



May 29, 2020

mbbeef.ca

E-Newsletter

An update from Manitoba Beef Producers

WEBINAR

MANAGING CATTLE PRICE RISK DURING COVID-19

Join us for a webinar on June 02, 2020 at 7:30pm

The webinar will feature information and tips on how to approach Western Livestock Price Insurance (WLPIP) Calf Policies, Evaluate Pricing given COVID-19 uncertainty. After [registering](#), you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

WE'RE
HIRING

Livestock Predation Prevention Project

Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) is seeking a highly motivated individual to work part-time on a contract basis for three years to help develop and deliver the LPPPP. Information about the job posting can be found [here](#). Applications are due by May 31, 2020.



COVID-19 Resources

For reliable information and resources please visit:



← For the latest Manitoba industry news:
<https://www.mbbeef.ca/news/covid-19-updates/>



← The Canadian Cattlemen's Association is collaborating with industry stakeholders and the Government of Canada to ensure both stable beef production and trade during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.cattle.ca/ccaresources/covid-19/>



Pandemic not affecting all cattle sectors equally

Who owns Australia? Our biggest land barons

Stock Grower's Association offering directory for consumers

PROVINCE CONTINUES MEASURES FOR MANITOBANS IMPACTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Deferred Tax Filing Deadlines, Postponed Eviction Hearings and Rent Freeze Support Manitoba Businesses, Tenants: Fielding

(Government of Manitoba News Release, May 29, 2020)

The Manitoba government is once again extending measures aimed to help residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced today.

“Manitoba’s small- and medium-sized businesses continue to face a challenging economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and we want to help them further by giving them more time to submit provincial taxes,” said Fielding. “As we enter Phase Two of restoring services across Manitoba and more businesses reopen, we want to provide them with some additional financial flexibility.”

After extending the April and May filing deadlines for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of no more than \$10,000, the province is now extending the deadlines for June as well. Businesses will now have up to three additional months to remit retail sales taxes and the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy, commonly called the payroll tax.

Fielding noted in the last two months, deferred retail sales and payroll tax deferrals resulted in an estimated \$10.8 million savings to Manitoba businesses.

The province is continuing to postpone non-urgent eviction hearings and suspending any rent increases scheduled to take effect in June. The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB) and Residential Tenancies Commission (RTC) will continue to postpone all hearings for non-urgent matters to halt evictions, and all scheduled

hearings are delayed to protect Manitobans from evictions during the pandemic, with certain exceptions to deal with urgent issues that involve the health and safety of tenants. Eviction orders will only be issued to address issues affecting health and safety including unlawful activities.

“We continue to balance safety concerns with support for renters facing economic hardship or needing to self isolate due to COVID-19,” said Fielding. “The Residential Tenancies Branch remains available to resolve urgent situations involving health and safety for landlords and tenants.”

Fielding noted the RTB also recognizes landlords are experiencing financial challenges as some tenants are unable to pay full rent. After June 30, the branch plans to schedule hearings to adjudicate landlord applications for orders of possession on a priority basis. Hearings will be scheduled based on the order in which the applications are received. Landlords and tenants are encouraged to contact the RTB for information by telephone at 204-945-2476 or (toll-free) at 1-800-782-8403 and by email at rtb@gov.mb.ca.

Information on filing requirements is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html.

A comprehensive list of Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at: <https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.



WHO WE ARE

MBFI is a centre of agricultural innovation engaging in science-based research to benefit valuable ecosystems, improve producer profitability and build social awareness around the beef and forage industry.

LEARN MORE



PROVINCE UNVEILS OVER \$7 MILLION IN NEW CONSERVATION TRUST PROJECTS

Building a Legacy of Work To Benefit all Manitobans: Pedersen

(Government of Manitoba News Release, May 28, 2020)

The first round of Conservation Trust projects for 2020 have been awarded to 19 different conservation organizations, Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen announced today. More than \$1.8 million in Conservation Trust funds will contribute to 23 Manitoba projects throughout the province, with matching funds of nearly \$5.4 million, the total investment in these projects is more than \$7 million.

“The projects announced today provide support to Manitoba-based conservation work that conserves and enhances Manitoba’s natural infrastructure,” said Pedersen. “The conservation work being done throughout the province is building a legacy of work that will benefit all Manitobans and ensure Manitoba remains Canada’s cleanest, greenest, most climate-resilient province.”

The *Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan* called for the establishment of a trust to provide long-term and stable support to conservation efforts throughout the province. The Conservation Trust was established in 2018 with a \$102 million contribution to The Winnipeg Foundation that established an endowment fund to generate annual revenues for conservation projects in perpetuity. Two additional Trusts, the GROW Trust and the Wetlands GROW Trust, have also been created, bringing Manitoba’s total investment in these trusts to \$204 million.

Activities funded by the Conservation Trust include conserving biodiversity, mitigating floods and droughts, supporting climate-change mitigation through carbon sequestration, improving soil health, preserving waterways and decreasing soil erosion.

