



# COVID-19 : AVAILABLE RESOURCES

*We're here for you!*

## A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

It has been an understandably worrisome time for the members of our community. Over the past few weeks, many of you have reached out to my office for information and support, and it's important we keep that contact strong now more than ever! I hear and share your concerns, and I remain convinced that we will get through this difficult time together.

Our Government has a robust plan to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish to share with you all the measures put in place to help and assist Canadians and businesses throughout the country.

My team and I are here for you if you need support. Let's stay united while, at the same time, being careful!

**Marie-Claude Bibeau**



- Federal and provincial responsibilities - p.2
- Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan - p.3
- Flexibility for Canadian tax payers - p.4
- Support for Canadians - p.5
- Support for workers - p.7
- Canadian travellers abroad- p.10
- Support for businesses and organizations - p.11
- Mobilize the industry to fight COVID-19 - p.13
- Support farmers - p.14
- Canada - United States of America - p.15
- Showing solidarity with our Compton-Stanstead community - p.16
- Best sanitary practices - p.17

# FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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Both levels of government, federal and provincial, share the same priority: to guarantee the health and safety of its citizens.

While the role of delivering Health services is largely a provincial responsibility, the Federal Government's role is to help the provinces deliver these services through financial support. In 2019, Quebec received \$25 Billion from Ottawa to help provide health services to Quebecers. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, an additional \$500 million has been transferred by the Federal Government to the provinces and territories for support.

At the Federal level, our role is more over-arching and concentrates on pan-Canadian and international approaches.

- With regards to health, we are investing in research and in science to help find a vaccine, and we are helping provinces and territories provide medical supplies.
- We are putting in place measures to support businesses, our jobs and the Canadian economy.
- We are monitoring our borders to ensure the security of Canadians across the country, without compromising Canadians who are outside the country or impacting international commerce or our food security.

# CANADA'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN

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Our government's Economic Response plan will provide up to **\$27 billion dollars** in direct support to Canadians and businesses. In this info-letter, I am presenting to you different ways that we can help you in dealing with the challenges brought by COVID-19.

To find out more, you can consult the following link : <https://bit.ly/33N9dCs>.

# FLEXIBILITY FOR CANADIAN TAXPAYERS

Taxpayers will have until September 1, 2020 to pay any 2019 income tax amounts owed. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this extension period.

For individuals, the return filing due date will be deferred until **June 1, 2020**.

However, individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GST Rebate, the Canada Child Benefit or the Federal Old Age Supplement are encouraged to not delay the filing of their return to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-21 benefit year are properly determined.

To learn more, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WCEGWj> or phone **1-800-959-7775** (from Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM).

	FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL
Filing due date for 2019 tax return	June 1	June 1
Recommended date for 2019 tax return	April 30	April 30
Due date to pay 2019 income tax	August 31	July 31

# SUPPORT FOR CANADIANS

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## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

For the 12,000 families of Compton-Stanstead who are receiving the Canadian Child Benefit, you will receive \$300 more, per child, for the month of May.

For more information, consult the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/3aesDSR>.

## SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

In recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors' retirement savings, the Government of Canada is reducing required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020. This will provide financial flexibility to seniors.

For more information, consult the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/2UfdYBk>

## GST/HST REBATE

For people making a low or modest income receiving the GST rebate, you will receive a **one-time special payment** by May. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.

For more information, consult the following link:  
<https://bit.ly/2WCEGWj>.

# SUPPORT FOR CANADIANS

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## FLEXIBILITY FOR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS

The six biggest financial institutions have committed to working with customers and businesses to provide flexible solutions in dealing with challenges brought upon by COVID-19.

This support could include up to a 6-month payment deferral for mortgages and the opportunity for relief on other credit products.

To learn more, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3diTlqd>.

## WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND HOMELESSNESS

People facing homelessness and those providing services to support them are among the most vulnerable. The Government of Canada is providing the Reaching Home initiative with **\$150 million** to continue to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak.

For more information, please consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2J9aVnZ>.

We are supporting women and children fleeing violence, by providing up to **\$50 million** to women's shelters and sexual assault centres to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities.

For more information on this subject, consult the following link : <https://bit.ly/3doQEbZ>.

# SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

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## EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Canadians in imposed quarantine may submit a claim for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits.

