



Summary of Programs Available for Businesses and Business Owners
As of April 24, 2020

Nova Scotia Supports for Businesses

<u>Program</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Small Business Impact Grant	https://covid19-small-business-impact-grant.nscrc.ca/	April 25, 2020	This is a grant, not a repayable loan, of up to \$5,000 per business enterprise. Note: At this time this program is <u>only available</u> for businesses who have been mandated to close or significantly curtail operations due to the public health order. It is not available to businesses that are permitted to stay open but have seen a substantial drop in revenue due to people staying home. We are advocating for this program to be broadened in scope as well as have an extension to the deadline
Worker Emergency Bridge Fund	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/worker-emergency-bridge-fund/	Begins April 10, 2020	This fund supports people who are self-employed or laid-off who don't qualify for Employment Insurance. This is a one-time payment of \$1,000 for Nova Scotians who meet all the following criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are laid off or have no revenue because of COVID-19 • who don't qualify for Employment Insurance, and • earn between \$5,000 and \$34,000.
Small Business Loan Guarantee Program	http://www.novascotia.coop/program/s/small-business-loan-guarantee-program/ for a list of participating Credit Unions	ongoing	For businesses that have an existing loan through one of the existing Small Biz Loan Guarantee Programs (SBLGP), principal and interest payments are deferred until June 30 th . A new COVID-19 SBLGP has been announced where the provincial government will guarantee 100% of the loan up to \$100,000. Loans can be approved up to \$500,000 partially guaranteed by the province.

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			<p>Note: Not all businesses who apply will be approved. For example, it would be unlikely that an established business that was consistently losing money prior to the COVID-19 Crisis would be approved.</p> <p>Note: Applications to this program are high so you may experience delays in having the applications processed</p>
COVID -19 Rent Deferral Support Program	Closed	Closed	<p>Landlords were encouraged to defer commercial rents for three months beginning in April with a guarantee of up to \$50,000 if not repaid.</p> <p>Note: The Federal Government has announced a program “Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (CECRA)” which will be developed with the provinces. This will likely result in this program (or a similar program) being reopened provincially.</p>
Small Business Development Program	https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/programs-services/business-development-program	January 15, 2021	<p>Stream 1: This stream facilitates access to a private-sector consultant to provide professional expertise to overcome a certain pain point keeping your business from growing. The minimum project cost for Stream 1 is \$5,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided at 50% up to a maximum of \$15,000 per fiscal <p>NEW - Stream 2: Focused on senior executives, this stream will help you and your company identify and develop the leadership skills needed to grow. Work with business experts to understand and address how to overcome barriers to successfully scale your company and increase sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies must have a minimum of \$500,000 in revenue to be eligible for this stream • The minimum project cost for Stream 2 is \$10,000 • Funding is provided at 75% up to a maximum of \$30,000 per fiscal • Companies are allowed one project per fiscal
Small Business Virtual Training	https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/events	ongoing	<p>NSBI is providing digital content to support businesses by allowing them to access programming at times that work for them. The virtual workshops and training courses provide companies with vital strategies and hands-on tips on how to deal with the current crisis. Upcoming courses include: Understanding Where Your Business is Most at Risk During COVID-19, Grant Thornton - Session 1: Review of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Program, Grant Thornton – Session2: An Overview of New and Existing Government Programs.</p>
Funding Tool Search	https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/online-tools/funding-search-tool	ongoing	<p>Funding portal is a snapshot of potentially available government support programs and services.</p>

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Productivity and Innovation Program	https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/programs-services/productivity-and-innovation-voucher-program	October 15, 2020	This program allows small and medium sized businesses to access direct assistance from Nova Scotia's Universities and the Nova Scotia Community College to help make their business more productive and innovative. Small businesses can request a voucher up to \$15,000 or \$25,000 to pay for the expertise to assist them. This includes work to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve productivity ▪ Develop a new product, service, or process ▪ Create growth
Payment Deferrals	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/support/#support-for-business	automatic	The Province will defer payments until June 30 for all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.
Fee Deferrals	https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/fees/	automatic	To support businesses, many program and service fees are deferred until 30 June 2020. This includes workers compensation premiums and licence, permit, registration, renewal and service fees.
Tourism Nova Scotia Webinar Series	https://tourismns.ca/news/intouch-blog/tourism-nova-scotia-webinar-series-offers-tools-navigate-covid-19-and-strengthen	Commenced April 22, 2020	To help Nova Scotia's tourism industry navigate the situation with COVID-19, Tourism Nova Scotia has launched a weekly series of webinars that will provide technology tips to help you adapt your business and connect with potential customers, research and insights to help you develop products and services that will be compelling to customers in local markets, and advice to help you market your business.
Occupational Health and Safety Tips	https://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/covid19/	Ongoing	The Canadian Centre for Health and Safety has developed a series of tip sheets to guide businesses when operating during pandemic, including COVID-19. Each document offers health and safety tips and good practices, for both employers and workers, specific to each industry or sector. Organizations and businesses can adopt this guidance to protect their workers and prevent the spread of infections. The tip sheets cover a range of occupations and industries from construction and trucking to healthcare and daycares.
Nova Scotia Business Navigators	https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/business-navigators.asp	ongoing	If your business needs help dealing with matters of provincial concerns, including if your business is allowed to be open or not, please contact the Province of Nova Scotia's Business Navigators at 1-844-628-7347 from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
COVID-19 Employer Assessment Tool	https://covid19-employer-assessment.novascotia.ca/en	ongoing	To slow the spread of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia, some businesses and organizations are required to close. Others can stay open if they can meet certain public health requirements. Answering the questions on this employer

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			self assessment clarifies which businesses can remain open, and what they need to do during this state of emergency.
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Government of Canada Supports for Businesses			
Program	Link	Deadlines	Notes
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses	Available March 15 – June 6, 2020	<p>This program has been developed to encourage employers to keep employees on their payroll. It will allow employers to keep their work force intact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The program will be in place for a 12-week period, retroactive to March 15 and ending June 6, 2020. ▪ Businesses will receive a 75% rebate on wages paid up to \$847 per week, per employee. No cap on the number of employees. ▪ Employers who are eligible for the CEWS are entitled to receive a 100% refund for certain employer contributions to Employment Insurance, and the Canada Pension Plan paid in respect of employees who are on leave with pay. ▪ Employers are expected to make their “best effort” to maintain their employee’s pre-crisis employment earnings when utilizing this wage subsidy. However, the program will pay up to 75% of the pre-crisis remuneration even if the employer cannot pay the additional 25% in remuneration. ▪ Business Owners and their family’s wages will likely be covered if they received a salary and T4. However, if a family member was not employed in the business prior to the crisis, they will not be subsidized if they started working for the business after March 15, 2020. ▪ Eligible businesses can be small or large, and from any sector of the economy ▪ This program applies to existing employees hired prior to March 15th, 2020 as well as employees hired since March 15th, 2020, except for family / non-arm’s length employees hired since March 15th, 2020. ▪ For March 2020, businesses must demonstrate a 15% drop in revenue to qualify for the 75% wage subsidy. The reference point can either be March 2019 or the average of January and February 2020. If a business qualifies for March, it will automatically qualify for April. ▪ Businesses must have suffered a drop of at least 30% in gross revenues in April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019. Businesses can also use January and February 2020 as their reference period instead of the comparable month in 2019. If a business qualifies for April it will automatically qualify for May. ▪ Businesses must re-apply for this subsidy each month ▪ Companies must pay employees first and then CRA will reimburse them. Businesses must be able to cashflow the wages in the interim period.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 10% wage subsidy (below) must be deducted from the eligible portion of the 75% wage subsidy. ▪ This program is short term and is intended to be in place for 3 months <p>Note: Businesses should sign up for direct deposit as it will streamline and speed up the process of being reimbursed.</p>
Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers 10%	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html	Available for wages from March 18 – June 19, 2020	<p>This program is available for small businesses (received small business deduction), not-for-profits and charities who do not qualify for the 75% Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The business must have an existing business number and payroll program account with CRA as of March 18, 2020. ▪ The business must pay salary, wages, bonuses or other remunerations to an employee. ▪ For Salaries paid between March 18th and June 19th, 2020. ▪ This subsidy is received by reducing the income tax portion of your payroll remittance to CRA by the amount of this subsidy. ▪ Maximum amount that a business can receive is \$1,375 per employee to a maximum of \$25,000 per business. ▪ This program does not require a decline in revenue.
Work Sharing (WS) Program	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/temporary-measures-forestry-sector.html	March 15, 2020 – March 14, 2021	<p>Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Work-Sharing is an agreement between employers, employees and the Government of Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows Employers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -retain qualified and experienced workers, and -avoid recruiting and training new employees • Allows employees to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -keep their jobs, and -maintain their work skills <p>Recent Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business must have experienced a recent decline in business activity of at least 10% • Work-sharing can be up to 76 weeks • The application process has been streamlined • The requirement to apply at least 30 days before the commencement of a work sharing program has been removed • Not limited to one specific sector or industry • Extension of the maximum possible duration of an agreement from 38 weeks to 76 weeks
Canada Emergency Business	https://ceba-cuec.ca/	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits, who paid wages/salaries between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in 2019, to help cover operating costs.

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Account (CEBA)	Apply through Chartered Banks and Credit Unions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, 25% of the loan will be forgiven. <p>Note: Applications must be made online through your Chartered Banks or Credit Union</p>
Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html Apply through Chartered Banks and Credit Unions	Ongoing	<p>EDC Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program provides credit and cash flow term loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. Canadian businesses in all sectors that were otherwise financially viable and revenue generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak are eligible to apply. It allows financial institutions to issue operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to existing clients, with 80 per cent guaranteed by EDC. This money is to be used for operational expenses, not for dividend payouts, shareholder loans, bonuses, stock buyback, option issuance, increases to executive compensation or repayment/refinancing of other debt. This program is now available at various financial institutions and credit unions. <p>BDC Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium Enterprises This program provides term loans for operational and liquidity needs of businesses, which could include interest payments on existing debt. Similar to the EDC program, this program is available to businesses that were financially viable and revenue-generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The program is designed in three segments to target support to different business sizes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loans of up to \$312,500 to businesses with revenues of less than \$1 million. Up to \$3.125 million for businesses with revenues between \$1 million and \$50 million. Up to \$6.25 million for businesses with revenues in excess of \$50 million. Loans would be interest-only for the first 12 months, with a 10-year repayment period. <p>Note: Applications details will be made available in the days to come by financial institutions.</p>
Deferral of Loan Repayments	https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19.html	automatic	The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), will apply a deferral of three months on all payments due to the government, as of April 1, 2020.
Deferral of amounts owing to government	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses	Deferral until June 30, 2020	<p>Defer payments of the Goods and Services Tax / Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST), as well as customs duties owing on imports until June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Defer payment of personal or corporate income tax amounts normally due between March 18 and September to September 1, 2020.</p> <p>No interest or penalties will be applied during this period.</p>

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Canada Summer Jobs Program	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html	Unofficially open	<p>Temporary changes have been announced to the Canada Summer Jobs program that supports employers in business, not-for-profits, and the public sector to hire summer students. These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing the wage subsidy to 100% of the provincial minimum wage ▪ Extending the end date for employment to February 28, 2020 due to many of these jobs likely starting later in the year ▪ Allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis ▪ Allowing employers to adapt their projects to support essential services <p>Note: The summer job program is open, but the communication has not been clear. As noted in the link, the first paragraph states that the program is closed. The third paragraph states that if you can give youth a job, then contact your local MP. The MP's offices will compile the list of businesses and organizations that are willing to hire students.</p>
Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)	https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a program that is still under development. • The objective of the program is to help small businesses that are struggling to pay their rent • The program will seek to provide loans and/or forgivable loans to commercial property owners who in turn will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June. • Implementation of the program will require a partnership with provincial and territorial governments who are responsible for property owner-tenant relationships. <p>Note: More details will be available soon.</p>
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html	March 15, 2020 – September 26, 2020	<p>The government established the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to support workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This taxable benefit provides \$2,000 every four weeks for up to four months to workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The CERB covers Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures. The CERB also applies to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and are unable to work due to COVID-19.</p> <p>This Benefit is available to workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old; • Who have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their Employment

