

Federal and Ontario Funding Programs for Businesses

Effective date: October 4, 2021

ONTARIO	
<p>Ontario Tourism Recovery Program (OTRP) - New</p>	<p>This program provides \$100 million to help stabilize Ontario's tourism industry as it recovers from the impacts of COVID-19. The program will help for-profit tourism businesses in the attraction, accommodation, and leisure travel sectors protect critical jobs in communities across the province and help them prepare to reopen and safely welcome back visitors.</p> <p>To be eligible, applicants must have experienced eligible revenue decline of at least 50% in the reported 2020–2021 year (COVID impact year), compared to fiscal year-end 2019 (pre-COVID baseline year).</p>
<p>Skills Development Fund (here) - New</p>	<p>This program provides funding to organizations for innovative projects that address challenges to hiring, training or retaining workers, including apprentices, during the pandemic. This second round of funding will offer \$83 million to support innovative, market-driven solutions that can help people and businesses make it through the pandemic successfully.</p> <p>Funding proposals will be accepted until March 31, 2022, or until all funds are allocated.</p>
<p>Employer Health Tax Relief (here)</p>	<p>Increased the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million. Along with doubling the exemption, the government doubled the instalment threshold from \$600,000 to \$1.2 million.</p> <p>The EHT exemption is indexed to inflation every five years and the next adjustment had been scheduled for 2024. Given the doubling of the exemption threshold starting in 2020, the government moved the next scheduled adjustment for inflation to January 1, 2029.</p>
<p>Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit (here)</p>	<p>Supports business investment, economic growth and job creation in designated regions across the province that lagged in employment growth between 2009 and 2019.</p>

	<p>Corporations must invest more than \$50,000 to qualify and may receive a tax credit of up to \$45,000 in respect of its qualifying investments in a year. The tax credit amount applies to expenditures in excess of \$50,000 up to a maximum of \$500,000.</p> <p>A temporary enhancement to the credit provides an additional 10% credit for eligible expenditures in excess of \$50,000 and up to \$500,000 for eligible property that becomes available for use during a qualifying corporation's taxation year, and in the period beginning on March 24, 2021 and ending before January 1, 2023. The maximum credit in respect of eligible expenditures that meet all of the conditions for the enhanced credit would be \$90,000 in a year.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Businesses (CEAPSB)</p>	<p>Provides a one-time, on-bill credit up to a maximum of \$1,500 to eligible small business and charitable organizations who are struggling to pay their energy bills as a result of COVID-19 to help them catch up on their energy bills and resume regular payments.</p> <p>Apply for CEAP-SB through your utility or USMP.</p>
<p>Canada-Ontario Job Grant Program (COJG)</p>	<p>Provides opportunities for employers, individually or in groups, to invest in their workforce, with help from the government.</p> <p>Provides direct financial support to individual employers or employer consortia who wish to purchase training for their employees. It is available to small, medium and large businesses with a plan to deliver short-term training to existing and new employees. Employers can get up to \$10,000 in government support per person for training costs.</p> <p>Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>Eastern Ontario Development Fund (here)</p>	<p>Provides support for projects and investments to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for economic development in eastern Ontario. The fund supports business and community economic development projects.</p> <p>Business Projects – Funding is up to 15% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5M, interest free during the project period (up to 4 years).</p> <p>Community Economic Development Projects – Funding up to 50% of eligible project costs for a maximum grant of up to \$1.5M.</p>
<p>FedDev Ontario Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP) program</p>	<p>offsets upfront project costs and helps southern Ontario businesses grow more quickly. It supports businesses as they adopt new, innovative technologies that support scale-up, productivity, and the development of and entry into new markets to become globally competitive.</p>

