**.
- With this support, **Prince Edward County**, in **partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce**, will provide **non-repayable contributions of up to \$20,000 to local tourism-oriented businesses**.
 - The funds will support costs associated with recovery and reopening for business, including acquiring personal protective equipment, renovating to accommodate social distancing and implementing new safety protocols.
 - The project is expected to support **50 businesses** and maintain at least **100 jobs**.

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- Businesses that receive funding through Prince Edward County will provide a minimum 20 percent contribution toward total project costs.
- Similar funds have been set up in other tourism-centred locations, including [Kingston](#), [Stratford](#), [Niagara-on-the-Lake](#) and [Bruce County](#).
- **Applications for this funding are now open.**
- For more information or to apply, visit the [Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce's website](#).

113. October 2nd (UPDATE) - Small Business and Community Support Measures - Now accepting applications for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

October 2nd Update

Southern Ontario

- The Federal government has announced an additional **\$184 million** for **FedDev Ontario** to help more businesses across **southern Ontario** through the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**.
- Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) will provide \$30 million of FedDev Ontario's additional funding to businesses in rural communities across southern Ontario.
- For more information on the RRRF, including how to apply, please visit [FedDev Ontario's website](#).

Northern Ontario

- The Federal government has also announced an additional **\$22.3 million** for **FedNor** to help **businesses and organizations in Northern Ontario** recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
- Out of the additional funds for Northern Ontario, \$6 million will be provided to the region's Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) to target businesses in rural communities.
- Businesses and organizations in Northern Ontario that have applied for, but were unable to get access to sufficient relief from other federal COVID-19 programs, are encouraged to review RRRF eligibility requirements or to contact FedNor for more information.
- [To find out more about our programs and services, please visit: fednor.gc.ca](#)

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- **\$675 million** will provide financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are not eligible for the measures already announced or that have specific needs, through Canada's **Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)**.
- Ontario Specific Funding:
 - i. **\$252.4 million for Southern Ontario** – [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario)
 - ii. **\$49.5 million for Northern Ontario** – [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario](#) (FedNor)

➤ Programs for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)

- The **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** provides financial contributions (interest-free loans) to help support fixed operating costs of SMEs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SMEs are encouraged to visit the [FedDev Ontario website](#) to determine which stream is right for them.

SMEs facing financial pressure

- The RRRF provides \$213 million in support to southern Ontario SMEs that do not qualify for, or have been declined for, current Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be Canadian or provincially incorporated businesses, co-operatives or Indigenous-owned businesses located in southern Ontario with 1 to 499 full-time equivalent employees;
- Be facing funding pressures with fixed operating costs as a result of COVID-19;
- Have been a viable business before the COVID-19 pandemic and plan to continue to operate their business or resume operations.
- Have already applied to other Government of Canada emergency credit relief measures for which they are eligible, as outlined in the [program guidelines](#).

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- Priority may be given to SMEs in the manufacturing, technology, tourism and other sectors key to the region, that are major employers in small communities or that support the government's commitment to underrepresented groups.
- Please see the [Program Guidelines](#) for more information.
- Applications can be submitted for support for fixed operating costs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For more information, including how to apply, please visit the [FedDev Ontario website](#).

Support for rural businesses with access to capital delivered by southern Ontario's Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs)

- In order to provide targeted assistance to the small towns and communities they serve, CFDCs will focus on assisting "main street" businesses, such as retail shops, restaurants corner stores, etc., and businesses of strategic importance to their communities, with loans up to \$40,000.
- Eligible CFDC applicants must also meet the following criteria:
 - established prior to March 1, 2020
 - impacted adversely by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - viable and not experiencing liquidity or other financial difficulties prior to March 1, 2020
 - have attempted to access other federal relief supports and were ineligible, rejected, or require funding for expenses in excess of support already received, with priority given to applicants who were ineligible or rejected from other federal relief supports.
- Next steps:
 - Follow the application process provided by [your local CFDC](#).
 - Contact your local CFDC by telephone or email.
 - Complete [the application directly through your local CFDC](#).
- Applicants cannot receive RRRF assistance from both their local CFDC and FedDev Ontario.

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➤ **Programs for Northern Ontario (FedNor)**

I. Regional economy stream in Northern Ontario

- FedNor is delivering \$24 million of this RRRF investment through its Regional Economic Growth Innovation program.
- Eligible applicants include businesses such as incorporated companies, corporations or co-operatives, or Indigenous organizations such as Indigenous/First Nation/Métis Settlement-owned businesses, as well as various not-for-profit entities. The RRRF will support a variety of costs or activities to help SMEs and not-for-profit organizations stay solvent over a period of six months.

II. Community Futures stream in Northern Ontario

- FedNor is partnering with Northern Ontario's 24 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) to deliver \$25.5 million in RRRF support directly to small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural areas.
 - This includes sole proprietorships or partnerships not covered under the Regional Economy stream. Each CFDC is managing its own application and selection process in accordance with the parameters set out in the RRRF, and will determine ultimate funding recipients in accordance with its own policies and procedures.
 - [Get the full details now](#)
 - To find out more about RRRF funding available through this stream, contact your local CFDC or consult this [CFDC directory](#).
- **Community Futures** operates 267 non-profit offices across Canada that provide small business services to people living in **rural communities**.
 - Each office delivers small business loans, tools, training and events for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business.
 - For more information regarding Canada's Regional Development Agencies, please visit:
https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/h_07662.html

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- For more information regarding Community Futures, please visit:
<https://www.cfontario.ca/>
- 114.** October 1st - Prime Minister announces infrastructure plan to create jobs and grow the economy
 - The Federal government has announced **\$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives** to create jobs and economic growth.
 - The **Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) Growth Plan** will help Canadians get back to work and is expected to create approximately **60,000 jobs across the country**.
 - The three-year plan will connect more households and small businesses to high-speed Internet, strengthen Canadian agriculture, and help build a low-carbon economy.
 - The Growth Plan will invest in five major initiatives:
 - **\$2.5 billion** for clean power to support renewable generation and storage and to transmit clean electricity between provinces, territories, and regions, including to northern and Indigenous communities.
 - **\$2 billion** to connect approximately 750,000 homes and small businesses to broadband in underserved communities, so Canadians can better participate in the digital economy.
 - **\$2 billion** to invest in large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency and help make communities more sustainable.
 - **\$1.5 billion** for agriculture irrigation projects to help the agriculture sector enhance production, strengthen Canada's food security, and expand export opportunities.
 - **\$1.5 billion** to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure so Canadians can have cleaner commutes.
 - To accelerate the delivery of projects in which the CIB intends to invest, it will also allocate **\$500 million** for project development and early construction works.
 - For more details, please visit:

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[Canada Infrastructure Bank's \\$10 billion Growth Plan](#)

- 115.** September 25th - Government provides update on support for furloughed employees under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy
- The **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** has been **protecting jobs** by helping businesses **keep employees on the payroll** and encouraging employers to **re-hire previously laid off workers**.
 - The Government of Canada **is proposing to extend** the current treatment of furloughed employees under the wage subsidy program for the upcoming four-week period, from **September 27 to October 24, 2020**.
 - This means employers who qualify for the wage subsidy would be able to continue to claim up to a **maximum benefit of \$847 per week per employee to support remuneration of their furloughed workers until October 24, 2020**.
- 116.** September 25th - Temporary Measure to Compensate for the Lack of Insurance Coverage for Production Stoppages due to Confirmed COVID-19 Cases on Film Sets in the Audiovisual Industry
- The Federal Government has announced an initiative to **compensate for the lack of insurance coverage for COVID-19–related filming interruptions and production shutdowns in the sector**.
 - The **Short-Term Compensation Fund for Canadian audiovisual productions** is a response to a pressing demand of producers that was identified at roundtables and meetings.
 - The fund will make as much as **\$50 million** available for the industry.
 - Administered by Telefilm Canada along with the Canada Media Fund, this funding will compensate independent production companies for the interruption or shutdown of an eligible audiovisual production, due to confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- 117.** September 18th - Support for women entrepreneurs in the tech sector in southern Ontario
- The Government of Canada has announced **\$370,000 investment** to support **women entrepreneurs** for [Tech Undivided](#), as part of the [Government's recent top-up](#) of **\$15 million** to Canada's first-ever [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy \(WES\) Ecosystem Fund](#).

