



# COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

*We're here for you!*

## A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

In recent months, our agricultural producers as well as our agri-food entrepreneurs have demonstrated their resilience and ability to adapt. That is why, this week, I was particularly happy to announce financial assistance of more than \$ 10 million for 27 of Quebec's agri-food companies. This support will help these businesses grow and innovate while creating good jobs.

Our own Bio-Bon in Coaticook is one of these companies. If you don't already know about their veggie pâté, it's time to find out. But beware, it's so good it can be addictive!

Thanks to the financial support from the Government of Canada, this impressive SME from our region will be able to modernize its facilities, continue to grow and continue to make us proud.

As every week, through this newsletter I wish to share with you the latest information available on programs to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19. Please share it throughout your network. I also invite you to visit the CANADA.CA website for all the reliable information you need.

Please feel free to contact my team and me if you have any questions or comments.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones!

**Marie-Claude Bibeau**



Support for individuals- p.2

Support for businesses and organizations - p.3

Sectoral support - p.4

Information on other federal programs that are currently open - p.6

Best sanitary practices - p.7

# SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

---

## MODIFICATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PLAN

With Canada's economy gradually recovering, more than 1.6 million Canadians have been able to return to work. However, not all sectors are resuming their activities at the same pace. For this reason, the Government of Canada is taking action so that as many Canadians as possible can make the transition to the Employment Insurance program when the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) ends.

Consequently, **a minimum unemployment rate of 13.1% will be temporarily applied to all Employment Insurance (EI) economic regions in Canada.** When people start to transition from the CERB to regular EI benefits at the end of this month, those living in EI regions where the unemployment rate is below 13.1% will see their benefits calculated using the rate of 13.1%, while those living in regions with a higher unemployment rate will have their benefits calculated using the actual rate for that region.

Since the number of weeks in which a person can receive EI benefits depends in part on the unemployment rate in his or her region, this measure will allow more Canadians to access regular EI benefits. In addition, this change will allow eligible Canadians to receive benefits for a minimum of 26 weeks.

This is the first in a series of measures to be announced over the coming weeks to help eligible Canadians make the transition from CERB to EI and to the workforce, as we all work to better position our country for a strong economic recovery.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2PLTqgW>.

# SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

---

## CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) enables businesses and organizations across the country to prevent more job losses, encourages employers to quickly rehire workers previously laid off due to COVID -19 and helps to better position the Canadian economy during the transition to economic recovery.

The government of Canada has launched an updated and improved CEWS online calculator to facilitate the application. This new tool includes detailed information to help employers understand how the CEWS can support their employees and operations, who is eligible to apply, and how claim periods are structured.

The program will help small and large employers alike prepare to apply for the next period of the CEWS program, which will open for applications on **August 17, 2020**.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2XX8bIE>.

# SECTORAL SUPPORT

---

## COVID-19 VACCINE WORKING GROUP

The federal government has taken several steps to ensure the future supply of a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19.

Among other things, it created the COVID-19 Vaccines Working Group whose mandate is to advise the Government of Canada on the most promising options that would allow Canadians to receive safe and effective vaccines as quickly as possible.

## PFIZER AND MODERNA AGREEMENTS

Following a comprehensive review and recommendation from the COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group, the Government of Canada has entered into agreements with Pfizer and Moderna to reserve millions of doses of investigational COVID-19 vaccines.

Potential vaccines will need to receive regulatory approval from Health Canada before they can be used to immunize Canadians. Active negotiations with other potential vaccine suppliers are also underway.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2DJjabe>.

# SECTORAL SUPPORT

---

## STRATEGIC INNOVATION FUND

Following a recommendation from the COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group, an investment of up to \$ 56 million will be made through the Strategic Innovation Fund to support clinical trials of an investigational vaccine against COVID-19 developed by Variation Biotechnologies Inc. (VBI).

The VBI project is a direct response to the global fight against COVID-19 and is helping to strengthen Canada's ability to obtain an effective vaccine. This investment is made from the \$ 600 million government fund intended to support the development of vaccines and the conduct of therapeutic clinical trials in connection with COVID-19.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2DJjabe>.

# INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

---

**Canada Emergency Business Account** (<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>): Open

**Local Food Infrastructure Fund** (<https://bit.ly/2W0ltg1>) : Open until funds are exhausted

**Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages** (<https://bit.ly/2ZaY7GI>) : Open until funds are exhausted

**Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Study projects** (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until funds are exhausted

**Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Capital investment projects** (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until August 13, 2020

**Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program** (<https://bit.ly/2VimgbO>): Open until August 31, 2020

**Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** (<https://bit.ly/3dFe8c1>): Open until August 31, 2020

**Canada Emergency Student Benefit** (<https://bit.ly/2NqLvEJ>): Open until September 30, 2020

**Canada Emergency Response Benefit** (<https://bit.ly/2YvHLYI>): Open until October 3rd, 2020

**Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** (<https://bit.ly/2Vk7JfN>): Open until December 2020

# BEST SANITARY PRACTICES

---

To have up-to-date information concerning the coronavirus, we invite you to contact:

- The Canadian Government Website : <https://bit.ly/2QFBAwY>
- Phone **1-833-347-4397** (toll free).

If ever you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), contact **1-877-644-4545** (toll free).

For more information on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the **workplace**, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3adWvz3>.



Public health experts recommend that we:

- Limit our contact with other people by practicing social distancing;
- Frequently wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if we don't have access to water and soap;
- Cough and sneeze in a tissue or in the crux of our arm
- Avoid touching our eyes, nose or mouth if we haven't previously washed our hands;
- Use approved sanitizers to clean hard surfaces;
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched (telephones, door handles, etc...)

To learn more on risk prevention, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Uv9d5M> or send an email to [phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca).