



AB GOVERNMENT COVID 19 RESPONSE

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Constituency

Current Provincial Resources

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

Support for Employers - <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-financial-support-for-businesses-and-organizations.aspx#toc-1>

Supports for Albertans - <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>

Government of Alberta's response to the COVID-19 - WebEx meetings will be held at 3pm on Tuesdays and Fridays to provide information on the Government of Alberta's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are a forum to share input and questions with government and to improve situational awareness with business and community. To request an invitation, contact BizConnect@gov.ab.ca

Information on Alberta Employment Standards for layoffs and terminations -

<https://www.alberta.ca/temporary-layoffs.aspx> <https://www.alberta.ca/Layoff-and-recall-directive.aspx>

Income Support Program: Depending on your needs and situation you may be eligible to receive assistance through Alberta's Income Support program: <https://www.alberta.ca/income-support.aspx>

Canada Alberta Job Grant – Deadlines for current approved grants are extended by 3 months. Training can start within 9 months of grant approval and must be completed within 15 months of the training start date. If a course is postponed, contact the CAJG to update your file. If a course is cancelled, contact CAJG to withdraw. If you plan to re-apply for a course at a later date, get a refund from the provider or institution, not a credit. Grant applications and training completion forms may take longer to process. If you have questions, email: jobgrant@gov.ab.ca <https://www.alberta.ca/canada-alberta-job-grant.aspx>

Alberta Agriculture Job Connector - <https://www.alberta.ca/agriculture-job-connector.aspx> (a matching of workers with employers to fill Agriculture and Agri-foods jobs)

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Products to Markets – Small Projects Program :

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/MARKETS_SMALL (to support growth of Alberta's agricultural industries by supporting the development of New Products and/or Processes, commercialization of products in New Markets, and expansion into local, domestic and international markets.)

OHS/eNews - Receive a monthly e-newsletter with the latest Occupational Health and Safety news and events. This includes special editions of eNews providing the latest developments regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic. Subscribe [here](#)

Free Webinars – For farmers and direct producers:

- **May 5th: Local Food Channels-** an Overview and Webiner series To register click [here](#)
- **May 7th Selling Food in Alberta? Know the Regulations.** To register Click [here](#)

Weekly updates on the Provincial Economy - For April 17 2020:

- [Weekly Economic Review](#)
- [Alberta Economy - Indicators at a Glance](#)
- [Click here to access the data in the Weekly Economic Review in Excel format.](#)
- <https://www.alberta.ca/economic-outlook-analysis-statistics.aspx>



Municipal and Business Resources:

- <https://lamontcounty.ca/>
- <https://www.fortsask.ca/en/living-here/covid-19.aspx#>
- <https://www.fortsaskchamber.com/>
- <https://www.vegreville.com/>
- <https://vegrevillechamber.com/>
- <https://www.townoftwohills.com/>
- <https://mannville.com/>
- <http://www.bruderheim.ca/>
- <https://www.minburncounty.ab.ca/>
- <https://www.sturgeoncounty.ca/COVID19#27187-programs>
- <https://www.mundare.ca/>
- <https://www.innisfree.ca/>
- <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/news/covid19/>

Federal Programs

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) – a reminder that you have to apply for this every month and not just once to get four payments. \$2000/month for up to four months for those that have lost their income due to COVID-19. Update as of Friday is that you can now earn up to \$1000 per month and still qualify. For full details and to apply go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#start>

New Federal Programs

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy: To help businesses keep and return workers to their payroll through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government approved the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. This would provide a 75% wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020. The program provides up to \$847 per week per employee between March 15 and June 6. Eligible employers will also receive a 100% refund for certain employer-paid contributions to EI. **The program will launch of April 27, 2020. There is a calculator that allows you to calculate your eligibility as well as the amount you could claim.** For full details and to apply go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

Community Futures funding - the Prime Minister made an announcement on Friday April 17th that allocates \$287M in funding to the Community Futures Program. This funding will be allocated towards smaller employers and businesses located in rural parts of the country who do not qualify for the recently announced wage subsidy or loans or who still need assistance in managing their operations through these challenging times. Details of this program will be made available as soon as possible. To read the full News Release from the Prime Minister's office, please click [here](#)

Canada Summer Jobs – If you had a successful application in for this program, there are changes to help ensure you are still able to take advantage of the program. Changes include: an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee; an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021; allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services; allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis. You will be contacted if you were approved for the program or you can also contact them at 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105)

The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. Repayment time frame would be to December 3, 2022. Business owners can apply for support from the Canada Emergency Business Account through their banks and credit unions.

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CERCA) to provide loans to commercial property owners, who in turn will lower or forgo rent of small businesses in April, May and June. Implementation of the program will require a partnership with provincial and territorial governments who are responsible for property owner-tenant relationships. More details will be available soon.



Supports to Business: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#business>

Supports to Individuals: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individual>

Supports to Sectors: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#industry>

Work- Share Program: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html> (designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. Employer Contact Centre: 1-800-367-5693. **Extending Work-Sharing program:** *The Government of Canada is Implementing the EI Work Sharing Program, which provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers, by extending the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, easing eligibility requirements, and streamlining the application process. This was announced by the Prime Minister on March 11, 2020.*)

Employment insurance program: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html> The Government of Canada offers benefits for individuals who may qualify if they have lost their job. COVID EI claims can be made at: 1-833-381-2725. When you call this number this is the info re. ROES: when issuing ROE, use code D when reason = illness/quarantine, use code A when reason = shutdown due to shortage of work, use code E or N – not sick

COVID-19 updates: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Flexibility regarding filing Taxes: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Flexibility_for_Tax-filers

Other Resources:

- **Free Training** opportunity - **“Process Improvement Fundamentals”** from Norquest College: This course is in response to the changing economic environment where organizations are required to more efficiently and effectively make use of their resources- doing more with less. This course will help build capacity that includes core concepts of Lean, Project management and change management and how to apply them to the work you are currently working on. This is a taxable benefit and a \$4000.00 value that is funded and Norquest College will be providing all participants with a T4A slip for filing with their income tax. This is a 5 day online training course. **Deadline to register – May 1st or earlier-** contact Meenuka Singh at meenuka.singh@norquest.ca to start the registration process.
- **Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) - COVID 19 Small Business Help Desk** - <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/small-business-resources-dealing-covid-19> CFIB is Canada’s largest small business association with 110,000 members across all provinces and industries.
- **CME(Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters) resources** at <https://cme-mec.ca/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>
- Easy to follow COVID19 safety guides <https://cme-mec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CME-Made-Safe-COVID-19-H-S-Safety-Tips-Disinfection-High-Touch-Areas-FINAL-WEB.pdf>
- **Alberta Women Entrepreneurs (AWE)**– enabling women to build successful businesses is providing free remote supports:[Meet with an AWE Business Advisor](#) (remotely) at no cost [Join our upcoming webinars](#) on navigating COVID-19 [Stay updated on COVID-19 resources](#) for women entrepreneurs
- **Free professional development** from the Career Development Association of Alberta- access recordings for concurrent sessions from 2015-2019 are available on the CDAA you Tube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCMSkl43Fif6EWsloKBh-mq>
- **NEW!** CCDF Report: Career Development Perspectives on COVID-19 The CCDF is pleased to share our sector’s submission to ESDC, COVID-19 & THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SECTOR: IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. <https://ccdf.ca/news-articles/career-development-perspectives-on-covid-19/>
- **Free Webinar “Responding to online Hate during Covid-19”** May 1, 2020 from 10am-12pm MST This webinar will help participants identify online hate speech related to COVID-19 and encourage them to think critically about the impacts on real life. We will explore how we may respond to online hate during the COVID-19 pandemic and introduce participants to some tools and resources they can access to support this work. This webinar is free and open to everyone. NO RSVP required. Webinar link will be available on AAISA's website closer to webinar date: <https://aaisa.ca/professional-development/> NO RSVP required. Webinar link will be available below closer to webinar date
- **Free HR Webinars** <https://www.cphrab.ca/news> from May 5- late June, CPHR will host free webinar from 12-1pm. View past recordings via ZOOM [here](#).



The most important measures that Albertans can take to prevent respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, is to practice good hygiene.

This includes cleaning your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your face, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or sleeve, disposing of tissues appropriately, and staying home and away from others if you are sick.

Our constituency offices are prepared to support our constituents. We can provide information, social media exposure, and direction on how to access the various government benefits now available.

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx>

Please contact out office at fortaskatchewan.vegreville@assembly.ab.ca or 780-208-0677