	<p>Applications can be submitted for no-interest, repayable contributions from \$500,000 up to \$10 million per project. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis with no submission deadlines.</p>
<p>AV Research and Development Partnership Fund (AV R&D)</p>	<p>An Ontario government grant program offered through the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN). Through the program’s Technology Demonstrations stream, lead applicants (technology developers) work with partners (typically other SMEs, large enterprises, post-secondary institutions, and non-profit organizations) to develop, prototype, and validate innovative autonomous vehicle technologies.</p> <p>Application intakes are on-going (typically two per year) until December 31, 2021, or when all funds are committed.</p>
<p>AVIN’s Talent Development Program (TDP)</p>	<p>An Ontario government grant program offered through the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN) designed to combine Ontario companies with top young minds to stimulate industry-driven research and development projects for Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (C/AV) technologies. There are two streams:</p> <p>TalentEdge Fellowship Program (TFP) – program provides support for PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellow</p> <p>TalentEdge Internship program (TIP) – provides support for current college and university students and recent undergraduate or Masters graduates</p> <p>Both streams have open intakes</p>
<p>Ontario Automotive Modernization Program (O-AMP)</p>	<p>A partnership with small- and medium-sized automotive parts suppliers in Ontario. The goal is to help modernize Ontario’s automotive supply chain and make it more competitive. Businesses could get up to \$100,000 to help cover up to 50% of eligible project costs.</p>
<p>AVIN’s WinterTech Development Program (here)</p>	<p>Supports Ontario small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their partners to validate, test, prototype and demonstrate new products and technologies designed to meet the unique demands of winter weather conditions. Funding is up to one-third of the eligible project costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.</p> <p>The program hosts one annual intake of EOIs which, if successful, are called forward to the Full Application stage.</p>
<p>Community Enhancement Program (here)</p>	<p>Designed to help build strong and resilient Northern communities through infrastructure investments, to upgrade / repair existing assets to improve community quality of life, economic</p>

	<p>development infrastructure and strategic economic development initiatives.</p> <p>Enhance Your Community Stream – Supports priorities of northern communities and organizations that contribute to a healthy and strong community</p> <p>Rural Enhancement Funding Stream – designed to support priorities of rural communities to contribute to healthy and strong communities.</p> <p>Broadband and Cellular Expansion Projects – support for broadband and cellular expansion projects is intended to address broadband gaps in northern Ontario by increasing connectivity for unserved or underserved areas.</p>
<p>Cultural Supports Program (here)</p>	<p>Designed to help showcase Northern Ontario culture, geography and talent through event partnerships and the production of films and television series</p> <p>Community Events Stream – supports organizations that host events that increase community profile and promote economic development in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Film and Television Stream – designed to increase film and television industry jobs and investment and to increase quality, original film and television productions produced in Northern Ontario, while showcasing its culture, geography, stories and talent.</p>
<p>INVEST North Program (here)</p>	<p>Designed to boost economic growth in Northern Ontario by encouraging businesses to invest in transformative, strategic and complementary business development opportunities in Northern communities. The program will support productivity, innovation, business competitiveness, revenue growth, export capacity development, job creation and retention.</p> <p>Innovation Stream – supports the research, development and commercialization of new and innovative technologies in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Industrial Research Chair (IRC) – initiative is designed to establish and enhance research capacity at Northern Ontario universities, colleges, and research institutions.</p> <p>Launch Stream – designed to assist with the launch of a new businesses in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Grow Stream – designed to assist with the growth and expansion of existing business in Northern Ontario.</p>

	<p>Locate Stream – designed to assist with locating new business operations to Northern Ontario</p> <p>Regional Tile Drainage Initiative – designed to support the agriculture sector in installing tile drainage to increase the amount and improve the quality of arable land in Northern Ontario resulting in more productive growing seasons and increased crop yields for producers.</p>
People & Talent Program (here)	<p>Designed to attract, retain and develop Northern Ontario's workforce.</p> <p>Indigenous Workforce Development Stream – strengthen and develop Northern Ontario's Indigenous workforce through business partnerships by offering internships to Indigenous persons.</p> <p>Workforce Development Stream – strengthen and develop Northern Ontario's workforce through business partnerships by offering internships.</p>
The Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF)	<p>Provides grants and financing to Indigenous entrepreneurs, businesses, communities and organizations. The fund helps promote economic development and improve opportunities for Indigenous people.</p> <p>The final stream of the fund closes on October 1, 2021.</p>
Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)	<p>A federal-provincial-territorial suite of government funding programs for food producers, processors, organizations, and collaborations. While some programs are available to businesses across Canada, others only provide support to specific provinces, such as CAP Ontario.</p> <p>Phase one of intake for the processors and other businesses (animal health, commercializers and primary agri-food businesses) stream closed on September 2, 2021. Phase two's intake will be open on September 27, 2021.</p>
Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebate Grant	Closed on July 30 th , 2021.
Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant	Closed on July 9 th , 2021.
Ontario Small Business Support Grant	Closed on April 7 th , 2021.

