



# COVID-19

JUNE 1, 2020

## CPA Annual General Meeting – June 10, 2020

Due to COVID-19, the **Canadian Propane Association is holding its AGM on June 10 at 1:15 pm EST via teleconference call**. If you have not received an invite to the AGM and are a member in good standing with the CPA and wish to attend, please contact Sherri Clair at [sherrclair@propane.ca](mailto:sherrclair@propane.ca) or 613-513-5800.

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### Federal

#### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance for small businesses

A reminder that all commercial landlords can now apply for rental assistance to help their small business tenants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CECRA for small businesses, administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provides forgivable loans to eligible commercial landlords to help cover 50 per cent of commercial rent for tenants for the months of April, May and June 2020. The tenant will be responsible for covering up to 25 per cent of rent, so that up to 75 per cent of the rent is covered.

To receive the forgivable loan, eligible commercial landlords will be required to enter into a rent reduction agreement with their impacted small business tenants for April to June 2020, which includes committing to a moratorium on evictions for three months.

To learn more and apply for the CECRA for small businesses, visit the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's \(CMHC\) application portal](#). 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 and June 2020.

The Ontario government has also contributed \$241 million to the program, which will provide more than \$900 million in support for small businesses across Ontario. For more information, visit the [Ontario Government website](#).

## Ontario

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### New Regulation to protect employees from permanent layoffs and businesses from potential closures

The Ontario government says it is taking steps to help ensure that as the economy gradually and safely reopens workers will have jobs to return to and businesses will be protected from incurring unsustainable termination costs. Today, [the government announced that it has enacted a new regulatory amendment](#) that will put non-unionized employees on [Infectious Disease Emergency Leave](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19. This will ensure businesses aren't forced to terminate employees after their ESA temporary layoff periods have expired.

Terminations triggered when temporary layoffs exceed the permitted length under the *Employment Standards Act* can result in costly payouts which, for many businesses, could be the difference between survival and closure. Under the new regulatory change to the *Employment Standards Act*, non-unionized employees who have had their hours reduced or eliminated because of the pandemic will be deemed to be on Infectious Disease Emergency Leave. Workers will remain employed with legal protections and be eligible for federal emergency income support programs.

Many businesses had to close or reduce operations to comply with emergency orders necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19. According to Statistics Canada, 379,000 Ontario workers were temporarily laid off in April 2020, an increase of 2,496 per cent compared with one year earlier.

The regulatory amendment applies retroactively to March 1, 2020 and will expire six weeks after the declared emergency ends. The regulatory amendments do not include employees represented by a trade union.

The government is also supporting people and businesses by providing billions of dollars in deferrals and relief. That includes deferring \$1.9 billion in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board premium payments until August 31, 2020, \$10 billion in interest and penalty relief, and other deferrals to improve cash flow, protect jobs and help household budgets.

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### FINANCIAL AID

#### Electricity rate relief measures

The government has introduced a fixed electricity price, known as the [COVID-19 Recovery Rate](#), of 12.8 cents per kWh. This fixed electricity price will be in place from June 1 - October 31, 2020. The

COVID-19 Recovery Rate of 12.8¢/kWh is based on the average cost of electricity and is set by the Ontario Energy Board.

The CPA will also be asking for similar reprieve for the propane sector. CPA members and staff will be meeting with the Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, this week regarding the issue.

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## **Amendments to the Global Adjustment Regulation: Charges for customers that are not on the regulated price plan**

The Ontario Energy Board has issued a [letter](#) to provide an overview of amendments made by the Government of Ontario to the regulation governing the Global Adjustment (O. Reg. 429/04) to account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter also provides answers to some frequently asked questions related to the Industrial Conservation Initiative.

## **Prince Edward Island**

### **ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

## **Re-opening schedule – What affects the propane industry**

The province of [PEI is re opening slowly](#). See below for scheduled openings relevant to the propane industry:

Public safety courses	Charlottetown	June 15
Building and development permits	31 Gordon Drive, Access PEI Summerside, O'Leary and Montague	June 15
Septic / site suitability applications and licensing		
Subdivision applications		
Boiler inspections	31 Gordon Drive and Access PEI Summerside	June 15
Electrical permits and licensing		
Plumbing permits and licensing		
LP gas permits and licensing	31 Gordon Drive	June 15
Mechanical contracts		
Ozone depleting substance licensing		
Power engineer licensing		
Underground storage tank		
Welding/brazer registration and licensing		

## New Brunswick

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### Two new cases; Zone 5 remains orange

Public Health reported two new cases of COVID-19 today, including one case involving an employee at a long-term care facility in the Campbellton region, located in zone 5. As a result, [Zone 5 transitioned back to Orange level](#) on Wednesday under the province's COVID-19 recovery plan.

The following rules apply to Zone 5 only:

- A two-household bubble is permitted. Your household can join up with one other household, if both households mutually agree. You must not have close contact with anyone else. You cannot join up with more than one household or bubble.
- Non-regulated health professionals and businesses such as acupuncturists and naturopaths cannot operate at this time.
- Personal services businesses such as barbers, hair stylists, spas, estheticians, manicurists, pedicurists, and tattoo artists cannot operate at this time.

All other zones in New Brunswick will remain at the current Yellow level. During this time, Public Health measures and guidelines must still be followed. As a result of the outbreak, activities previously scheduled to be permitted on May 29 will be delayed by one week to June 5. This will allow time to determine the extent of the current outbreak.

The activities being delayed are:

- Outdoor public gatherings of 50 people or fewer.
- Indoor religious services, including weddings and funerals, of 50 people or fewer.
- Low-contact team sports.

Openings being delayed include:

- swimming pools, saunas and waterparks
- gyms, yoga and dance studios
- rinks and indoor recreational facilities
- pool halls and bowling alleys

## Other

### **WEBINAR: How to adapt your business to thrive in the new normal**

Join **BDC advisory services** experts on June 15 at 12:00 p.m. ET as they present a step-by-step approach to managing risks, creating contingency plans and equipping your business with a strategic vision that takes into account the changed landscape. The **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** will present the results of the Canadian Survey on Business Conditions and will discuss how businesses of all sizes are adapting and innovating during this crisis.

Click [here](#) to register.

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