“Investing in projects that preserve our environment cannot wait as they play a vital role in combating climate change,” Pedersen noted. “Due to the innovative approach and the permanent endowment we have created, the Conservation Trust’s revenues ensure we are able to invest in worthy projects year after year, no matter the financial pressures Manitoba faces.”

The first round of Conservation Trust Funding for 2020 include:

- Association of Manitoba Community Pastures’ Grassland Study and Biodiversity Enhancement Project (\$250,000) – This Manitoba-based group is working with producers to address the dangers posed to Manitoba grasslands, while preserving the integrity of community pastures that support a variety of habitats. The project will engage wildlife biologists to work towards native prairie and rangeland enhancement.
- Three projects of Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (\$231,333 total) – This farmer-led group will help farmers to adopt practices that restore wildlife habitat and enhance carbon sequestration, soil health and water management.
- Fort Whyte Alive’s Open Spaces Enhancement Project (\$40,000) – Fort Whyte Alive provides opportunities for Manitobans to connect with nature and understand the importance of the environment to everyone’s well-being. This investment will be used by Fort Whyte to help Manitobans connect to the natural world through the enhancement of the open spaces surrounding its Interpretive Centre.
- Opasquia Trails Incorporated’s Grace Lake Boardwalk and Boreal Forest Trail (\$50,000) – East of The Pas, the project at Grace Lake will see a boardwalk added to a land-based trail through an old growth boreal forest. The project will connect visitors with the natural environment in order to enhance education, life skills, culture, arts, recreation and tourism to this area of northern Manitoba.
- Delta Waterfowl’s Conservation and Enhancement of Wetlands in Manitoba Project (\$75,000) – Delta Waterfowl is working to conserve biodiversity through enhancing waterfowl breeding habitats and nesting structures throughout Manitoba.
- Inter-Mountain Watershed District’s Streambank Stabilization Project on Turtle River (\$147,500) – The community-based watershed district is working to reduce soil erosion and restore riparian habitats along the Turtle River as outlined in the Dauphin Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Conservation Trust cont. from page 3

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen making the announcement. Municipal Relations Minister Rochelle Squires is also pictured. Courtesy Twitter



Marie-Claude Bibeau chats with Sonny Perdue - Courtesy Twitter

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau spoke to her US and Mexico counterparts

(May 28, 2020 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Statement)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau spoke with Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development Victor Villalobos and US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue as part of their continued collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic. They discussed the importance of sustaining uninterrupted food and agriculture trade to ensure food security and safeguard the citizens in our three countries.

The leaders also emphasized their commitment to a smooth and effective transition to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) which enters into force July 1, and acknowledged that open trade and maintaining our integrated supply chain are instrumental in recovering from COVID-19 and facilitating economic growth.

Quote

"My videoconference with my North American counterparts today provided an opportunity to discuss the importance of our mutual agriculture and food trade, which last year totaled \$38.9 billion. Trilateral cooperation and stable, strong trade is more important than ever to support our farm families and agri-food businesses, and to keep our economy resilient."

- The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food



The Conservation Trust is permanently endowed to support and inspire conservation projects for generations, Pedersen said, adding the fund is expected to generate on average \$5 million a year, which will be invested into conservation efforts throughout Manitoba every year. It is managed by The Winnipeg Foundation, with projects approved, tracked and evaluated by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

"We are pleased to be part of a permanent funding initiative that will support long-term support for conservation and adaptation to climate change in rural Manitoba," said Tim Sopuck, chief executive officer, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. "This approach has been very well received by the conservation community in Manitoba and beyond."

A second round of Conservation Trust and GROW Trust grants focused on watershed projects will be announced in the coming months.



WLPIP – Calf Extension

The Western Livestock Price Insurance program provides Manitoba cattle and hog producers with insurance policies that reflect market volatility. Producers can sign up for free with no obligation to purchase a policy. There are a range of coverage options available every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to best suit individual livestock operations. The deadline to purchase calf price insurance has been extended to June 18, 2020. Be enrolled, be ready. Visit www.wlpip.ca for information.



MFGA REGISTERS NATURAL HAT TRICK OF MANITOBA CONSERVATION TRUST PROJECTS 2020

Soil Health, Regenerative Agriculture, Producer Profitability and Riparian Areas hit producer group's scoresheet with huge assists from Manitoba Government, project partners and Manitoba producers

Winnipeg, MB (May 28, 2020)— [Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association \(MFGA\)](#) received fantastic news from Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen and the [Province of Manitoba's Conservation Trust](#) announcement today with official notice that three MFGA-led projects had received approval.

“We are ecstatic with this news becoming official and we want to thank the Province of Manitoba, Premier Brian Pallister and Manitoba Agriculture Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen for giving the opportunity for groups like MFGA to deliver on agriculture-conservation-based projects that are designed to benefit wildlife and producers via the environmental and economic pillars of each Conservation Trust project,” said Larry Wegner, MFGA Chair. “The Manitoba Conservation Trust is truly a made-in-Manitoba gem and we salute the work of the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Conservation Trust team and the Winnipeg Foundation for their important roles in the ongoing development and success of this excellent program.”

