



**VITA: FINANCIAL SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO CANADIAN  
WORKERS AND INDUSTRY**

Dear VITA Member,

COVID-19 has caused significant disruption to our industry. While vape products remain available through convenience stores as an essential service, in most jurisdictions, specialty vape stores have in most cases, been forced to close.

To support Canadian industry and workers during this difficult time, various financial and deferment programs have been created by the federal government.

To support our members in navigating these various programs, VITA has put together this guidance document that includes brief descriptions of applicable programs and links to the applications.

Should you need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us,

Best Regards

VITA Staff Team  
647-206-1231

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## **Direct Support:**

### **1: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy**

The proposed Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy would cover 75 per cent of salaries for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. Employers of all sizes and across all sectors of the economy would be eligible with the exception of public sector entities.

This program is designed to help employers hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic to keep and retain workers.

Organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may qualify for the previously announced [wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration](#) paid from March 18 to before June 20, 2020.

Eligible employers would be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying through a Canada Revenue Agency online portal. More details on how to apply will follow soon.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

### **2: Extending the Work-Sharing program**

The Federal Government is extending the maximum duration of the [Work-Sharing program](#) from 38 weeks to 76 weeks for employers affected by COVID-19. This measure will provide income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

## **Tax Support**

### **3: More time to pay income taxes**

The Federal Government is allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.

No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

#### **4: Deferral of Sales Tax Remittance and Customs Duty Payments until June**

The Federal Government is allowing businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer until June 30, 2020 payments of the GST/HST, as well as customs duty owing on their imports.

Any GST/HST payment that becomes owing from March 27 until the end of May can be deferred until the end of June. For GST and customs duty payments for imported goods, deferral will include amounts owing for March, April and May.

These amounts were normally due to be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency and the Canada Border Services Agency as early as the end of March 2020.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

### **Access to credit**

#### **5: Establishing a Business Credit Availability Program**

The Federal Government has established a Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to provide \$40 billion of additional support through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC).

BDC and EDC are working with private sector lenders to coordinate on credit solutions for individual businesses, including in sectors such as oil and gas, air transportation, exports and tourism.

This program includes:

- **Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs.

- **Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements.

Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.

These programs will roll out in **mid-April**, and interested businesses **should work with their current financial institutions**.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

## 6: Canada Emergency Business Account

The new Canada Emergency Business Account will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.

To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019.

This program will roll out in **mid-April**, and interested businesses **should work with their current financial institutions**.

## 7: Supporting financial stability

- Launching an Insured Mortgage Purchase Program

The Federal Government has launched an [Insured Mortgage Purchase Program](#), in which they will purchase up to \$150 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

This action will provide long-term stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders, help facilitate continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses, and add liquidity to Canada's mortgage market.

[Click Here for More Information:](#)

## **Support For Workers:**

### **8: Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

Canada will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to [eligible workers](#) who have lost their income due to COVID-19.

There are **two ways to apply**:

1. [Online](#)
2. Over the phone with an automated phone service:  
1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern time) for maintenance.

### **9: Employment Insurance:**

If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, you should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, whether or not are eligible for Employment Insurance. The Benefit is available for the period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

If you applied for EI regular or sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, your claim will be automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

Starting now, there will be a single portal to assist you with the application process. The link [can be found here](#).

### **10: More time to pay income taxes**

The Federal Government is allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the *Income Tax Act*.

No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

[Click Here for More Information](#)