

COVID-19 Business Support Measures – Updated January 18, 2021 –

Mining Industry Human Resources Council

Gearing Up

Provides mining employers a wage subsidy up to \$7,500 who create work-integrated learning opportunities for post-secondary students such as co-ops, internships, field placements, applied projects, capstone projects or case competitions. The program has reached the maximum number of placements for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 terms. Applications are currently being accepted for Summer placements, beginning in April 2021.

Government of Canada

The Government of Canada's COVID-19 website features Canada's Economic Response Plan, including a Support to Businesses section outlining support measures. Announcements include:

- New measures to support Canada's energy sector, including \$1.7 billion to clean up orphan wells in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and establishing a \$750 million emission-reduction fund to create jobs in efforts to cut pollution – including \$75 million to help the offshore industry cut emissions in Newfoundland and Labrador. The government is also working with BDC and EDC to expand credit support for at-risk medium-sized energy companies so they can maintain operations and keep employees.
- A temporary salary top-up for low-income essential workers with \$3 billion in federal support. Each province/territory will determine eligible workers and how much support they receive.
- Creation of a new industry strategy council to support specific sectors affected by the pandemic.
- A PPE supply hub to ensure organizations and businesses they keep themselves and others safe.
- \$98 million in funding over five years to renew the Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals program and the Targeted Geoscience Initiative. The proposed investment will anchor the Pan-Canadian Geoscience Strategy under the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP).
- The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses and 90% for companies that need to shut down. A replacement to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program, it is set to allow businesses to apply through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)

- The EDC BCAP Guarantee provides businesses with additional credit.

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

- Provides interest-free loans up to \$60,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits. Repaying the loan balance by December 31, 2022, will result in loan forgiveness of 33% (up to \$20,000).
- Interested businesses should contact their current financial institutions for more information.

Canadian Business Resilience Network (CBRN)

- A partnership between the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Government of Canada to provide a coordinated, business-led, inclusive campaign that will focus on providing businesses the tools they need to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

[Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program](#)

- **The application process for CECRA has ended.** The program provided relief for small businesses who experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19.

[Canadian Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#)

- **The CERB has ended.**

[Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#)

- Applications for claim period 9 (October 25, 2020, to November 21, 2020) are now open, a wage calculator is available to help employers prepare to apply, and eligibility criteria and CEWS specifics are available at the above link.
- [Changes were recently announced](#), including the subsidy being extended to June 2021.

[Canada Recovery Benefit \(CRB\)](#)

- For employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. Applicants can receive \$1,000 (\$900 after taxes withheld) for a two-week period up to a total of 26 weeks between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

[Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit \(CRCB\)](#)

- For employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care due to COVID-19. A household can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period. Applicants need to reapply if the situation continues past a week. Applications may total 26 weeks between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

[Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit \(CRSB\)](#)

- For employed and self-employed individuals unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19 or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19. Applicants can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for a one-week period. Two weeks can be applied for between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

[Insured Mortgage Purchase Program \(IMPP\)](#)

- To ensure continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses – expanded from the \$50 billion announced March 16 to the government now ready to purchase up to \$150 billion of insured mortgage pools through the CMHC.

[Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility \(LEEFF\)](#)

- [The enquiry form is now available.](#)
- Provides companies with annual revenues of \$300 million or higher that have “larger financing needs” access to loans of up to \$60 million per company and guarantees of up to \$80 million.
- Applicants must also have “significant operations or workforce in Canada.”
- International organizational structure and financing arrangements will be taken into consideration.
- Each business will have to demonstrate some degree of environmental commitment and vow to report annually on its climate and sustainability initiatives.

Protecting jobs and safe operations of junior mining exploration and other flow-through share issuers

- A proposed timeline extension for spending the capital junior mining exploration companies raise via flow-through shares by 12 months, providing additional time to incur eligible expenses, safely plan when to best continue operations and avoid costs from not meeting original flow-through share timelines.

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

- \$962 million in support to businesses and communities to mitigate financial pressure to allow organizations to continue their operations, including paying their employees – and to prepare for a successful recovery.
- Implemented by the six regional development agencies – which are familiar with their regions' economic realities and are often the first point of contact for people at the local level.

Support for Youth

- Student Work Placement Program
 - Supporting an additional 20,000 job placements for post-secondary students in high demand sectors.
 - Strengthened federal labour standards for WIL were announced September 1.
- 500 green jobs and training opportunities ranging from six months to a year in length are being made available in the energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology sectors.
- The federal government will also:
 - Create 5,000 new internships through Mitacs for college and university students with small and medium-sized businesses. Funding of \$40 million will also help develop partnerships with new industries and offer internships to students in more areas of study.
 - Increase funding to the Digital Skills for Youth program by \$40 million to help post-secondary graduates gain work experience through wage subsidy opportunities.
 - Create over 3,500 new job placements and internships through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. New funding of \$34 million, in addition to the over \$153 million announced on April 22, will support programs serving high-demand sectors such as health, community services, and information technology, and help other sectors to recover.
 - Create 5,000 to 10,000 more work-integrated learning opportunities through the Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER). BHER launched the Canada Comeback Challenge for students to develop solutions in response to current and future sector needs – helping connect small and medium-sized businesses with the next generation of talent.
 - Invest \$291.6 million to extend scholarships, fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships and grants for three or four months.
 - Broaden eligibility for financial assistance and raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-2021 from \$210 to \$350.
 - Provide \$75.2 million in support to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.
 - Double student grants up to \$6,000 for full time students and \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-2021. Grants are also being doubled for students with permanent disabilities and those with dependents.

[Workforce Development Agreements Program \(WDA\)](#)

- An investment of \$1.5 billion in the WDAs was announced November 13, 2020, to help underrepresented groups and those in sectors that have been hardest hit by the pandemic access supports to re-enter the workforce – including skills training and employment counselling.

[Work-Sharing Program](#)

- Effective to March 14, 2021, a maximum duration of 76 weeks is offered to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond employer control.

[Call to Action: Canadian Manufacturers Needed to Help Combat COVID-19](#)

Canadian manufacturer or business are being asked to assist in meeting the need for medical supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) that can be re-tooled for medical needs.

Provincial and Territorial COVID-19 Websites Outlining Employment Provisions

COVID-19 Website	Employment
Alberta	Alberta's relaunch strategy Support for employers and employees
British Columbia	BC's Restart Plan Support for businesses BC Emergency Benefit for Workers
Manitoba	Manitoba's roadmap to expanding services safely Support for businesses
New Brunswick	New Brunswick's Recovery Plan Support measures for businesses
Newfoundland & Labrador	Alert Level System Information for employers and employees
Northwest Territories	Emerging Wisely – Path to Eased Public Health Restrictions Information for employers and businesses
Nova Scotia	Reopening Nova Scotia Support for businesses
Nunavut	Nunavut's Path: moving forward during COVID-19
Ontario	Reopening Ontario Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19
Prince Edward Island	Support for businesses
Quebec	Emergency support for small and medium- sized businesses, the Concerted temporary action program for businesses, and Incentive program to retain essential workers.
Saskatchewan	Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan Support for businesses
Yukon	Plan for lifting Yukon's COVID-19 restrictions Support for businesses