

Financial Support for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19.

The ongoing WHO declared COVID-19 pandemic has in the past several months increasingly impacted the global economy through both demand and supply side shocks and disruptions as a result of shutdowns, supply chain disruptions, and isolated workforces. Compounding the economic impact of COVID-19 is an ongoing OPEC-Russia price war that has cratered global oil prices and is broadly impacting the Canadian energy sector. The result of these events is likely to be a recession of a thus far indeterminate length that will cause undue financial stress to the local economy in Perth. In order to help businesses navigate these challenging times and ensure that the Perth economy can recover as swiftly and efficiently as possible, the following document has been assembled that contains useful information on programs that can help businesses and their employees navigate the coming weeks and months.

Province of Ontario Support for Businesses

Updated on March 25th 2020 at 12:00 pm

The provincial government is following up federal actions with it's own set of supporting legislation and programs designed to assist businesses in navigating the economic fallout of the measures enacted to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Ontario. Since the declaration of the provincial State of Emergency, closure of non-essential businesses, and limits to entry into the country have been established, significant demand and supply side pressures are impacting businesses across the province to varying degrees.

Current provincial support programs are concentrated in legislation to make it easier to conduct business while the pandemic is ongoing. Few provincial financial support programs have been announced thus far, but it is anticipated that they are likely to be announced sometime over the coming weeks.

As the pandemic situation continues to evolve, more support programs and other opportunities may become available. This list will continue to be updated as that information is released

| Program | Value | Details |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Launch of Ontario Together Website | NA | <p>Ontario Together, a new website that will help businesses and their employees work with the province to meet the challenges of COVID-19.</p> <p>The website will identify the province's supply challenges and solicit ideas and advice from Ontario's business and manufacturing communities on how the government can work together to meet the need.</p> |

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| | | Through the portal, companies will be able to submit proposals for the government to procure required goods and services and share creative solutions quickly. |
| Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 - Supply Chain - Temporary Changes to Municipal Noise By-Laws | NA | <p>The new legislation ensures that for the near future, the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise bylaws.</p> <p>These temporary changes will allow businesses to transfer goods between their warehouses and retail stores 24 hours a day, seven days a week.</p> |
| Commercial Vehicles - Extension of validation Periods for Driver, Vehicle and Carrier Products | NA | <p>New regulations include extensions for driver licences, licence plate validation, Ontario Photo Cards, and Commercial Vehicle Operator Registration certificates, among others.</p> <p>This extension will be in place until such time that, based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, the current situation improves.</p> |
| Ontario is waiving the three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage | NA | The province will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage. |
| Job Protection for Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic | NA | <p>The Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020, provides job-protected leave for employees unable to work due to COVID-19</p> <p>The legislation makes it clear that an employee is not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave.</p> |
| Additional Support for Ontario Residents | | <p>The Province is reviewing current access and eligibility to emergency assistance which is available through the Ontario Works (OW) program to support individuals who are impacted by the coronavirus and who are not able to meet their basic living expenses.</p> <p>The Province has halted new evictions, and postponed enforcement of eviction orders in order to protect Ontario residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> |

Additional Information on the Province of Ontario's response to COVID-19 can be found here.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

This list will continue to be updated in the coming days as more details on above announced programs become available and additional programs are revealed.

Questions or Requests for Additional information can be sent to:

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