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- With this investment, to be delivered through FedDev Ontario, ventureLAB's *Tech Undivided* program will support women entrepreneurs in the tech sector to generate revenue and investment capital, by putting them on a sustainable path to growth and long-term success.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/09/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-in-the-tech-sector-in-southern-ontario.html>

118. September 18th - FedDev Ontario supports regional tourism across southern Ontario

- Today the Federal government announced a total **FedDev Ontario** investment of **\$2 million to support the tourism industry across the region.**
- With this support, [Kingston](#) will offer contributions of up to **\$2,400 to local tourism-oriented businesses with up to five full-time employees, and up to \$4,800 for businesses with more than five full-time employees.**
- The City of [Stratford](#) will establish funds to provide non-repayable contributions of up to **\$20,000 to local tourism-oriented businesses.**
- [Bruce County](#) will establish a similar fund to provide non-repayable contributions of up to **\$10,000 to local tourism-oriented businesses.**
- These contributions will cover costs associated with recovery and reopening for business such as personal protective equipment, renovations to accommodate social distancing and implementing new safety protocols.

119. September 17th - New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support youth, scientists, and researchers across Canada

- The Federal government has announced the **creation of the new Climate Action and Awareness Fund, which will invest \$206 million in projects that will help reduce emissions across the country.**

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- The Fund will strengthen Canada's capacity to take climate action by empowering youth and communities and boosting climate science and research.
- Up to **\$50 million** over five years will be allocated to community-based climate action projects.

- The remaining funding will go toward three additional priorities under the Climate Action and Awareness Fund:
 - increasing climate youth awareness, engagement and action;
 - advancing climate science and technology; and
 - supporting academia and think tank organizations to better understand Canada's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- Applicants must be non-profit non-governmental organizations, Indigenous organizations, and/or universities and academic institutions. However, applicants are encouraged to partner with other organizations, including provincial, territorial and municipal governments.

- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/funding-programs/climate-action-awareness-fund.html>

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120. September 16th – Investments to support technology, business growth and community recovery efforts in Nipissing-Timiskaming

- Through Regional Development Agencies, such as **FedNor**, the Government of Canada is investing at the local level to enhance manufacturing, accelerate technology adoption, and support community and business growth while creating jobs and opportunities for Canadians.
- The Government of Canada has announced investments totaling more than **\$6.7 million** to support jobs, growth and a strong economy in the **Nipissing-Timiskaming region**.
- Provided through FedNor, the **funding will support 15 strategic initiatives that will help businesses adopt new technologies, commercialize new products and expand their operations**.
- They will also support advanced manufacturing and boost productivity and growth throughout the area by matching skilled workers to employer needs.

- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2020/09/fednor-investments-support-technology-business-growth-and-community-recovery-efforts-in-nipissing-timiskaming.html>

121. September 9th - Support for Black entrepreneurs and business owners

- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated existing systemic barriers faced by Black entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized business owners in Canada.
- The Federal government has announced investments of up to nearly **\$221 million** in **partnership with Canadian financial institutions** – including up to nearly **\$93 million from the Government of Canada over the next four years** – to launch Canada’s first-ever **Black Entrepreneurship Program**.
 - This program will help thousands of Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country recover from this crisis and grow their businesses.
- The program will include:

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- up to **\$53 million** to develop and implement a new **National Ecosystem Fund** to support Black-led business organizations across the country. It will help Black business owners and entrepreneurs access funding and capital, mentorship, financial planning services, and business training.
- up to **\$33.3 million** in support through the new **Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund** that will provide loans of between \$25,000 and \$250,000 for Black business owners and entrepreneurs.
 - The Government of Canada is also partnering with financial institutions, including RBC, BMO Financial Group, Scotiabank, CIBC, National Bank, TD, Vancity, and Alterna Savings, to make up to **\$128 million** available in additional lending support.
- up to **\$6.5 million** to create and sustain a new **Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub** that will collect data on the state of Black entrepreneurship in Canada and help identify Black entrepreneurs' barriers to success as well as opportunities for growth.

- For more details, please visit:

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/09/09/prime-minister-announces-support-black-entrepreneurs-and-business>

122. September 8th (Update)- Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program - Ontario Provides Urgent Relief for Small Businesses and Landlords – Applications now available.

September 8th Update

- Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses will be **extended by one month** to help eligible small businesses **pay rent for September**.

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- All provinces and territories continue to participate in this initiative and collaborate with the federal government to provide rent supports to those small businesses most in need.
- Current CECRA application deadlines will also be extended to accommodate this extension.
- As of September 7, 2020, **over 106,000 small business tenants** have been supported, **representing 994,000 employees**, for a total of **over \$1.32 billion in rent support**.
- For more details, please visit:
[COVID-19: CECRA for small businesses](#)

June 30th Update

- To simplify the application process for all applicants, the government is removing the requirement to claw-back insurance proceeds and provincial rent supports from the CECRA forgivable loan amount for both existing and new applicants.
 - i. Existing applicants who are affected will be notified and will have any previously clawed-back amounts restored to their forgivable loan.
- Those who qualified for the CECRA based on existing program parameters will be able to apply soon for the additional one month based on having a 70% revenue decline for April, May and June, i.e., without reassessing whether they continue to have a 70% revenue decline in July.
 - i. Participation in the one-month extension is voluntary.
 - ii. Only those tenants approved in the April, May and June application are eligible for the July extension.
- Existing applicants **need to reapply** for the month of July and have until **September 14, 2020**.
- New applicants have the choice of applying for the three-month initial period or four months, but need to do so by the original date of **August 31, 2020**.
- Applications will continue to be processed through [the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website](#) (CMHC)

Details

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- The Ontario government is partnering with the federal government to provide urgent relief for small businesses and landlords affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.
- To find out how much rent support an entity may be eligible for, please visit [Ontario.ca/rentassistance](https://ontario.ca/rentassistance).
- Application documents and updated criteria for the Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program are now available, and that the program will be opened for applications beginning on **May 25th**.
 - i. Applications will be accepted through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) [website](#)
 - ii. The CECRA for small businesses will be available until **August 31, 2020**
- The CECRA for small businesses has been developed to **share the cost of rent** between small business tenants, landlords and the governments of Ontario and Canada.
- Small business landlords would be asked to **forgive at least 25 per cent** of the tenant's total rent, **tenants would be asked to pay up to 25 per cent of rent** and the **provincial and federal government would share the cost of the remaining 50 per cent**.
- The province is committing **\$241 million** through the new **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA)**.
- The total amount of provincial-federal relief that would be provided is more than **\$900 million**, helping to ensure small businesses are ready to reopen their doors when the emergency measures are lifted.
- The CECRA will provide **forgivable loans** to eligible **commercial property owners** experiencing potential rent shortfalls because their small business tenants have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- To receive the loan, property owners will be required to **reduce the rental costs of small business** tenants for **April to July 2020** by at least **75 per cent** and commit to a moratorium on evictions.
- The forgivable loans would be disbursed directly to the mortgage lender of the commercial property in question.
- As part of *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*, the Government has implemented a series of cash flow supports amounting to **\$10 billion** to help support jobs and the economy (see for details) .
- How does the program work?