To support Canadians affected by COVID-19 Service Canada is taking the following measures:

- The Government is **waiving the one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits for new individuals** who are quarantined so as to ensure that they are paid that first week;
- For Canadians without paid sick leave (or similar workplace accommodation) who are sick, quarantined or forced to stay home to care for children, the Government is waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits;
- For individuals who cannot submit an application due to having been quarantined, it's possible to submit your application at a later date and to see the date of your employment insurance adjusted so as to cover the desired period.

If you are admissible and you wish to submit a claim, visit the Employment Insurance sickness benefits page: <https://bit.ly/3afHOvl>.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3domnKu> or phone **1-833-381-2725** (toll free).

# SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

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## EMERGENCY CARE BENEFIT

The new Emergency Care Benefit providing up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks, will be put in place as of April.

This flat-payment Benefit will provide income support to:

- Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school or daycare closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.

For more information, consul the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WCEGWj>.

# SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

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## EMERGENCY SUPPORT BENEFIT

For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours as a result of COVID-19's impact, the Government is introducing an **Emergency Support Benefit** to provide up to \$5 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment.

Whether you are **an independent worker, an independent entrepreneur or an individual enterprise**, if you don't have access to employment insurance, you will have access to the Emergency Support Benefit.

The measure is aimed for the beginning of April.

For more information, please see the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WCEGWj>.

## WORK SHARE PROGRAM

The **EI Work Sharing Program** helps employers and employees to avoid lay-offs due to a diminution of normal work activity beyond their control.

The program offers revenue support to employees admissible for employment insurance who reduce temporarily their work week.

The maximum amount of time allowable in this Work Sharing Program has increased from **38 to 76 weeks** to help businesses affected by reduced activity due to COVID-19.

For more information, consult the following link <https://bit.ly/3drmEw0> or phone (toll free) sans frais le **1-800-367-5693**.

# CANADIAN TRAVELLERS ABROAD

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## CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

Canadians abroad are encouraged to come back to Canada using commercial flights while they are still available.

If you are outside the country, the first thing to do is to register with Global Affairs Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>. Doing so will allow the Government to know where to find you and how to communicate useful information to you.

For more information, contact the closest embassy or consulate through this page: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates> or by following their Facebook page or their Twitter account.

If you need **urgent** consular assistance, contact the Emergency Watch and Response Centre by phone at **1-613-996-8885** (at reverse charges if the service is available) or by email at [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To help Canadians abroad return home, the Government of Canada is creating a special financial assistance program, the **COVID-19 Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad**.

With this program, Canadians abroad who are directly impacted by COVID-19 will have the option of applying for an emergency loan of up to \$5,000 to help secure their timely return to Canada and to temporarily cover their life-sustaining needs while they work towards their return.

People can communicate directly with the closest embassy or consulate (<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates>), or contact the Emergency Watch and Response Centre by phone at **1-613-996-8885** (at reverse charges if the service is available) or by email at [CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca](mailto:CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca) to ask for this financial assistance.

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## TEMPORARY WAGE SUBSIDY

In order to support small businesses, charitable and nonprofit organizations as well as certain private societies under Canadian control that are facing revenue losses, a **temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months** will be given.

This measure will allow admissible employers to reduce the remittances of income tax withheld at the source that is given to the Canada Revenue Agency.

### How much is the subsidy?

The subsidy will be equal to **10% of salaries** paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

### How do you calculate the subsidy?

You will be required to manually calculate the subsidy, depending on your individual circumstances.

### How will you receive your subsidy?

Once you have calculated your subsidy, you can reduce your current remittance of federal, provincial, or territorial income tax you send to Canada Revenue Agency by the amount of the subsidy.

You cannot reduce your remittance of Canada Pension Plan contributions or Employment Insurance premiums.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2WCEGWj>.

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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## **BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY PROGRAM**

The **Business Credit Availability Program** will provide more than **\$10 billion** in direct lending and other types of financial support through Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (<https://bit.ly/2UnkIMp>).

For Export Development Canada, consult the following link <https://bit.ly/33I8RwY>, contact **1-800-229-0575** or send an email to [tradeadvisor-conseiller@edc.ca](mailto:tradeadvisor-conseiller@edc.ca).

For the Business Development Bank of Canada, consult the following link <https://bit.ly/2QIXRdo> or contact **1-877-232-2269**.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

To find all the governmental programs supporting small businesses, **visit** the following link: <https://bit.ly/2xmVWEA>. This website will be regularly updated as the situation evolves.

