



# COVID-19 Economic Measures for SMEs

## March 19, 2020

We have been consulting with the Government of Canada to help small businesses and all Canadians get through this challenging time. A number of the measures announced yesterday by the Prime Minister and Minister Morneau were a direct response to the feedback we shared with the government on behalf of our members.

Whether you are self-employed, a small business owner or an entrepreneur, you shouldn't have to worry about losing your business and your employees shouldn't have to worry about losing their jobs.

Along with the \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses, plus the additional \$55 billion to support Canadian businesses and households through tax deferrals, other measures for businesses announced yesterday include:

- Essentially eliminating the payroll tax for three months by providing a 10% wage subsidy to small businesses.
- Helping businesses with cash flow by deferring tax payments until August 31.
- Increasing credit available to farmers through Farm Credit Canada.
- Introducing a new Emergency Care Benefit of up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks for self-employed people who are not eligible for EI sickness benefits.

This is builds on the government's announcements earlier this week to help businesses, including:

- Coordinating with the financial sector to cut interest rates to 0.75% and increase lending capacity by \$300 billion.
- Establishing a Business Credit Availability Program through BDC and EDC worth \$10 billion.
- Enhancing the Work-Sharing Program to help businesses pay wages so they don't have to lay anyone off.

## How to Get the Help Your Business Needs

We understand you are anxious about getting the help you need in the face of COVID-19. Here are a few good places to start:

1. Visit the Government of Canada's [website for businesses](#) for information about supporting your employees and your business. It will be continuously updated as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.
2. Download the [Canada Business App](#) to find tailored supports to address your specific needs and questions about COVID-19.
3. Consult our [pandemic preparedness guide](#) to help prepare your business in the days and weeks to come.
4. Contact your bank. Canada's banks have made a commitment to support businesses and individuals through these difficult times. To help provide some stability for businesses through this time of uncertainty, [the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions](#) is lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer requirement, releasing more than \$300 billion of additional lending capacity for Canadian financial institutions.