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- The program has been developed to share the cost between small business tenants and landlords.
 - Small business tenants and landlords would each be asked to pay **25 per cent of the before profit costs** and the provincial and federal government would cost **share the remaining 50 per cent**.
 - The **loans will be forgiven** if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place.
 - For example, a monthly rent for a small business is \$10,000. In this example, assume the landlord doesn't make a profit. The landlord forgoes \$2,500 (25 per cent of rent). The small business would be responsible for paying \$2,500 (25 per cent of rent). The government would cover the remaining \$5,000, with \$3,750 from the federal government (37.5 per cent of rent) and \$1,250 (12.5 per cent of rent) from the provincial government.
- How long would a commercial property owner have to apply for OCECRA?
 - The CECRA for small businesses is administered by the CMHC and will be available until **August 31, 2020**. Support will be retroactive to April 1, covering April, May, June and July 2020.
- What are the eligibility requirements for small businesses?
 - An eligible small business tenant is one that:
 - Pays monthly **rent not exceeding \$50,000** in gross rent payments; and is,
 - A non-essential small business that has temporarily closed, or who is experiencing a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues.
 - a. There are 2 scenarios by which to calculate the 70% reduction in revenues:
 - i. If a small business was operating during April – June 2019, then compare the gross revenues

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- The Federal government has announced that the **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** is **extended to June 2021**.
- Through BCAP, the government is supporting the flow of additional credit that businesses need to maintain operations and keep employees on the payroll.
- Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will continue to work with lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses of all sizes in all sectors and regions.

Original Announcement

- Will enable up to **\$40 billion** in lending, supported through **Export Development Canada** and **Business Development Bank**.
- As per the announcement on **May 11th**, the *Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)* has been expanded to include mid-sized companies with larger financing needs.
- Through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with private sector lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses in **all sectors and regions**.
- Intended for companies that require greater help to meet their operational cash flow requirements.
 - I. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html>

The new Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program will operate as follows:

➤ **EDC Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program**

- Brings liquidity to companies who tend to have **revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million**, to sustain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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**.

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- These expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada.
- **Additional details** regarding this expanded BCAP Program are being finalized and will be **made available in early June**.
- EDC has also launched a [new tool](#) to help businesses explore the resources developed by the government and Crown corporations to help Canadian businesses navigate COVID-19.

➤ **BDC Mid-Market Financing Program**

- Junior loans ranging **between \$12.5 million and \$60 million** for **medium-sized businesses** particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, co-managed by BDC and their primary financial institution, to cover operational liquidity needs and business continuity.
- The Bank anticipates that qualifying companies will have **annual revenues in excess of approximately \$100 million**.
- The implementation strategy will be finalized shortly. Please **complete the following form** to get an update once more information is available.
<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-form.aspx>

➤ **Export Development Canada (EDC) Loan Guarantee for Enterprises – Currently Active**

- Export Development Canada will provide guarantees to financial institutions so that they can

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issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans to businesses.

- This program provides credit and cash flow term loans to enterprises. Canadian businesses in all sectors that were otherwise financially viable and revenue generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak are eligible to apply.
- A new domestic mandate has enhanced EDC's role in supporting **all domestic-oriented businesses** during the COVID-19 crisis.
- It allows **financial institutions** to issue operating credit and cash flow term loans, with 80 per cent guaranteed by EDC.
- **This program is now available at various financial institutions and credit unions.**
- EDC BCAP Guarantee
 - a) Additional details available on [EDC website](#)
 - b) Up to **\$6.25 million** to cover rent, payroll and other operating costs caused by the current crisis
 - c) Online application (final steps to be completed by the primary financial institution of the business) <https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/bcap-guarantee.html>
 - d) **Available through primary financial institutions**
 - e) For additional details please visit:
 - i. <https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/coronavirus-covid-19.html>

➤ **BDC Co-Lending Program for Enterprises –**

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Financial institutions will progressively roll out program details as of April 24, 2020. Please contact your primary financial institution to find out more.

- Businesses can also get support through a new Co-Lending Program that will bring the Business Development Bank of Canada together with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to these businesses for their operational cash flow requirements.
- This program provides **term loans for operational and liquidity needs of businesses**, which could include interest payments on existing debt.
- Up to **\$12.5 million** for operational cash flow requirements.
- Similar to the EDC program, this program is available to businesses that were financially viable and revenue-generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Available until or before **September 30, 2020**.
- **Available through your primary financial institution**
 - i. <https://www.bdc.ca/en/documents/special-support/BCAP-program-overview-external.pdf>

124. August 31st (Update) – \$40,000 Business Loans - Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) – Currently Active

August 31st (Update) Government announces greater flexibility and extension of Canada Emergency Business Account

- The Federal Government has today announcing that the **application deadline for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) is extended from August 31 to October 31, 2020**.
- The government is working closely with financial institutions to make the CEBA program available to those with qualifying payroll or non-deferrable

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expenses that have so far been unable to apply due to not operating from a business banking account.

1. Further details on these changes will be released in coming days, including a new business account opening process through which qualifying businesses will be able to apply.

May 19th Update

- o As of May 19th, the **eligibility criteria** for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) has been expanded to include many **owner-operated small businesses**.
 - i. This means that owner-operated small businesses that had been ineligible for the program due to their lack of payroll, sole proprietors receiving business income directly, as well as family-owned corporations remunerating in the form of dividends rather than payroll will become eligible (**Effective June 19th, 2020**)
- o This extended measure will help small businesses protect the jobs that Canadians rely on.
- o Funding will be delivered in partnership with financial institutions.

To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- i. A business operating account at a participating financial institution
 - ii. A Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
 - iii. Eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.
- o CEBA provides much needed credit for small businesses to pay for immediate operating costs such as payroll, rent, utilities, insurance, property tax, or debt service. It is **100 per cent** funded by the Government of Canada.
 - o **Eligibility for the program has been expanded.** The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will now be available to businesses which paid up to **\$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019** and operating as of March 1, 2020.
 - o This includes smaller (i.e., micro) businesses and other eligible employers such as not-for-profits.

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- This new range will **replace the previous payroll range** of between \$50,000 and \$1 million and will help address the challenges faced by small businesses to cover non-deferrable operating costs.
- Under CEBA, financial institutions will be able to provide **interest-free** credit facilities of up to **\$40,000** to eligible businesses.
- If the loan is repaid by **December 31, 2022, 25 per cent (up to \$10,000) will be forgiven.**
- If the loan is not repaid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a three-year term loan at 5 per cent interest.

- *Details:*
 - i. Credit facilities of up to \$40,000 for eligible businesses.
 - ii. For Canadian employers with up to \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019.
 - iii. 0% interest until Dec 31, 2022
 - iv. \$10,000 loan forgiveness is available provided outstanding balance is fully paid on or before Dec 31, 2022
 - v. For more details please visit:
<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

- Small businesses and not-for-profits should **contact their financial institution to apply for these loans.**
- Program will provide up to **\$25 billion** to eligible **financial institutions** so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses.
- These loans – guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada – will ensure that small businesses have access to capital.

- **Additional Support - Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund**
 - **\$100-million Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund** to support proven, viable companies through unexpected business disruptions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The fund is set up to support a wide range of enterprises in the **agribusiness and agri-food sector**, including companies involved in primary production, agri-tech, manufacturing, packaging and distribution.
 - The fund will help companies in times of need through innovative solutions such as convertible debt investments and other flexible financing solutions.

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- Applications will be assessed individually on their merit, and will be supported to a maximum of **\$10 million**.
- The primary goal of the Agriculture and Food Business Solutions Fund is to return recipient companies to a sound financial footing.
- **To qualify**, companies need to demonstrate an impact from an unexpected business disruption, such as the loss of a key supplier, temporary loss of a facility or permanent loss of critical staff or leadership.