**Download** the Canada Business app (<https://bit.ly/3agIWQf>) to find support adapted to your specific needs and for answers to specific questions on COVID-19.

**Consult** the Pandemic Preparedness Business Guide (<http://www.chamber.ca/resources/pandemic-preparedness/>) of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to help you in the upcoming days and weeks.

# MOBILIZE INDUSTRY TO FIGHT COVID-19

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Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19 aims to bring together Canadian businesses to develop products made in Canada that will help in the fight against COVID-19.

These products could include essential health and safety supplies and equipment such as:

- Sanitization products;
- Personal protective equipment;
- Diagnostic and testing products;
- Disease tracking technology.

Consult the list of products and services required by the federal government in its fight against COVID-19 by visiting the following link: <https://bit.ly/33G9GWL>.

For further information, contact **TPSGC.PABPMEClient-APOSMEClient.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca**

# SUPPORT FARMERS

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Short term credit offered to producers and to the agri-food sector will be increased through Farm Credit Canada. FCC will receive **\$5 billion** that will help support our producers, agribusinesses, and food processors.

For more information, consult the following link: <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/fr/covid-19.html> or phone **1-888-332-3301**.

## ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

All eligible farmers who have an outstanding **Advance Payment Program** loan due on or before April 30 will receive a Stay of Default, allowing them an additional **six months** to repay the loan.

For more information, consult: <https://bit.ly/2vN7Alk>.

## TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

Temporary foreign workers do an important job in maintaining our country and contributing to our economy. Among other things, they allow our agricultural businesses to be able to feed Canadians.

Seasonal agricultural workers will be **exempt** from the current travel restrictions. They will, nonetheless, have to follow the protocol for medical verifications before travelling. Once they arrive to Canada, **they will also have to self-isolate for 14 days**.

A temporary modification has been brought to the Labor Market Impact Assessment process for employees in the agricultural and food sectors. Therefore, the recruitment period of two weeks has been cancelled for the next six months.

For more information, please consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3aeN9ml>.

# CANADA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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## **BORDER WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States and Canada are temporarily restricting **non essential crossings** at our borders. Non-essential crossings are those done for touristic and recreational reasons.

We are all aware of the importance the border has for our region. The supply chain, including that which relies on trucking, will not be affected by this new measure. Canadians and Americans who cross the border for essential work or for other essential reasons will not be impacted.

This decision was taken on March 21, 2020 and will be valid for 30 days. After that, it will be reexamined by both countries.

## **ROXHAM ROAD**

The Prime Minister announced a mutual agreement with the United States in which all irregular migrants who attempt to cross the border will be sent back to the United States.

This measure will be in place for 30 days. After that, it will be reexamined by both countries.

For more information on this issue, please consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/33EzySW>.

# SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH OUR COMPTON-STANSTEAD COMMUNITY

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One of my biggest concerns is the availability of human resources throughout the food chain.

Our community needs more producers, truck drivers, employees in our food processing plants, in grocery stores and many other places. Volunteers are also needed for our food banks and meals on wheels. All of these people are essential to our food security, but like all of us, they are vulnerable to illness and responsible for their loved ones.

I am sending out a call for help. While taking all the necessary precautions, why not offer your services to our Compton-Stanstead businesses and organizations? All of these employers are adapting their practices to this new reality in order to continue to feed the population while protecting their employees and volunteers.

Most importantly, please remember to thank our healthcare professionals as well as those in public safety and the food sector for their incredible work!

# BEST SANITARY PRACTICES

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To have up-to-date information concerning the coronavirus, we invite you to contact:

- The Canadian Government Website : <https://bit.ly/2QFBAwY>
- Phone **1-833-347-4397** (toll free).

If ever you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), contact **1-877-644-4545** (toll free).

For more information on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the **workplace**, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3adWvz3>.



Public health experts recommend that we:

- Limit our contact with other people by practicing social distancing;
- Frequently wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if we don't have access to water and soap;
- Cough and sneeze in a tissue or in the crux of our arm
- Avoid touching our eyes, nose or mouth if we haven't previously washed our hands;
- Use approved sanitizers to clean hard surfaces;
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched (telephones, door handles, etc...)

To learn more on risk prevention, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Uv9d5M> or send an email to [phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca).