



# COVID-19

**APRIL 23, 2020**

## **News of the Day**

*Please note that the CPA is adjusting our schedule for issuing updates on COVID-19. Unless important news is released, we will be issuing our News of the Day on Mondays and Thursdays.*

## **Federal**

### **FINANCIAL AID**

#### **Supplemental information on oil and gas stimulus measures**

Further to a discussion the CPA had with the federal government, they have shared [a pamphlet](#) that provides an overview of federal measures to date supporting Canada's oil and gas industry during this situation. The CPA will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available on the recently announced measures. As raised on the call, Natural Resources Canada is committed to continuing to engage and collaborate to support the sector and identify opportunities to ensure a strong economic recovery.

#### **Deadline tomorrow to apply to Canada Summer Jobs Program**

Reminder that the deadline to apply to the [Canada Summer Jobs Program](#) is tomorrow – Friday, April 24. Essential businesses and charities of any size that are interested in hiring a summer student(s) with a 75% Federal wage subsidy for the summer should contact their MP ASAP. The program relies on MPs creating recommendation lists for which entities in their riding should get funding – and each MP gets about \$750,000 - \$1 million to allocate.

## **Saskatchewan**

### **ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

## Government announces its Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

The Saskatchewan government says it has flattened the curve and today announced its [Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#).

The plan introduces five phases to gradually and cautiously re-open businesses and services across Saskatchewan, with the first phase beginning May 4, 2020 and the second May 19, 2020. Dates for the remaining three phases are yet to be determined.

The plan details restrictions that will remain in place throughout the five phases, including:

- Individuals to continue working from home if they can do so effectively.
- Maintaining physical distancing wherever possible.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices to protect both employees and customers.

The plan provides a number of factors to inform decisions regarding the lifting of long-term restrictions.

## Manitoba

### FINANCIAL AID

## Province to provide \$120 million of support to small- and medium-sized businesses affected by COVID-19

The [Manitoba Gap Protection Program](#) (MGPP) is available to any of the approximately 120,000 businesses in Manitoba who have fallen into a gap in failing to qualify for the various federal government assistance programs and wage subsidies created because of COVID-19.

The province will advance each eligible business the non-interest bearing forgivable MGPP loan of \$6,000, for a total of up to \$120 million. The loan will be forgiven on Dec. 31, 2020, if the recipient attests at that time the business has not received any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Business Account, as well as sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic. If the applicant has received benefits under a federal COVID program, then the loan will be added to the recipient's 2020 tax bill.

To be eligible for the MGPP funding, a business must:

- have been operational on March 20, 2020, the date the Manitoba government declared a province-wide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act because of COVID-19;

- have temporarily ceased or curtailed operations as a result of a COVID-19 public health order and have been harmed by the health order;
- be registered and in good standing with the Manitoba Business and Corporate Registry;
- have not qualified for federal government COVID-19 grant support; and
- have an email address and a bank account.

## Ontario

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### [Ontario extends emergency orders to help stop the spread of COVID-19](#)

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government announced today that it is extending all emergency orders that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until May 6, 2020.

**The extension order does not affect propane**, which remains on the province's [essential services](#) list.

The Emergency Order extension includes the closure of outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings and limiting staff from working in more than one retirement home or long-term care home. [View the news release](#) for the complete list.

## Atlantic Canada

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### [With Come By Chance Refinery stopping production because of COVID-19, cost to get propane to Newfoundland and Labrador will rise](#)

Members of the Canadian Propane Association that supply propane to Newfoundland and Labrador will see the cost of transporting this essential fuel to the province rise significantly.

The refinery was proactively shut down due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19. To be clear, the CPA fully supports the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for taking this action. The health of Canadians is what matters most

However, the fact remains that no longer will propane be sourced from Newfoundland and Labrador. With the refinery down for an undetermined period of time, the costs of transporting

propane to Newfoundland and Labrador - which include, rail, truck and shipping - will go up significantly.

The CPA will be communicating to the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities the importance of considering these unforeseen additional freight costs due to COVID-19 when determining the price for propane in the province.

## Other information

### [COVID-19 Resources Portal](#) – WeirFoulds<sup>LLP</sup>

Weirfold's [COVID-19 Resources Portal](#) includes the latest articles from their lawyers to help people and businesses navigate the situation. They include information on changes to legislation and the impacts on various industries.

They have set up a dedicated [COVID-19 email address](#) where you can send questions about your specific challenges. View their [website](#) for more information.

**Keep informed with up-to-date information by visiting our [COVID-19 website](#).**