- Associated links
- [Farm Credit Canada](#)
- [Forage Capital Inc.](#)

125. August 25th - More support for women entrepreneurs in southern Ontario

- The Federal government has announced a **\$281,600** investment – delivered through [FedDev Ontario](#), the Regional Development Agency for southern Ontario – for the [Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning Alliance \(ELLA\)](#), as part of the Government’s [recent top-up](#) of **\$15 million** to Canada’s first-ever [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy’s Ecosystem Fund](#).
- Launched in March 2020 through the Government’s initial Women Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Fund investment, the ELLA program is led by York University in partnership with the Small Business Enterprise Centers of Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and York Region.
- The community accelerator provides training, advisory services, and other targeted support for women entrepreneurs in rural and urban communities.
- With today’s investment, ELLA Ascend will soon launch a new initiative called the **Fractional Executive Program**. Through this new program, a cohort of 10 entrepreneurs and advanced ELLA participants will benefit from mentorship and coaching support to help them address challenges associated with scaling globally.
 - [WES Ecosystem Fund](#)
 - [FedDev Ontario](#)
 - [York University — ELLA](#)

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126. August 24th - New temporary public policy will allow visitors to apply for a work permit without having to leave Canada

- Visitors who are currently in Canada and have a **valid job offer** will be able to apply for an **employer-specific work permit** and, if approved, **receive the permit without having to leave the country**, thanks to a new public policy announced today.
- This temporary policy change **takes effect immediately** and will benefit employers in Canada who continue to face difficulties finding the workers they need, as well as temporary residents who would like to contribute their labour and skills to Canada's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To be eligible, an applicant looking to benefit from this temporary public policy must
 - i. have valid status in Canada as a visitor on August 24, 2020 and remain in Canada
 - ii. have a job offer
 - iii. submit an application for an employer-specific work permit that is supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or an LMIA-exempt offer of employment, no later than March 31, 2021
 - iv. meet all other standard admissibility criteria
- This temporary public policy also provides the opportunity for applicants who meet these criteria and who had a valid work permit in the past 12 months to begin working for their new employer before their work permit application has been fully approved.
- To do so, they need to follow the instructions for the process described here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/after-apply-next-steps.html#visitors>

127. August 24th (Update) - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - 75% Wage Subsidy - (Currently Accepting Applications– Direct deposits will begin to appear in employers' accounts as of May 7th)

August 17th Update

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) has supported more than **3 million Canadians** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing support to businesses so they can keep their workers, including furloughed workers, on the payroll.

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- The Federal government has announced that the government proposes to **extend the current treatment of furloughed employees under the CEWS program by 4 weeks – from August 30 to September 26.**
- This would mean that employers who qualify for the CEWS would be able to continue to claim up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per week to support remuneration for each of their furloughed workers.
- Further details about the calculation of CEWS for furloughed workers for remaining periods of the program will be announced in the coming weeks.

August 17th Update

- To ensure that Canadian workers and businesses are in a better position as our economy safely re-opens, the Government of Canada has recently implemented **changes to the CEWS** that broaden the reach of the program and provide more targeted support.
- The Canada Revenue Agency has **opened applications for Period 5** – the first period of the enhanced CEWS program (as of August 17th).
- The Canada Revenue Agency's updated [CEWS calculator](#) can help small and large employers alike, by guiding them through a step-by-step process to prepare their applications and giving them a preview of the subsidy they may qualify for, based on the information they enter.
- Eligible employers can apply for period 5 of the CEWS through [My Business Account](#) or through the [CRA's web form application](#).
- The CEWS has provided **\$26.58B** in subsidies to more than **275,000 employers**, supporting millions of workers.

Program changes for Periods 5-9 include:

- The extension of the CEWS, including redesigned program details, until November 21, 2020.
- Increased eligibility, meaning that all eligible employers who've experienced a revenue drop can now qualify for a base subsidy. The subsidy amount is based on the revenue drop.
- Employers who are especially hard-hit can qualify for a top-up of up to 25%.
- Provide certainty for employers that have already made business decisions for July and August, by ensuring they will not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have under the previous rules.

July 17th Update

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- The Federal government has **announced changes** to the CEWS that would broaden the reach of the program and provide better targeted support so that more workers can return to their jobs quickly as the economy restarts.

The changes include:

- Allow the extension of the CEWS until **December 19, 2020**, including redesigned program details until November 21, 2020.
- Make the subsidy accessible to a **broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30 per cent** and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers.
 - This would help many struggling employers with less than a 30-per-cent revenue loss get support to keep and bring back workers, while also ensuring those who have previously benefited could still qualify, even if their revenues recover and no longer meet the 30 per cent revenue decline threshold.
- Introduce a **top-up subsidy** of up to an additional 25 per cent for employers that have been most adversely affected by the pandemic.
 - This would be particularly helpful to employers in industries that are recovering more slowly.
- Provide certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for July and August by ensuring they would not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have had under the previous rules.
- Address certain technical issues identified by stakeholders.

Original Announcement

- To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible employers a temporary wage subsidy.
- The program was originally set to end June 6th. **The program will now be extended to December 2020.**
- The Government will consult with key business and labour representatives over the next month on **potential adjustments to the program** to incent jobs and growth, including the **30 per cent revenue decline threshold**.

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- **May 15th Update** - The approval of regulations to extend eligibility for the CEWS to ensure that it continues to support those employers and workers hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic have been announced.
- These regulations **extend eligibility** for the CEWS to the following groups:
 - Partnerships that are up to 50-per-cent owned by non-eligible members;
 - Indigenous government-owned corporations that are carrying on a business, as well as partnerships where the partners are Indigenous governments and eligible employers;
 - Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Associations;
 - Registered Journalism Organizations; and
 - Non-public colleges and schools, including institutions that offer specialized services, such as arts schools, driving schools, language schools or flight schools.
- The Government also intends to **propose legislative amendments** to ensure that the CEWS continues to meet its objectives. These proposed amendments would:
 - Provide flexibility for employers of existing employees who were not regularly employed in early 2020, such as seasonal employees;
 - Ensure that the CEWS applies appropriately to corporations formed on the amalgamation of two predecessor corporations and
 - Better align the treatment of trusts and corporations for the purpose of determining CEWS eligibility.
- For more detailed information on the May 15th updates please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/extending-eligibility-for-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>
- Helpful Infographics:
 - 1) [Are you eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy?](#)
 - 2) [How is the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\) calculated?](#)

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- o *Details:*
 - i. **75% wage subsidy** for qualifying businesses retroactive to **March 15, 2020**.
 - ii. **Eligible employers would include** individuals, taxable corporations, partnerships consisting of eligible employers, non-profit organizations and registered charities.
 - iii. **Eligible remuneration** may include salary, wages, and other remuneration like taxable benefits.
 - iv. This subsidy would be available to eligible employers that see a **drop of at least 15 per cent of their revenue in March 2020 and 30 per cent for the following months**.
 - v. An employer's revenue for this purpose is its revenue in Canada earned from arm's-length sources.
 - vi. Would apply at a rate of **75%** of the first **\$58,700** normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to **\$847** per week.
 - vii. The easiest way to apply for the CEWS is through [My Business Account](#) or [Represent a Client](#).
 - viii. CEWS claims will be subject to verification by the CRA. **Funds for approved applications will begin to be released on May 5th appearing in employers' accounts starting May 7th**.
 - ix. The pre-crisis remuneration for a given employee would be based on the average weekly remuneration paid between **January 1 and March 15** inclusively.
 - x. There would be no overall limit on the subsidy amount that an eligible employer may claim.
 - xi. Eligible employers would include **employers of all sizes** and across all sectors of the economy, with the exception of public sector entities.
 - xii. Beginning **April 27, 2020**, certain financial institutions will offer **CRA direct deposit online enrolment for business payroll accounts** through their websites, helping businesses get their payments quickly and securely.
 - xiii. Employers can sign up for direct deposit with their financial institutions even after applying for the CEWS.
 - xiv. Visit Canada.ca/cra-direct-deposit or your financial institution's website for more information.
 - xv. If employers are not registered for direct deposit, they should allow additional time for their cheque to be delivered by mail to the address on their payroll account (RP).

