



# COVID-19

**APRIL 30, 2020**

*News of the Day is published on Mondays and Thursdays.*

## Federal

### FINANCIAL AID

#### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy application process now open

Reminder that [the application process](#) for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is now open. This economic measure provides a subsidy of 75% of an eligible employee's weekly earnings, to a maximum of \$847 per employee per week, to eligible employers, for up to 12 weeks. Employers can apply for the CEWS through [My Business Account](#) or through the CRA's [online application portal](#), and their representatives can apply through [Represent a Client](#).

#### 10% Temporary wage subsidy for employers

The federal government is providing eligible employers with [a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months](#) from March 18, 2020 to June 19, 2020.

The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period up to \$1,375 per eligible employee to a maximum total of \$25,000 per employer. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, as well as non-profit organizations and charities.

For employers that are eligible for both the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the 10% wage subsidy for a period, any benefit from the 10% wage subsidy for remuneration paid in a specific period would generally reduce the amount available to be claimed under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy in that same period.

For more information, view [FAQ – Temporary wage subsidy for employers: CRA and COVID-19](#).

## Canada Revenue Agency: Information related to Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax incentives during COVID-19

To ensure that businesses receive their credits as soon as possible and that innovation and creativity are fully supported during these challenging times, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) says it is implementing the following measures:

- The CRA is prioritizing objections inventory related to critical programs, including SR&ED claims.
- Any taxpayer under audit who wishes or needs their SR&ED claim review to proceed may work with their auditor remotely by telephone and through [My Business Account](#) to advance the file as much as possible under the current circumstances.
- If you have questions about the status of your SR&ED claim, click [here](#).
- Should you have questions on other topics such as filing and payment deadlines and proactive relief measures, business owners and self-employed individuals can fill out the [Liaison Officer Service request form](#) to have a liaison officer contact them by phone.

For more information, view: [Changes to taxes and benefits: CRA and COVID-19](#).

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## U.S. DOT emergency special permit authorizing cylinder re-qualification expires June 30: Requests for extension due May 1

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [emergency Special Permit 21025](#) will expire on June 30, 2020. This Special Permit allows the filling and offering for transport certain DOT specification cylinders in hazard class 2.1 and 2.2 that are up to 12 months overdue for periodic requalification.

If your company requested and was granted party status to this Special Permit and you wish to use it beyond the June 30 expiration, you need to request an extension by May 1, 2020, 60 days before the Special Permit expires.

It is not known whether DOT will extend this Special Permit due to their [Notice of Enforcement Discretion](#) issued on April 6. The Notice only applies to hazard class 2.2.

Further details are provided in the Compress Gas Association's [online COVID-19 Industry Toolkit](#), U.S. Government News & Resources.

## Alberta

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Outdoor gathering and physical distancing exemptions for Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Due to the emergency flooding situation, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued an [exemption](#) to the existing COVID-19 gathering restrictions and mandated physical distancing in outdoor spaces for individuals in the Fort McMurray area who are engaged in flood suppression and prevention activities.

It is recommended these individuals wear personal protective equipment, if available. This exemption has been made because the government says communities need the ability to quickly and collectively respond as a community.

### Manitoba

#### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### Manitoba's phased approach to re-opening the economy

[Manitoba will begin a multi-phased effort](#) starting May 4 to gradually restore services while maintaining social distancing and stringent cleaning practices.

#### Phase 1

**May 4:** variety of non-essential health-care and retail businesses will have the option to reopen under strict guidelines. Size restrictions of public and private gatherings of no more than 10 people will remain in place. Travel restrictions will also remain in place such as avoiding all non-essential travel outside of Manitoba, and requirements for self-isolation for 14 days following travel will continue.

#### Phase 2

**Beginning no early than June 1:** most other businesses to open, including additional personal services and restaurants. Critical public health measures and travel restrictions may remain in place. Public gathering sizes may be increased.

**Future phases:** Additional health measures and travel restrictions may be further eased.

### Ontario

#### FINANCIAL AID

## Ontario to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by COVID-19

The Ontario government has launched the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic. 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. The province says it 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.

## Québec

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Québec Emergency Order provides more flexibility for virtual shareholder meetings

Pursuant to the [Public Health Act](#), on April 26, 2020, the Québec Minister of Health and Social Services issued an [order](#) (the Order) providing greater flexibility to hold virtual-only annual general meetings of shareholders for issuers incorporated under the **Business Corporations Act** (Québec) (QBCA).

### Virtual-Only Meetings

With respect to annual shareholder meetings, the Order provides that:

- Any meeting that take place in person may be held by means that enables all members to communicate with each other immediately; and
- When a secret ballot is required, it may be held by any means of communication agreed on by all persons who are entitled to vote or, failing that, by any means enabling both that votes be gathered in a way that they may be verified afterwards and the preservation of the secret nature of the vote.

As [announced](#) by Québec's justice minister (French only), the Order provides additional flexibility for corporations in Quebec looking to hold virtual-only meetings. While Section 175 of the QBCA permits a QBCA incorporated corporation to hold a meeting of shareholders by telephonic or electronic means, this ability is subject to the corporation's by-laws. The Order permits shareholder meetings to be held virtually, regardless of any provision in the corporation's by-laws.

### General

The Order is also aimed at:

- Not-for-profit legal persons incorporated under Part III of the Companies Act (Québec) whose constitution or by-laws prohibit participation in a meeting by technological means;
- Cooperatives for their annual meeting or those whose by-laws do not permit it for a special meeting;
- Partnerships whose partnership agreement prohibits participation in a meeting or assembly by technological means; and
- Professional orders and syndicates of co-ownership.

The Order will be in effect until the end the declared public health emergency or until the Government or the Minister of Health and Social Services modifies or terminates it.

## Other Information

### **Business survey results: revenue cuts for half of Canadian businesses**

Statistics Canada has released the data for the recent business survey conducted in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, [Canadian Survey on Business Conditions](#). The survey asked businesses from across Canada to provide their input on the pandemic's effects on their business – indicating conditions pre-pandemic, current status and looking forward. Over 13,000 businesses completed the survey. For additional information, you can read [the CCC's news release](#) and *La Presse's* analysis of the survey: [Revenue cuts for half of Canadian businesses](#) (via Google translate).

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