Main Street Relief Grant	Closed on March 31 st , 2021.
Pension Contribution Deferral and Extension (here)	Ended on March 31 st , 2021.
Francophone Community Grants Program	Applications ended August 5 th , 2020.
FEDERAL	
Avoiding layoffs, rehiring employees and creating new jobs	
Jobs and Growth Fund (JGF)	<p>This \$700-million program supports regional job creation and positions local economies for long-term growth. \$70 million is dedicated to businesses created after January 2020. This fund aims help businesses and organizations that support the transition to a green economy, foster an inclusive recovery, enhance Canada's competitiveness through digital adoption, and strengthen capacity in sectors critical to Canada's recovery and growth</p> <p>Applications are accepted on a continuous basis until all funding is allocated. All projects must be completed prior to March 31, 2024. Apply through your Regional Development Agency.</p>
Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP)	<p>Provides a subsidy on eligible salary or wages to help hard-hit businesses hire the workers they need to recover and grow as local economies reopen. Eligible employers can hire new workers, increase workers' hours, or increase wages at a pace that works for them. Eligible employers can apply for support after each four (4)-week period.</p> <p>Support is available retroactively to June 6, 2021 and until November 20, 2021.</p>
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEW)	<p>Provides support to eligible employers to cover part of their employees' wages.</p> <p>Helps employers re-hire workers, helps to prevent further job losses, and keeps employees on payroll at their place of work during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Support is available until October 23, 2021.</p>
Work-Sharing Program (WS)	Helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer.

	<p>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> <p>This program has been extended to September 24, 2022.</p>
Financial support, loans and access to credit	
<p>Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)</p>	<p>Provides a rent and mortgage subsidy for eligible expenses to qualifying businesses, charities and non-profits. This subsidy provides payments directly to qualifying renters and property owners, without requiring the participation of landlords.</p> <p>Lockdown Support allows qualifying businesses and organizations that have been significantly restricted by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority to receive an additional 25% in rent support.</p> <p>This benefit is available until October 23, 2021.</p>
<p>Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP)</p>	<p>Provides businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19, access guaranteed, low-interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1 million to cover operational cash flow needs. It is available to businesses that operate in sectors such as tourism and hospitality, restaurants and those that primarily rely on in-person services.</p> <p>Business owners can apply for support through a participating financial institution until December 31, 2021.</p>
<p>Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)</p>	<p>Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises – Export Development Canada (EDC) is working with financial institutions to guarantee 80% of new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This financing support is to be used for operational expenses.</p> <p>Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises – Business Development Canada (BDC) is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. The program offers differing maximum finance amounts based on business revenues.</p> <p>Both types of support are available at various banks and credit unions until December 31, 2021.</p>
<p>Mid-Market Financing Program (here)</p>	<p>Provides commercial loans between \$12.5 million and \$60 million to medium-sized businesses impacted by COVID-19 and/or the recent decline in oil and gas prices and whose credit needs exceed what is already available through the BCAP and other</p>

	<p>measures. Qualifying companies will have annual revenues in excess of approximately \$100 million.</p> <p>This support is available until December 31 2021.</p>
<p>Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program (here)</p>	<p>This program will bring liquidity to companies who tend to have revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million, to sustain operations during this uncertain period. EDC will continue to work with Canadian financial institutions to guarantee 75% of new operating credit and cash-flow loans – ranging in size from \$16.75 million to a maximum of \$80 million. These expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada.</p> <p>This support is available until December 31, 2021.</p>
<p>Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)</p>	<p>Provides bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. LEEFF allows Canada’s largest businesses, their workers and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time, and position them for a rapid economic recovery. Qualifying employers must require a minimum loan size of about \$60 million.</p>
<p>Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program - Tax Incentive (here)</p>	<p>tax incentives to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct research and development (R&D) in Canada. These tax incentives come in three forms: an income tax deduction, an investment tax credit (ITC), and a refund. The SR&ED Program provides more than \$3 billion in tax incentives to over 20,000 claimants annually. The program is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).</p>
<p>National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP)</p>	<p>Provides funding to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take ideas to market. NRC IRAP has expanded its support to include an increased funding threshold of up to \$10 million for larger research and development projects.</p>
<p>Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund (here)</p>	<p>A partnership between the Government of Canada, Black-led business organizations, and several financial institutions. It will provide loans up to \$250,000 to Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country.</p> <p>The Loan Fund is accepting loan applications from Black business owners and entrepreneurs through the Federation of African Canadian Economics (FACE).</p>
<p>Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP)</p>	<p>Provides support to employers with some of costs associated with the mandatory 14-day isolation period as well as costs associated with the 3-day hotel quarantine imposed under the</p>

	<p>Quarantine Act on temporary foreign workers upon entering into Canada.</p> <p>14-Day Isolation Period Stream</p> <p>3-Day Hotel Quarantine Stream</p> <p>This program ended on August 31, 2021.</p>
Support for self-employed individuals	
Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)	<p>Provides support to eligible workers who are not employed or self-employed for reasons related to COVID-19, or have had their income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19 are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI). The CRB is available for a maximum of 27 periods (54 weeks). If the first CRB period begins after July 17, 2021, eligible workers may receive \$600 (\$540 after taxes withheld) for each 2-week period until the CRB ends.</p>
Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)	<p>Gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19. The payment amount is \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period applied for.</p> <p>To be eligible, workers must have missed more than 50% of your work week, and may apply up to a maximum of 4 weeks between September 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021.</p>
Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)	<p>Gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. This applies if their school, regular program or facility is closed or unavailable to them due to COVID-19, or because they are sick, self-isolating, or at risk of serious health complications due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Eligible households can receive \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period, and may apply for up to a total of 42 weeks between September 27, 2020 and October 23, 2021.</p>
Indigenous businesses	
Indigenous businesses initiative (here)	<p>Provides \$306.8 million in funding to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and to support Aboriginal Financial Institutions that offer financing to these businesses. The funding will allow for short-term, interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions through Aboriginal Financial Institutions, which offer financing and business support services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis businesses.</p>

	The deadline to apply to this program passed on June 30, 2021.
Indigenous Community Business Fund (here)	<p>Provides \$117 million in non-repayable financial contributions to help support operating costs for First Nation, Inuit and Métis community-or collectively-owned businesses and microbusinesses whose revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund seeks to provide support for businesses that do not qualify for other Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures.</p> <p>Stream 1 – Funding will be transferred directly to communities and collectives to immediately support their COVID-19 economic priorities. No applications are required for stream 1 funding.</p> <p>Stream 2 – Funding will be proposal-based. Applications must be submitted by the community or collectives on behalf of the business.</p> <p>There are no submission deadlines.</p>
Indigenous Forestry Initiative (IFI)	<p>Provides financial support to Indigenous-led economic development projects in Canada’s forest sector. From the funding expansion in Budget 2019, the IFI has allocated approximately \$6.8 million to projects, with approximately \$6.2 million available for 2021-2023. The Program has \$1 million per year available beyond 2023.</p>
Support for Communities and Organizations	
Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF)	<p>Provides up to \$750,000 or \$1 million to not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, public institutions and Indigenous communities for projects to revitalize communities across Canada. The funding covers up to 75% of the total project costs. Indigenous community projects may qualify for funding to cover 100% of total project costs.</p>
Tourism	
Tourism Relief Fund	<p>Provides non-repayable contributions up to \$100,000 or repayable contributions up to \$500,000 to businesses to enhance or create new tourism experiences. The Fund helps position Canada as a destination of choice when domestic and international travel is deemed safe, by empowering tourism businesses to create new or enhance existing tourism experiences to attract domestic visitors, and helping the sector reposition itself to welcome international visitors.</p> <p>Not-for-profit organizations and Indigenous organizations, not generating profits, are also eligible for non-repayable contributions.</p> <p>Apply through Canada’s Regional Development Agencies here.</p>