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- xvi. Canadians can receive the CEWS wage subsidy or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) — not both.
 - xvii. **100% refund** for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.
 - xviii. This refund covers 100% of employer-paid contributions for eligible employees for each week throughout which those employees are on leave with pay and for which the employer is eligible to claim the CEWS for those employees.
 - xix. Employers would be allowed to calculate their revenues under the accrual method or the cash method, but not a combination of both. Employers would select an accounting method when first applying for the CEWS and would be required to use that method for the entire duration of the program.
 - xx. For **registered charities and non-profit organizations**, the calculation will include most forms of revenue, excluding revenues from non-arm's length persons. These organizations would be allowed to choose whether or not to include revenue from government sources as part of the calculation. Once chosen, the same approach would have to apply throughout the program period.
- In order to address the realities faced by the **not-for-profit sector, high growth companies and new businesses**, the Government has allowed for additional flexibility:
 - To measure their revenue loss, employers have the flexibility to compare their 2020 revenue to that of the same month of 2019, or to an average of their revenue earned in applicable months.
 - In recognition that the time between when revenue is earned and when it is paid could be highly variable in certain sectors of the economy, employers be allowed to measure revenues either on the basis of accrual accounting (as they are earned) or cash accounting (as they are received).
 - All employers would be expected to at least make best efforts to top up salaries to 100% of the maximum wages covered.
 - Those organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration paid from March 18 to before June

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20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer (see [April 27th \(Update\) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately](#) for more details).

- For employers that are eligible for both the CEWS and the 10 per cent wage subsidy, any benefit from the 10 per cent wage subsidy for remuneration paid in a specific period would generally reduce the amount available to be claimed under the CEWS in that same period.

- For further information please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>
-

128. August 11th - Government of Canada launches updated Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Calculator to support employers

- To ensure that Canadian workers and businesses are in a better position as our economy safely re-opens, the Government has recently implemented changes to the CEWS that broaden the reach of the program and provide better targeted support.
- An updated and improved **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy online calculator** has been launched today
 - i. It will help small and large employers alike prepare to apply for the next period of the CEWS program, which will open for applications on **August 17, 2020**.
 - ii. The CEWS calculator can be found on the CRA's [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy web page](#), which includes detailed information to help employers understand how the CEWS can support their employees and operations, **who is eligible to apply**, and **how claim periods are structured**.
 - iii. The calculator uses a step-by-step approach to get employers to enter information about their business situation to provide an **estimate of the subsidy they can expect to receive**.
 - iv. The calculator also includes **printable spreadsheet and statement** features that employers can use to view their claim at a glance and

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enter required information into the CEWS application form quickly and easily.

- v. By providing employers with detailed information about their subsidy claim, the CEWS calculator can assist them in making informed decisions about **retaining or re-hiring workers**.
- The CRA will conduct a series of **information sessions** in the **coming weeks** for eligible employers and stakeholder organizations.
- The CRA will open applications for **CEWS Period 5 on August 17, 2020**.
- Enhancements to the program, which are being introduced in Period 5, will include **expanding eligibility criteria**, introducing a **sliding revenue-decline test** to determine the subsidy amount, and providing a **top-up subsidy** for the most impacted employers.
- Employers can expect to receive their payment within **3-5 business days** after applying if they are registered with direct deposit on their payroll account.

129. August 5th (Update)- Seafood Stabilization Fund to help Canada's fish and seafood processing sector & Support for Canada's fish harvesters (Open for Applications as of August 24th)

August 5th Update

- **The Fish Harvester Benefit and Grant Program** will open for applications on **August 24, 2020, through to October 19th, 2020**.
 - The Fish Harvester Benefit and Grant Program was designed to work within the unique pay structures and seasonal nature of the fishing sector.
 - It will help to ensure that Canada's hardworking **fish harvesters** get the financial support they need right now, while also positioning the sector for a strong recovery in the long-term.
 - Detailed information is available now to ensure that all interested parties are prepared to apply on August 24th. All harvesters wishing to apply should visit the [Fisheries and Oceans Canada website](#) to determine if they are eligible and find out what documentation is required to complete the application process.
- Support for Canada's fish harvesters
- **\$469.4 million** in new measures to support Canada's fish harvesters, who are economically impacted by the pandemic but cannot access existing federal measures.

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- Additional details on these measures will be made available soon.

The Government of Canada will:

- Launch the **Fish Harvester Benefit**, a program worth up to **\$267.6 million**, to help provide income support for this year's fishing seasons to eligible self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons crew who cannot access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.
- Launch the **Fish Harvester Grant**, a program worth up to **\$201.8 million**, to provide grants to help fish harvesters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Business Account or equivalent measures.
- Propose measures or changes to Employment Insurance (EI) that would allow self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons to access EI benefits on the basis of insurable earnings from previous seasons (winter and summer claims).
- For more details please visit:
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/14/prime-minister-announces-new-support-canadas-fish-harvesters>

➤ Seafood Stabilization Fund

- **\$62.5 million** of new assistance to the **fish and seafood processing sector**.
- This new **Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund** will help businesses:
 - i. Access short-term financing to pay for maintenance and inventory costs;
 - ii. Add storage capacity for unsold product;
 - iii. Comply with new health and safety measures for workers;
 - iv. Support new manufacturing/automated technologies to improve productivity and quality of finished seafood products; and,
 - v. Adapt products to respond to changing requirements and new market demands.
- This investment will help ensure the resilience of the food system by allowing Canada's fish and seafood processing sector to safely and efficiently process, store, package, and distribute healthy, high-quality products, sourced from our fish harvesters and aquaculture operators, onto the plates of Canadians.
- The Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund will be delivered through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

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- Further details on how and when processors can apply for assistance will be confirmed at a later date.

130. July 17th - FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario

- The Government of Canada has announced a **\$4-million FedDev Ontario investment in support of women entrepreneurs across southern Ontario**.
- With this investment through the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**, the *Northumberland CFDC* and *WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation*, in collaboration with regional partners, will deliver the **Rebuild Reopen Revive** Initiative to **support women-led small- and medium-sized enterprises** in rural and urban communities across southern Ontario.
- Both organizations will receive \$2 million to provide **non-repayable contributions of up to \$5,000** to help eligible women-led businesses with key re-opening expenditures, including:
 - i. Acquisition of reusable personal protective equipment (PPE);
 - ii. Reconfiguration of workspaces to accommodate social distancing impacts; and
 - iii. Enhancing online capacity to improve accessibility and client service.
- Over 700 women-led businesses will be supported through this initiative.
- Interested businesses can visit [Northumberland CFDC](#) (eastern Ontario) or [WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation](#) (southwestern Ontario) for more **details or to apply**

131. June 23rd - Temporary extension of time periods given to employers to recall employees laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Effective June 22nd

- The Government of Canada wants to ensure that as many Canadians as possible have a job to return to and that businesses can grow and stay strong as the economy restarts.
- Today's announcement **extends time periods for temporary layoffs** to allow employers more time to **recall laid-off employees**.
- The temporary changes will help protect the jobs of federally regulated private-sector employees and support employers facing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic.

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- Prior to these changes, employers could temporarily lay-off their employees for up to three months if no notice with a recall date was provided, or for a period of up to six months if they provided a notice with an expected recall date, before the lay-off became a termination.
- The amendments, which are set out in the Canada Labour Standards Regulations, **temporarily extend these time periods by up to six months:**
 - i. For employees laid off **prior to March 31, 2020**, the time period is extended by **six months or to December 30, 2020**, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. For employees laid off **between March 31, 2020, and September 30, 2020**, the time period is **extended until December 30, 2020**, unless a later recall date was provided in a written notice at the time of the layoff.
- These changes, which came into effect on **June 22, 2020**, do not apply to employees who are covered by a collective agreement that contains recall rights.
- These changes also do not apply to employees whose employment had already been terminated prior to the coming into force of the amendments.
- The previous rules will apply to layoffs occurring after September 30, 2020.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/backgrounder.html>

132. June 9th - Government of Canada creates a hub for organizations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment: Currently Active

- The Government of Canada has launched a new [web hub](#) to bring together available resources for organizations **buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE)**.
- The Supply Hub connects Canadian organizations from coast to coast to coast with federal, provincial, territorial and other resources and information about PPE, including consumer guidance.
- Buyers will find PPE supplier lists, in addition to guidance to help plan their PPE purchases. As Public Services and Procurement

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Canada continues to engage with our partners and advisory groups, the hub will evolve to include additional resources.

133. May 20th (Update) - Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) – Applications Open

- Purpose: to 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.
- The LEEFF program will be open to **large for-profit businesses – with the exception of those in the financial sector** – as well as certain not-for-profit businesses, such as airports, with annual revenues generally in the order of \$300 million or higher.
- To qualify, businesses must be looking for financing of **\$60 million or more** and have significant operations or large numbers of employees in Canada, and must not be involved in any ongoing insolvency proceedings.
- The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic downturn, and avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable firms where possible.
- This support will **not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms**, nor will it provide financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis.
- The government’s support for large employers through LEEFF will be delivered by a subsidiary of the **Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV)**, in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance.
 - i. Additional information on the application process is available on the [CDEV website](#).
- Further details:
 - i. **Protection of taxpayers and workers:** Companies seeking support must demonstrate how they intend to preserve employment and maintain investment activities.
 - ii. Recipients will need to commit to respect **collective bargaining agreements** and protect workers’ pensions.
 - iii. The LEEFF program will require strict limits to dividends, share buy-backs, and executive pay.
 - iv. In considering a company’s eligibility to assistance under the LEEFF program, an assessment may be made of its

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- employment, tax, and economic activity in Canada, as well as its international organizational structure and financing arrangements.
- v. The program will not be available to companies that have been convicted of tax evasion.
 - vi. Recipient companies would be required to commit **to publish annual climate-related disclosure reports** consistent with the Financial Stability Board’s Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, including how their future operations will support environmental sustainability and national climate goals.
 - vii. The government’s support for large companies through LEEFF will be delivered by the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV), in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance.
- For more details please visit:
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save>

134. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Term Loans – Currently Active

- To ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors can remain focused on business-critical functions, FCC has put customer support programs in place.
- FCC has expanded their offerings to include the following:
 - i. Term loans up to **\$2.5M, with no fees and an 18-month interest-only option available over a 10-year amortization.**
 - ii. These funds can be used for working capital and to modify production due to the impacts of COVID-19.
 - iii. FCC customers and non-customers are eligible to apply for FCC lending products.

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- More information is available by contacting a [local office](#) or the Customer Service Centre at **1-888-332-3301**.
<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html>

135. Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Oil and Gas Sector Financing - Deployment Strategy to be Finalized in Near Future

- For **Canadian-based oil and gas producers**, oilfield service companies and midstream providers.
- Funds to be used for operational cashflow and business continuity purposes.
- Qualifying businesses must have been **financially viable** and in good standing prior to the current economic environment.
- Loan size between **\$15 million and \$60 million**.
- Offered at commercial rates, repayable within **4 years**.
- The deployment strategy for BDC's Oil and Gas Sector Financing will be **finalized shortly**.
- Please complete the following form to get an update once more information is available:
<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support-form.aspx>

136. April 27th (Update) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately

- To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of **three months**.
- Those organizations that do not qualify for **the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** may continue to qualify for the 10% wage subsidy.
- The **10% Temporary Wage Subsidy** for Employers reduces the amount of income tax source deductions that employers have to remit to CRA on behalf of their employees by **up to 10% of their remuneration** (to a **maximum of \$1,375 per employee up to \$25,000 per employer**).
- Many employers that qualify for the CEWS also qualify for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers.
- CEWS and the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers are intended to provide total support of up to 75% for payroll, not 75% + 10%.
- If you did not reduce the source deductions you remitted to the CRA, but you were entitled to the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers, the CRA will treat you as having over-remitted your employee source deductions (so that normally you will be entitled to a refund).

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- Eligible employers must have an existing business number and payroll program account with the CRA on March 18, 2020; and include:
 - individual (excluding trusts),
 - partnership (see notes in website below),
 - non-profit organization,
 - registered charity, or
 - Canadian-controlled private corporation (including a cooperative corporation) eligible for the small business deduction;
- Firms do not need to apply for the subsidy and will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration.
- For details please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>

137. The Pandemic Response Challenge Program: National Research Council of Canada (NRC) – Currently Active

- This national vehicle will convene the best Canadian and international researchers from academia and **small and medium-sized businesses** to collectively accelerate R&D to address specific COVID-19 gaps and challenges as identified by Canadian health experts.
- The NRC will receive **\$15M** to form dedicated teams to address challenges.
- **Funding is available** to help cover the costs of research for academic institutions, small and medium-sized businesses, and other eligible recipients participating in the challenge teams.
- The Pandemic Response Challenge Program is currently structured around **3 main research areas**:
 - I. Rapid detection and diagnosis
 - II. Therapeutics and vaccine development and
 - III. Digital health
- Researchers at Canadian and international universities, government departments, colleges, and **highly innovative firms** with relevant

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expertise can now register their interest to work with us on these challenges by clicking the Register button below.

- I. <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/research-development/research-collaboration/programs/expression-interest-challenge-program-collaboration>
- II. **Over the coming weeks**, NRC will post specific R&D challenges, send information to registered researchers, and invite them to indicate the expertise and capabilities they can bring to a team.

138. March 18th - Deferral of Income Tax: Currently Active

- Allows all businesses to defer, until September 1, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18th and before September 2020.
- This means you will not be assessed any penalties or interest if your balance due is paid by September 1, 2020.
- The due date for filing
 - individual tax returns has been extended to June 1, 2020.
- Taxpayers will have until August 31, 2020 to pay any 2019 income tax amounts owed.
- This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.
- No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. This measure will result in businesses having more money available during this period.
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html>

139. March 18th – BCAP - BDC Working Capital loans: Currently Active

- Through this program, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will provide more than **\$65 billion** in direct lending and other types of financial support at market rates to businesses.
- BDC Working Capital loans
 - Please contact BDC for details - **1-877-232-2269**

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- **For more details please visit:**
<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx?special-initiative=covid19>

Terms & Conditions

- Working Capital loans up to **\$2MM**; with 12 months interest only payments and flexible repayment terms such as principal postponements for qualifying businesses;
- 36-month term to a 60% balloon;
- Pricing: Floating Only (Base – 1.75%)
- Flexible repayment terms, such as postponement of principal payments for up to 6 months, for existing BDC clients with total BDC loan commitment of \$1 million or less;

Documentation Required

- Most recent three years of accountant prepared year-end financial statements;
- Most recent interim financial statements (if year-ends are more than 3 months old) with comparisons to the previous year's interim period (if available);
- Projections and a cash flow forecast (a 6-month cash flow forecast may be most applicable); The purpose is to understand the company's true cash needs for the next six months.
- An organizational chart to the beneficial ownership level (i.e. shareholder level).

140. March 15th- Support for employers and workers through the Work-Sharing program: Currently Active

- **Work-Sharing (WS)** is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer.
- The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.
- Employees on a Work-Sharing agreement must agree to a reduced schedule of work and to share the available work over a specified period of time.

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- Introduction of temporary special measures that extend the maximum duration of Work-Sharing agreements from **38 weeks to 76 weeks** across Canada for those businesses affected by the downturn in business due to COVID-19 and for the forestry and steel and aluminum sector
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html>
- Temporary special measures for the forestry and steel and aluminum sector:
 - I. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/temporary-measures-forestry-sector.html>

141. March 15th - Changes to the Employment Insurance sickness benefits: Currently Active

- Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible claimants who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine, to allow them time to restore their health and return to work.
- Canadians quarantined can apply for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits.

Service Canada is ready to support Canadians affected by COVID-19 and placed in quarantine, with the following support actions:

- The one-week waiting period for [EI sickness benefits](#) will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim.
- This temporary measure will be enacted for a minimum of six months.
- Establishing a new dedicated toll-free phone number to support enquiries related to waiving the [EI sickness benefits](#) waiting period
- Priority EI application processing for EI sickness claims for clients under quarantine
- People claiming EI sickness benefits due to quarantine will not have to provide a medical certificate
- Contact the new dedicated toll-free phone number if you are in quarantine and seeking to waive the one-week [EI sickness benefits](#) waiting period so you can be paid for the first week of your claim:
- Telephone: 1-833-381-2725 (toll-free)

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142. March 11th - Public Works and Government Services Canada – COVID-19

Supplier Purchasing Program

- In support of the Governments [whole-of-government response to Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#), the Government is seeking to procure additional goods from suppliers
- If you are a supplier which can provide items from the list, or other items not listed, please complete the [submission form for Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) products and services](#).
 - i. Disposable N95 masks
 - ii. Disposable surgical masks
 - iii. Nitrile gloves
 - iv. Vinyl gloves
 - v. Gowns
 - vi. Bottles of hand sanitizer
 - vii. Other prevention products
- Services
 - i. Guard / security services
 - ii. Nursing services
 - iii. Food services
 - iv. Laundry services
 - v. Accommodation maintenance services
 - vi. Personal services
 - vii. IT support services
 - viii. Other services
- For more information, please contact:
Martin Montreuil: martin.montreuil@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca / Tel: 613-793-3594
 - I. <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/calling-all-suppliers-help-canada-combat-covid-19>

COVID-19 – Federal Government – Support for Individuals

Website highlighting useful resources:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

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<https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start>

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143. October 7th - New interest relief measure to provide much-needed help to Canada Student Loan borrowers on medical or parental leave

- The Federal government has highlighted a new measure to help **student borrowers** manage financial burdens they may face when taking **temporary medical or parental leave from their studies**—including for mental health reasons.
- This measure, which was announced as part of Budget 2019, is effective as of **October 1, 2020**.
- Borrowers who are approved under this new measure will benefit from a **suspension of payments and interest on their Canada Student Loans for six months**, which can be extended up to a total of 18 months of leave.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/canada-student-loans-programs-new-medical-and-parental-leave.html>

144. October 2nd (UPDATE)- New recovery benefits and extended funding for COVID-19 measures receives Royal Assent

- The **COVID-19 Response Measures Act** (formerly Bill C-4) has received Royal Assent.
- This legislation **creates three new temporary recovery benefits** to support Canadians who are **unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19**.
 1. Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)
 2. Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)
 3. Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)
- These benefits will **be in place for one year beginning September 27, 2020**, as we work to build back a stronger, more resilient economy.
- Canadians will be able to apply through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for the following benefits as of **Monday, October 5:**

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- A **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)** of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers unable to work for 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, or 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 ; and,
 - A **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** of \$500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers who are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they contracted COVID-19, self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19, or have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sicknesses 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.
 - These benefits will be **paid on a weekly basis, meaning Canadians will have to reapply each week they are eligible.**
- **Effective October 12**, the CRA will open the applications for the **Canada Recovery Benefit**, which will provide eligible workers with \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for those who have **stopped working and who are not eligible for EI**, or **had their employment/self-employment income reduced by at least 50%** due to COVID-19.
 - This benefit will be paid in two-week periods.
- Eligible individuals will be able to apply for recovery benefits online through the **CRA's My Account portal** or by phone through the CRA's automated phone line.
- To get ready to apply for the new recovery benefits, Canadians are encouraged to sign up for the CRA's [My Account](#) to ensure that personal information with the CRA is up-to-date, and to register for direct deposit.
- More information on how Canadians can get ready to apply can be found on the new [Canada Recovery Benefits web pages](#).
- For more details, please visit:

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<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/backgrounder.html>

- 145.** September 25th - Flexible, more accessible EI system to help support Canadians through the next phase of the recovery
- Eligible Canadians will **transition from the CERB to a flexible and more accessible EI program**, starting **September 27, 2020**, as originally announced on August 20, 2020.
 - Canadians receiving EI are eligible for a taxable benefit at a rate of at least \$500 per week, or \$300 per week for extended parental benefits.
 - Returning to the EI program will allow claimants to benefit from the Working While on Claim rules.
 - These rules allow claimants to keep receiving part of their EI benefits and all their earnings from work.
 - In addition, employers will once again be able to make use of registered Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) plans to provide support to employees.
 - The EI program will also allow Canadians with **120 hours of insurable work or more to qualify by providing a temporary, one-time credit of 300 insurable hours** for those claiming EI regular and work-sharing benefits.
 - Canadians claiming EI special benefits – including maternity, parental, sickness, compassionate care, and family caregiver – will be provided with a temporary, one-time credit of 480 insurable hours.
 - To ensure a **smooth transition to EI**, the majority of Canadians still receiving the CERB through Service Canada who are eligible for EI will be **automatically transitioned**.
 - Service Canada will contact all EI clients to confirm whether they need to apply or are being transitioned automatically. Clients can also verify the status of their claim in their [My Service Canada Account](#).
 - As is normally the case, Canadians become eligible for their first EI payment at the end of the two weeks that they are out of work.
 - This means, for example, that those switching to EI from CERB effective September 27, 2020, will be eligible for their **first EI payment as of October 11**.

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- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/flexible-more-accessible-ei-system-to-help-support-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-recovery.html>

146. September 15th - Government of Canada's fall support measures to help students

- The eligibility requirements for **Canada Student Loans and Canada Student Grants** have been eased **to allow more post-secondary students to qualify and be eligible for greater amounts.**
- Specifically, Canada Student Grants have been **doubled for full-time students to up to \$6,000 for this school year**, and the **cap on Canada Student Loans has been increased to \$350 per week of study.**
- These fall measures represent an investment of approximately **\$1.9 billion** and are expected to expand the reach of the Canada Student Loans Program and benefit approximately **765,000 students.**
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid.html>

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147. September 11th - Green job opportunities to 1,200 youth across Canada who face barriers to employment

- The Federal government has announced Project Learning Tree Canada's Green Jobs Initiative will receive nearly **\$7.8 million** under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS).
- The YESS is a horizontal Government of Canada initiative delivered in collaboration with 11 federal departments and agencies, including Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).
- This will provide **green job opportunities to 1,200 youth across Canada who face barriers to employment, including Indigenous youth, newcomers and youth from rural or remote communities.**
- Through this project, youth will benefit from a wide range of skills and gain hands on experience while working in the forestry, conservation and parks sectors.
- For more details, please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid.html>

148. September 11th - Open call for applications for the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative: **Application deadline: October 16th**

- As Canadians continue to adapt to the realities of COVID-19, local governments and community partners across the country are discovering new ways to keep residents safe and healthy, support economic recovery and build pandemic-resilient communities.
- The Federal government has launched an **open call to non-governmental not-for-profit organizations** who will work directly with municipalities, local governments, Indigenous communities and not-for-profit community partners to identify and fund local projects through the **Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.**
- The Initiative is providing up to **\$31 million** over the next two years to **support community-led projects that respond to immediate and ongoing needs arising from COVID-19.**
- The goal of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative is to support projects that help communities of all sizes and compositions adapt to COVID-19 under three main themes:
 - creating safe and vibrant public spaces,

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- improving mobility options,
 - and digital solutions.
- Organizations are encouraged to review the open [Call for Applications](#) and consult the [Applicant Guide](#) for full details on eligibility and how to apply. Organizations will have until **October 16, 2020 to submit their applications.**
- A call for proposals for specific projects under the Healthy Communities Initiative will come at a later date.

149. September 3rd - The Government of Canada announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19

- The Federal Government has announced over **1,000 new projects** delivered by community organizations across the country to **support seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- These projects are funded through an investment of **\$20 million** in funding through the **New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP).**
- Organizations will receive up to \$25,000 in funding to offer immediate COVID-19 relief or recovery activities to seniors.
- The 2020–21 NHSP community-based Call for Proposals is open until **October 20, 2020.**
- For details on how to apply, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/new-horizons-seniors.html>.
- For more details, please visit: [Backgrounder: New Horizons for Seniors Program](#)

150. August 28th - Over 900 new green internship opportunities available for students as Canada builds back better

- The Government of Canada is partnering with **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) employers** across Canada to create **900 internship opportunities** for students through the *Science Horizons Youth Internship Program.*
- Science Horizons supports jobs in clean-technology sectors by offering internships to recent post-secondary graduates in STEM. The program includes specific opportunities for Indigenous graduates, graduates from rural and remote areas, and women in STEM fields. Science Horizons is now open for 2020–21 applications.

