

COVID 19 CARE PACKAGE:

Canadian Government Support & Other Resources for Businesses

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ATLANTIC

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a rapidly evolving global challenge. In addition to the health risks posed to Canadians by COVID-19, businesses operations and supply chains are particularly vulnerable as the disease spreads across borders. In response to COVID-19, federal, provincial and municipal government departments and agencies have launched a series funding programs, supports, resources and other announcements meant to assist Canadian businesses and their employees during this difficult time. EDC's Export Help Team has assembled the following care package of information on the many new and revised programs and supports available to Canadian businesses, as well as other critical advisories relating to trade and travel.

FEDERAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- [Canada's COVID-19's Economic Response Plan](#) is the Government of Canada's set of immediate, significant and decisive economic measures to help stabilize the economy and provide **support to Canadian workers and businesses**. These measures include:
 - **Temporary and Longer-Term Income Support for Workers**
 - **Temporary Wage Subsidy** to help businesses keep their workers
 - **Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes**
 - **Extended Access to Credit and Funding for Businesses** through:
 - Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) which will provide additional financing to the private sector through the [Business Development Bank of Canada \(BDC\)](#) and [Export Development Canada \(EDC\)](#).
 - [The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions](#) (OSFI)'s measures to increase the lending capacity of Canada's large banks.
 - The Bank of Canada's financial measures to support a key funding market for SMEs at a time when they may have increased funding needs.
 - **Supporting Financial Market Liquidity**, and other measures.

- [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) is responsible for managing and delivering the following programs to protect employees' health and help them keep their jobs during COVID-19 situation:
 - **Employment Insurance (EI)**
 - **Labour Program and federally regulated workplaces**
 - **Work-Sharing Program**
- For the benefit of your business and workers, you are encouraged to contact *Service Canada* at **1-800-OCanada (1-800-622-6232)** for more information on additional government support available to you.

REGIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- The [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#) (ACOA) is a regional economic development agency (RDA) monitoring the COVID-19 global challenge and the potential impact it could have on business and workers, as well as the broader economy.
 - The RDAs can assist SMEs or organizations affected by the impact of COVID-19 with **access to federal funding to help you stay in business, advice and pathfinding service to other federal programs and support**. Please refer to this [Info Sheet](#) for more information.
 - For assistance, please contact [ACOA officers](#) by selecting the nearest location to your business or organization.
- The **Government of Nova Scotia** has a dedicated page for [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). See the section on *Advice for employers and community groups*.
- The **Government of New Brunswick** has a dedicated page for [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). See their section on [COVID-19 Guidance for Businesses](#)
- The **Government of Prince Edward Island** has a dedicated page for [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). See the section on [COVID-19 Facts for Employers](#). For PEI business with questions about COVID-19, call 1-866-222-1751.
- The **Government of Newfoundland and Labrador** has a dedicated page for [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

The following guides will help your business prepare for and manage through a potential COVID-19 escalation in Canada:

- **Business travel and movement of goods:**
 - Please refer to the Government of Canada's [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Travel Advice](#), which lists an official global travel advisory in effect: **Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada** until further notice.
 - As of March 16, 2020, all travelers entering Canada are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days. However, there are [exemptions for workers who are essential to the movement of goods and people](#) (e.g. healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector, healthy people who have to cross the border to go to work, etc.).



- **U.S. Travel:**
 - *The U.S. Department of Homeland Security* has information on [COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) which includes details which foreign nationals and countries are impacted by these restrictions. According to the recent update, Canada is not on the list, but we highly recommend that you refer to the DHS's website for further updates.
 - **DHS travel restrictions also do not apply to air and maritime cargo arriving into the U.S.**
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has a guide on [Pandemic Preparedness for Business](#), which is compiled based on best practice documents and designed to assist business planning and continuity efforts.
- BDC has a guide for [Business continuity plan and templates for entrepreneurs](#).
 - See also their guide on [8 steps for planning your emergency and disaster plan](#).
- Deloitte has recently released a helpful guide on [Managing Supply Chain Risk and Disruption](#) arising from COVID-19.
- EDC's resource on [How to manage business risk during the COVID-19 crisis](#) provides additional information and guidance.

SUPPORT FOR EXPORTERS

The resources below will help explain how Canadian exporters can be prepared to take on the risk of doing business in rapidly changing international markets due to COVID-19:

- The Trade Commissioner Service has prepared a guide on [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Resources for Canadian businesses](#) as a helpful starting point to refer to for information and support on making informed decisions as your business navigates through these challenges.
- EDC recently hosted a webinar on [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Managing the impact on global supply chains](#), which provides information on how the coronavirus is affecting global trade and how your company can be protected.
- **Grants for businesses**
 - [CanExport for SMEs](#) is a funding program offered by the Canadian Government that allows Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to apply online for up to **\$75,000** in funding to reimburse up to 75% of eligible expenses associated with entering a "new" export market where the applicant company has no or minimal business. For example, [eligible expenses](#) can include the **cost of business advice specifically related to the target market(s)**.
 - ***For companies that have already applied or planning on applying, please review the [impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on CanExport](#).***
 - See the [Applicant's Guide](#) and [Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) to learn more about this program. *Please review carefully the [eligibility criteria](#) to ensure your company qualifies before going through the application process.*
 - For more specific questions about the application process, please contact the CanExport team directly at CanExportSMEs@international.gc.ca.



- The [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#) has several programs, including a [supporting export program](#) and the [Atlantic Innovation Fund](#), to help businesses grow their business and expand their markets. Contact the [office closest to you](#).
- To find other grants and funding programs, [Innovation Canada](#) online search tool by the Canadian government allows companies to search for relevant funding. Answer a few questions to filter for programs of interest.
 - Get one-on-one guidance about funding programs from an [Innovation Advisor](#) by calling 1-855-534-8433.

