



## Surrey Board of Trade Pandemic Rapid Response Business Centre Updates

[businessinsurrey.com/policy/emergency-preparedness/](https://businessinsurrey.com/policy/emergency-preparedness/)

### ⇒ **Canada United Small Business Relief Fund**

Supporting Canadian businesses across different sectors and industries with grants of up to \$5,000. These grants will help thousands of small business owners cover the costs of personal protective equipment, make physical modifications to their businesses to meet local health and safety requirements, and enhance their digital or e-commerce capabilities. Starting on October 26, small businesses in BC can apply online through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for the next wave of Canada United Small Business Relief Fund grants.

<https://occ.ca/canada-united-small-business-relief-fund/>

### ⇒ **\$600M to Help Businesses Survive Lockdowns**

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Federal Government announced that it is giving \$600 million to help small and medium-sized businesses deal with possible lockdowns during a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding — aimed at such sectors as tourism, manufacturing and technology — will be added to the \$962 million already invested in the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. More details to come from government.

### ⇒ **CERB has Ended. EI and New Emergency Benefits**

Legislation to enact three new benefits passed on September 30. All three of these benefits will be in effect for one year.

#### **What happened to CERB?**

The money you were receiving stopped on October 3, 2020.

#### **What benefits are available now that CERB is done?**

1. A modified version of the existing Employment Insurance (EI) program.

If you apply and receive EI, you'll get a taxable benefit of at least \$500 a week, or \$300 a week for extended parental benefits. EI claimants are eligible for at least 26 weeks.

2. The government has created three new benefits for Canadians who don't qualify for EI, providing a payment of \$500 a week:

a) The Canada Recovery Benefit, for the self-employed or gig workers up to 26 weeks.

b) The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate due to COVID-19 up to two weeks.

c) The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, for people who can't work because they need to care for a child or dependent for reasons related to COVID-19 up to 26 weeks.

[canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html](https://canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html)

## ⇒ **\$10 billion Growth Plan Fund Focused on Agriculture, Clean Energy and Broadband Industries**

Long-term economic growth and job creation are the focus of the Growth Plan, a new \$10 billion infrastructure fund announced by the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the Federal Government.

The key priorities of the multi-billion-dollar-fund include investment in agricultural infrastructure, clean power and broadband networks. It is expected to create 60,000 jobs. While no release date has been announced for these funds. We will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

Fund Allocation Breakdown:

- \$2.5 billion for clean power
- \$2 billion for broadband to expand access to high-speed internet service across the country
- \$2 billion to retrofit buildings for energy efficiency
- \$1.5 billion for agricultural infrastructure in Western Canada
- \$1.5 billion for zero-emission buses
- \$500 million to help speed up pre-construction requirements

## ⇒ **Apply for Business Scale-up and Productivity Funding**

If you're a western Canadian company looking to grow, the [Business Scale-up and Productivity \(BSP\)](#) program could be for you. BSP supports high-growth businesses that are scaling up and producing innovative goods, services or technologies. It offers interest-free repayable funding to incorporated western Canadian companies.

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is taking steps to streamline and improve the BSP program for western Canada's businesses and entrepreneurs. You will have another opportunity to apply for BSP funds should your expression of interest not be ready for submission. WD will be accepting expressions of interest from January 15 – February 16, 2021.

[wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/19762.asp](http://wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/19762.asp)

## ⇒ **Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery Grant Program**

\$300 million in targeted financial support for some of the hardest hit businesses in BC that employ between 2 and 149 BC residents and have experienced declines in revenue since March 10, 2020. Grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 are available. An additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 grant is available to eligible tourism-related businesses that have been hit especially hard by COVID-19. The program runs until March 31, 2021 or until the funds are fully allocated, whichever comes first.

**MORE INFORMATION:** [gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/business-recovery-grant](http://gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/business-recovery-grant)

## ⇒ **New Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy**

Rent and mortgage support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners. The new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a

percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.

- **A top-up Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25%** for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy. This follows a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to provide direct financial support to businesses temporarily shut down as a result of a local public health decision.

⇒ **Extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy**

Until June 2021, this subsidy will continue to protect jobs by helping businesses keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to re-hire their workers. The subsidy would remain at the current subsidy rate of up to a maximum of 65% of eligible wages until December 19, 2020.

⇒ **Expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

To enable businesses and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans—and that continue to be seriously impacted by the pandemic—to access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000. Half of this additional financing would be forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022. Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020.

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