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- Up to **\$15,000** in Science Horizons funding is available to **employers for each intern they hire**, and interns will receive **experience working on environmental projects lasting six to twelve months**.
- About 90 percent of interns secure a full-time job or return to school after their internship.
- For more details, please visit:
[Science Horizons Youth Internship Program](#)

151. August 20th - Government of Canada announces plan to help support Canadians through the next phase of the recovery

- The Federal government has announced **changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program and new income support benefits** that will better support all Canadians.
 - EI will now be available to more Canadians, including those who would not have qualified for EI in the past, adding more than 400,000 people into the program.
 - Those receiving EI will be eligible for a taxable benefit rate of at least \$400 per week, or \$240 per week for extended parental benefits, and regular benefits will be accessible for a minimum duration of 26 weeks.
 - The government will also **freeze the EI insurance premium rates for two years**, so Canadian workers and businesses will not face immediate increases to costs and payroll deductions due to the additional expenses resulting from the pandemic.
- The government also announced that in preparation for this transition and to ensure support continues for Canadians whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic, the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will be extended by an additional four weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks**.
 - This means that for the many Canadians expecting to exhaust their CERB benefits at the end of August, they will now be able to access an additional month of support.
- Additionally, to ensure Canadians receive the support they need during these challenging times, the Federal government is proposing **three new benefits**:
 - i. The **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** will provide \$400 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not

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- eligible for EI and who still require income support and who are available and looking for work. This benefit will support Canadians whose income has dropped or not returned due to COVID-19.
- ii. The **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** will provide \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19.
 - iii. The **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)** will provide \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for:
 - a child under age 12 due to the closures of schools or daycares because of COVID-19.
 - a family member with a disability or a dependent because their day program or care facility is closed due to COVID-19.
 - a child, a family member with a disability, or a dependent who is not attending school, daycare, or other care facilities under the advice of a medical professional due to being at high-risk if they contract COVID-19.
- The Government intends to introduce new legislation to support the implementation of the new benefits.
 - For more details, please visit:
[Backgrounder: Supporting Canadians Through the Next Phase of the Economy Re-opening: Increased Access to EI and Recovery Benefits](#)

152. July 27th - The Canada Revenue Agency announces an extension to the payment deadline and offers interest relief on outstanding tax debts during the COVID-19 pandemic

- The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is **extending the payment deadline and applying relief to interest on existing debt.**
 - Payment Deadline Extension
 - i. The CRA is extending the payment due date for current year individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns, including instalment payments, from **September 1, 2020**, to **September 30, 2020**.
 - ii. Penalties and interest will **not be charged** if payments are made by the extended deadline of **September 30, 2020**.
 - iii. This includes the late-filing penalty as long as the return is filed by September 30, 2020.
 - Interest on Existing Tax Debt

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- i. The CRA is also waiving interest on existing tax debts related to individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns from **April 1, 2020**, to **September 30, 2020** and from **April 1, 2020**, to **June 30, 2020**, for goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) returns.
- ii. While this measure for existing tax debts does not cancel penalties and interest already assessed on a taxpayer's account prior to this period, it ensures that a taxpayer's **existing tax debt does not continue to grow** through interest charges during this difficult time.
- iii. This measure provides **immediate relief** to impacted taxpayers.
- Filing Returns
 - i. The previously extended filing due dates for individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns remain unchanged.
 - ii. However, the CRA will not impose late-filing penalties where a current year individual, corporation, or trust return is filed late provided that it is filed by **September 30, 2020**.
 - iii. To ensure Canadians continue to receive their benefits and credits during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CRA temporarily **suspended interruptions** for those who were unable to file their income tax and benefit return by the **June 1 deadline**.
 - iv. Currently, if a 2019 individual tax return has not been assessed, the CRA is calculating benefits and/or credits for the **July to September 2020** payments based on **information from 2018 tax returns**.
 - v. However, if 2019 individual tax returns are not received and assessed by early **September 2020**, estimated benefits and/or credits will **stop in October 2020** and individuals **may have to repay** the amounts that were issued as of **July 2020**

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153. June 16th (Update) - Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB):
Applications opened April 6th

June 16th Update

- The Federal government is **extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) by eight weeks**, to ensure Canadians have the help they need as they transition back to work.
- This extension will make the benefit available to eligible workers for up to a **total of 24 weeks**.
- Application to the CERB can be **made no later than December 2, 2020**, for payments retroactive to the period of **March 15 to October 3, 2020**.

Original Announcement

- Will provide workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with **\$2,000** per month for the next four months. A maximum 16 weeks of benefits can be paid.
- Eligible workers can apply no later than December 2, 2020.
- Applicants who have requested **EI on March 15th or later**, won't need to register for the CERB.
- If applying online, with direct deposit requested, applicants can expect the payment **within three to five business days**.
- The CERB payment **cannot** be combined with the 75% wage subsidy for businesses.
- The Benefit is only available to individuals who have stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. Workers who have not stopped working because of COVID-19, are not eligible for the Benefit.
- Note - Workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19, also qualify for the CERB
- The CERB applies to **wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals** who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and are unable to work due to COVID-19.
- The new benefit combines the \$10-billion Emergency Care Benefit and the \$5-billion Emergency Support Benefit that were announced earlier.
- *Some examples workers eligible for the CERB include:*
 - I. Workers, including those who are self-employed, who must stop working due to COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support;

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- II. Workers who lost their employment, as well as workers who are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19;
- III. 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; and
- IV. 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.

The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the **following conditions**:

- Live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- Have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19, or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits, or have exhausted their EI regular or fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020
- Had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019, or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application
- Have not earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income per benefit period while collecting the CERB
- Have not quit their job voluntarily

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, **the government is announcing changes to the eligibility rules** to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

These changes will be retroactive to March 15, 2020.

- For further details please visit:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

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

- Application details will be available through [CRA MyAccount](#) and [My Service Canada Account](#) on **April 6th**. Those recently laid off or have reduced hours are encouraged to [apply for Employment Insurance Benefits](#)
- Canadians looking to get more information about the CERB or, who are unable to apply online, can call the **toll-free telephone line at 1-833-966-2099**.

154. May 15th (Update) - Extension of Tax Filing Deadline and Benefit Payment

Dates: Currently Active

- The tax filing deadline for individuals has been extended to June 1, 2020, and allows all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18th and before September 2020.
- This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.
- The deadline to pay any balance due for your individual income tax and benefit return for 2019 has been extended from April 30, 2020, to September 1, 2020.
- This means you will not be assessed any penalties or interest if your balance due is paid by September 1, 2020.
- **May 15th Update** - Benefit payments will continue for an additional **three months** for those who are not able to file their 2019 returns on time.
 - Eligible Canadians who are presently receiving the **Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) credit** and/or the **Canada child benefit (CCB)** will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020.
 - If 2019 tax returns are not received and assessed by **early September 2020**, estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and the taxpayer will have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued as of July 2020.
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html>

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155. March 18th - Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) – Minimum Withdrawals

- The reduction of minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by **25 per cent for 2020** in recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors' retirement savings.

156. March 18th - Deferral of Canada Student Loan Payments: **Implementation by Early April**

- The implementation a **six-month, interest-free**, moratorium on Canada Student Loan payments for all individuals who are in the process of repaying these loans.

Sources

- Office of the Prime Minister of Canada / Premier Ministre du Canada
 - <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/18/prime-minister-announces-more-support-workers-and-businesses-through>
- Government of Ontario News Room
 - <https://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en>
- Department of Finance Canada
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>
- The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>