



COVID-19

MAY 14, 2020

CPA Virtual Annual General Meeting – June 10, 2020

Due to COVID-19, the **Canadian Propane Association** is holding a virtual AGM on June 10 at **1:15pm EST**. More details to follow next week.

Federal

FINANCIAL AID

\$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses affected by the pandemic

[Applications for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund are now being accepted](#). Close to \$1 billion in funding is being provided to the Regional Development Agencies (\$675 million) and the national network of Community Futures Development Corporations (\$287 million). SMEs may now apply for support through their local Regional Development Agency.

The difference between this program and others announced to date is that regional economic development agencies will have greater flexibility on how and to whom to allocate funding. The government says this added discretion will allow the agencies to help SMEs with differing business models not covered by broadly-based programs like the [Canada Emergency Business Account](#) and [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#).

The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$110 million for Atlantic Canada – [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#)
- \$211 million for Quebec – [Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions](#)
- \$34.3 million for Northern Canada – [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#)
- \$252.4 million for Southern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#)
- \$49.5 million for Northern Ontario – [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario](#)
- \$304.2 million for Western Canada – [Western Economic Diversification Canada](#)

Alberta

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Government launches sector-specific guidelines for reopening

[Alberta has launched its reopening plan](#) but the cities of Calgary and Brooks will reopen more gradually due to the higher case numbers in these two communities.

Businesses allowed to reopen during stage one will be subject to strict infection prevention and control measures, and will be carefully monitored for compliance with public health orders. Other recommendations:

- Wearing non-medical masks is recommended when out in public places where keeping a distance of 2 metres is difficult.
- Remote working is advised where possible.
- Travel outside the province is not recommended.
- Gatherings of 15 people or fewer must follow personal distancing and other public health guidelines.

Stage 1 – Calgary and Brooks

Opening May 14:

- Retail businesses, all vendors at farmers markets
- Museums and art galleries
- Daycares and out-of-school care with limits on occupancy
- Some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries will resume gradually
- Regulated health professions

Opening May 25:

- Hairstyling and barber shops
- Cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars will be permitted to reopen for table service only at 50 per cent capacity

Opening June 1:

- Day camps, including summer school, with limits on occupancy

The government has launched a platform for businesses to connect with government and receive sector-specific public health guidelines for re-opening businesses in the coming weeks:

[Alberta.ca/bizconnect](https://alberta.ca/bizconnect).

A separate website dedicated to addressing the reduction of red tape burdens for businesses in the context of COVID-19, similar to that announced in Ontario last week, will also be launched shortly.

Ontario

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

New legislation will allow for more virtual or remote transactions during COVID-19

During a special sitting of the Ontario Legislature on Tuesday, May 12, the Declaration of Emergency was extended until June 2. A full list of emergency orders can be found on [the e-Laws website](#), under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

The House also passed the [COVID-19 Response and Reforms to Modernize Ontario Act, 2020](#), which will help people conduct business while practising physical distancing and includes:

- Enabling corporations to call and hold meetings virtually, as applicable, and extending the time period in which annual meetings must be held in specific circumstances;
- Allowing electronic filing of business registration documents, and the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to accept copies of business registration documents and e-signatures;
- Allowing for regulations to set out the parameters for remotely commissioning or notarizing a document.

These changes are effective as of May 15, 2020.

Questions about legislative amendments related to copies of documents, electronic signatures on documents, and electronic filing of documents can be directed Andrew Bonisteel, Manager, Company and Personal Property Policy and Regulatory Services at Andrew.Bonisteel2@ontario.ca or (416) 566-5836.

You may wish to visit the following pages for additional information:

- [Bill 190, COVID-19 Response and Reforms to Modernize Ontario Act, 2020](#)
- [Legislative changes to support corporations and businesses](#)
- [Personal Property Security Act \(PPSA\)](#)

Québec

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

End of exemption from driving and rest time rules

Given the gradual recovery of activities in Québec, services in the transportation industry are gradually returning to normal. Consequently, to prevent fatigue at the wheel and reduce the risk of accidents, [the exemption provided for in the Regulation respecting the hours of driving and rest periods for drivers of heavy vehicles in the event of a disaster or pandemic will no longer apply.](#)

All owners, operators and drivers of heavy vehicles will therefore be required to comply with the regulatory obligations related to driving and off-duty hours as of Saturday, May 16 (12:01 a.m.), regardless of the type of cargo they are transporting. The hours worked by a driver during the exemption period will have to be counted from that time on. Since the vehicle they drive will no longer be subject to an exemption, their driving hours will have to be counted as part of their work cycle. It is important that the driver takes the necessary rest periods to ensure compliance with the applicable regulations and, therefore, with the planned work cycle. These measures are intended to maintain safe roads.

However, the situation surrounding COVID-19 is still evolving. In certain circumstances, it is possible that the services of some carriers may still be required to assist during the pandemic. If this is the case, contact the Forensic Science and Vehicle Safety Branch for more information. You can do so by telephone at 581 990-8214 or 418 528-3214, or by e-mail at desv@saaq.gouv.qc.ca.

A [frequently asked questions](#) section has been set up on the [Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec website](#). It is updated regularly to answer your questions and concerns.

Traffic exemption of large road trains over the holidays

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of health emergency, the Ministry of Transportation has suspended the obligation to refrain from driving over the next few statutory holidays: May 18, June 24 and July 1, 2020, which would normally be imposed on the driver of overlength road trains (large combination vehicles) under paragraph 3 of section 9 of the LCV Special Permit Regulation (chapter C 24.2, r. 36). For more information, consult the [Ministry of Transportation website](#).

Extra time for mechanical checks

The [Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec](#) has reassessed the time frames granted to perform annual or semi-annual periodic mechanical inspections.

As previously announced, a deadline was granted until May 31 for mechanical inspections and preventive maintenance that were due in March and April. A one-month extension was also granted for those expiring in May, which must be completed by June 30. Owners are encouraged to keep their current sticker, even if it has expired. There is no time limit at this stage for mechanical checks due in June - they must therefore be done before June 30, as is normal.

The latest information is published daily on the [SAAQ's website](#). [A document](#) to keep in your vehicle regarding these measures is also available on the SAAQ website. If you already have it, you are advised to download it again as changes have recently been made.

Other

NGLs Emerge as 'Small Silver Lining' for U.S. Producers Amid Coronavirus Pandemic, Oil Downturn

"Natural gas liquids production in the United States could prove a relative bright spot in an otherwise grim run for the energy sector..."

Written by Kevin Dobbs. *NGI's Daily Gas Price Index*, May 13, 2020

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