Agriculture and agri-food	
<p>AgriStability Program (here)</p>	<p>A federal, provincial and territorial program that supports producers who face significant revenue declines. It is one of the business risk management programs under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. It protects Canadian producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs and market conditions.</p> <p>Provides a payment to producers whose production margin in the current year falls below their historical reference margin by more than 30%.</p> <p>AgriStability is delivered provincially in Ontario.</p>
<p>AgriInsurance Program (here)</p>	<p>A federal-provincial-producer cost-shared program that stabilizes a producer's income by minimizing the economic effects of primarily production losses caused by severe but uncontrollable natural hazards. Some examples of possible eligible perils are drought, flood, wind, frost, excessive rain, heat, snow, uncontrolled disease, insect infestations and wildlife. Producers get a payment when they experience a production loss during the year.</p> <p>The program is currently available to most producers in all provinces. Each province currently has either a Crown Corporation or a branch of the provincial agriculture department responsible for administering the AgriInsurance program.</p>
Aquaculture and fisheries	
<p>Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund (here)</p>	<p>Provides \$62.5 million of new assistance to the fish and seafood processing sector. These investments will help applicants: increase storage to deal with excess inventory, ensure the health and safety of workers and of the local food supply, adopt advanced manufacturing technologies, and adapt to changing requirements and demand.</p> <p>The aquaculture industry will be eligible to apply for support if they are processing businesses. However, the fund cannot be used to aid in the farming of aquaculture products.</p> <p>Apply through Regional Development Agencies.</p>
<p>Employment Insurance fishing benefits (here)</p>	<p>Employment Insurance (EI) fishing benefits for self-employed fish harvesters and sharespersons will be calculated either their fishing earnings for their current claim, or their fishing earnings from their claim for the same season from the previous year, whichever is higher.</p>

Culture, heritage and sport	
Major Festivals and Events Support Initiative (MFESI)	<p>A two-year, \$200-million national fund to help major Canadian festivals survive and adapt to the pandemic. It will also help position them for post-pandemic economic recovery and growth.</p> <p>To be eligible for funding under the MFESI, organizations must demonstrate an annual revenue exceeding \$10 million. The MFESI will be delivered by three of six regional development agencies.</p>
Short-Term Compensation Fund (STCF)	<p>Compensates independent production companies for the lack of insurance coverage for COVID-19–related filming interruptions and production shutdowns in the sector.</p> <p>An applicant must be a Canadian corporation eligible for the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit (CPTC).</p> <p>The fund will continue under March 31, 2022.</p>
Energy	
Emissions Reduction Fund (here)	<p>Provides up to \$750 million to support workers and reduce emissions in Canada's oil and gas sector, with a focus on methane. This fund will provide primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil and gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of this amount, \$75 million will be allocated to the offshore sector.</p>
Transportation	
Regional Air Transportation Initiative (RATI)	<p>Provides support over two years to eligible regional businesses and airports that directly contribute to regional air transportation. The initiative will help ensure that regional air connectivity and services, which are critical to economic growth, are maintained and that regional routes are reconnected across the country.</p> <p>RATI is being delivered by Canada's six regional development agencies (RDA).</p>
Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP)	<p>Provides a top-up of \$186 million through the ACAP to support local and regional airports for safety-related infrastructure projects and equipment purchases.</p> <p>Applications are due no later than June 1 for funding in the next program year.</p>
Airport Relief Fund (ARF)	<p>Provides almost \$65 million in financial relief to targeted Canadian airports to help maintain operations. The contributions are to cover activities that are directly related to the airport's operations to ensure that the airport remains open.</p> <p>An application agreement form for each identified eligible airport was due to Transport Canada by July 30, 2021.</p>

<p>Airport Critical Infrastructure Program (ACIP)</p>	<p>Provides close to \$490 million to support Canada's larger airports with investments in critical infrastructure-related to safety, security or connectivity. Owners and/or operators of National Airports System (NAS) and non-NAS airports with 2019 annual passenger volumes equivalent or more than 525,000 passengers (as of December 2019) are eligible.</p>
<p>Aerospace</p>	
<p>Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative</p>	<p>Provides \$250 million over three years to help the Canadian aerospace sector emerge from the pandemic and continue to compete on the global stage. Businesses operating in the aerospace industry, and the organizations that support them through supply chains, are eligible to apply for funding for projects that will help them green their operations and adopt environmentally sustainable practices, improve productivity and strengthen commercialization, and/or strengthen integration into regional and global supply chains.</p> <p>Apply through Canada's Regional Development Agencies (RDA) here.</p>

The information contained in this article is intended to serve information purposes, in a general fashion, about potential government funding opportunities for businesses. The information expressed is not intended to provide legal advice or establish a retainer with our firm. Further, the links and information provided are dated, and it is recommended that readers proceed to the appropriate website to confirm the timeframes and qualification requirements for each program. For specific legal advice, please contact us.