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			<p>Insurance regular benefits or Employment Insurance fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who had employment and/or self-employment income or other than eligible dividends from their company of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and, Who have not quit their job voluntarily. <p>Recent changes to CERB to help more Canadians benefit from the program will help many entrepreneurs who have experienced sharp declines in revenue but still have some revenue coming in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People can earn <u>up to \$1,000</u> in each 4-week period, while collecting the CERB. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The changes are retroactive to March 15, 2020. If a person's earnings over any of these 4-week periods are greater than \$1,000 (i.e. \$1,010) you will not be able to claim the CERB for that 4-week period. However, you could reapply in a subsequent 4-week period.
NRC IRAP Innovation Assistance Program (IAP)	https://nrc.canada.ca/en/support-technology-innovation/nrc-irap-innovation-assistance-program-iap?utm_campaign=IRAP_funding_program&utm_medium=link_to_program_page_e&utm_source=home_page_e	April 29, 2020	<p>The Innovation Assistance Program is a new program that the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program has developed. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks. Is for small businesses pursuing technology-driven innovation who have been unable to secure funding under the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). These businesses are eligible and can apply for financial assistance under IRAP IAP. Be a company with 500 or fewer full-time equivalent employees. Lack sufficient financial resources to sustain operations from April 1, 2020 to June 23, 2020 inclusive. <p>Note: The call for applications will close Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 11:59 pm EDT. For approved businesses, payments are expected to begin going out to businesses by the week of May 11, 2020.</p>

Other Supports for Businesses

<u>Program</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship	https://smuec.ca/	Ongoing	Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre is offering free virtual one-on-one strategy sessions to Atlantic Canadian entrepreneurs. The sessions aim to

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Centre – COVID-19 support			provide support, insight, and additional resources to help entrepreneurs overcome current challenges.
Ignite Labs	https://igniteatlantic.com/covid19-industry/	Ongoing	<p>Industry Personal Protective Needs and/or Manufacturing Capability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you in need of personal protective equipment to keep your operations running but you are unsure of where to source it? If so, tell Ignite Labs what and how much you need. We will work with you to find the right source. • Can you manufacture personal protective equipment? If so, sign up to join a list of local industries looking to supply others. We will connect with you and work to put resources behind you so that you can start or increase your production of PPE as soon as possible.
CBDC -Cumberland	https://www.cbdc.ca/en/find-my-cbdc/ns	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Business Development Corporations across Atlantic Canada postponed principal repayments on all small business loans for the Months of April – June 2020. In addition, the CBDC's have waived the interest on these loans for this 3-month period • The CBDCs continue to lend to existing and new businesses at this time
eBay (Retail Revival program)	https://www.ebayinc.com/impact/retail-revival-halifax/materials/	Ongoing	Over the past year, eBay has worked with a number of businesses in Nova Scotia on a program called Retail Revival. eBay has tools and information to help retailers get their products online to reach new domestic and export clients
Canadian Federation of Independent Business	https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/small-business-resources-dealing-covid-19		If you require general business assistance, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has a help line for businesses to call. This help line is now open to both members and non-members of the CFIB
Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce	https://amherstchambers.ca/covid-19-information-page/		A good source of COVID related information for local businesses

The Cumberland Business Connector is working with our municipal partners, Chambers of Commerce, CBDC Cumberland and other local partners to assist the business community as much as possible. **If you would like to talk to one of us, please send us an email to: research@cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca** Please include your name and phone number and one of us will get back to you as quickly as possible. <https://www.cumberlandbusinessconnector.ca/covid-19.html>

Take care and stay safe,

**Jonathan McClelland, CEO
Cumberland Business Connector**

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