According to Wegner, today’s great news from the Manitoba Conservation Trust is a valuable reinforcement that MFGA’s collaborative producer-based approach is working and gaining traction with partners.

“The ultimate goal for MFGA is producer profitability resulting from healthy agricultural lands being managed with wise land-use practices that vastly improve soil, water and air quality,” says Wegner. “When combined with our increasing supporter and producer networks, our growing leadership profile on Regenerative Agriculture and the projects we have successfully delivered on our resume, MFGA’s constant focus on the win-win-win for our organization goals and the interests of producers and project partners really is a winning formula for all. The Conservation Trust funding today is a really nice feather in our cap and we relish the opportunity to successfully deliver all three of these excellent projects.”

The 2020 announcement marks the second year that a MFGA project has been approved by the Manitoba Conservation Trust. In 2019, MFGA was the successful proponent on the Kirkella Community Pasture Enhancement Project which is now entering Year 2 with project activities ramping up this year after a pasture assessment was completed and reviewed in Year 1.

MFGA-Led Conservation Trust Projects 2020:

- 1. *Conservation Trust Category: Soil Health: Soil Health and Cover Crops: Strength from the Soil: Building on the Biological foundation for Producers and Wildlife.*** MFGA will lead a one-year project to work with interested producers from the Central Assiniboine, Assiniboine West and Souris River Watershed Districts to target 2000 acres over the one year project to improve the ecological health of the soil, increase profit at the farm gate and advance continued improvement in ecological services being delivered from the farming landscape. The Conservation Trust, will provide \$90,000 for the project with the remaining approximately \$180,000 of the project funding made up in-kind and by matching funding by the project partners. With a key focus on cover crops, the project will support landowners' Regenerative Agriculture practices that benefit their farms and the soils of their operations by keeping living roots in the ground for as many days of annual sunlight as possible.
- 2. *Conservation Trust Category: Wildlife and Habitat: A new approach to restoring profitability, wildlife habitat and soil health on a watershed basis.*** MFGA will work closely with Ducks Unlimited Canada to deliver an incentive-based forage program that restores grasslands and protects the adjacent wetlands. Two distinct forage programs that sign long-term agreements with private landowners will be delivered that targets both grain and cattle producers. The goal is to restore 2,600 acres of grasslands and protect 400 acres of wetlands within two watersheds that overlap DUC's high wetland density target areas. The \$340,000 project will benefit from \$113,000 Conservation Trust funding while DUC will contribute the bulk of the in-kind and matching funds through monies for producer incentives. MFGA, Assiniboine West and Souris River Watershed Districts and Redfern Farm Services will provide the balance.
- 3. *Conservation Trust Category: Wildlife and Habitat: Expansion of natural riparian zones for wildlife and watersheds.*** This two-year MFGA project backdrops onto the lands owned by Borderland Agriculture near Pierson, MB to provide grassland habitat to wildlife while at the same time providing flood mitigation to the Souris River. The two-year project will benefit from approximately \$28,000 in Conservation Trust funding with nearly \$57,000 in matching funds provided from partners Borderland Agriculture, DUC, Souris River Watershed District and MFGA.

For More Information: Duncan Morrison, MFGA Executive Director, 204.77.3548,
Duncan@mfga.net

Province Launches Online Tool to Help Match Employers and Students for Jobs

(May 28, 2020 Government of Manitoba News Release)

The Manitoba government has launched Student Jobs MB, a new and exciting online tool dedicated to matching students looking for job opportunities to employers with workforce needs throughout the province, Premier Brian Pallister announced today.

“Summer jobs are important for youth in not only helping pay for an education, but for building life skills and developing future career interests,” said Pallister.

“Employers also benefit from hiring students, who can bring energy and new perspectives to their operations and assist them greatly in rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic. This new tool will help bring them together.”

Student Jobs MB is simple and free to use, allowing students to be matched with and to apply for multiple jobs with the click of a button. The technology is safe and secure, and designed to protect user privacy. Private-sector employers, not-for-profit organizations and governments are able to post jobs and connect directly with students. This tool expedites the hiring process and will encourage student summer employment.

Student Jobs MB will be the primary source used by the province to connect students with government employment opportunities offered through the Student Temporary Employment Program, the Conservation Green Team and Urban/Hometown Green Team partners.

This new tool will complement the Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program, which was launched on April 24 as a key response to the economic impact of the pandemic. The Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program supports employers in hiring high school and post-secondary students by making \$120 million available for an hourly \$7 wage subsidy, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per student. The program is open to students aged 15 to 29, with an employment period from May 1 to Sept. 4. Employers can be subsidized to hire up to five students. To date, 793 employers offering 1,841 student jobs have responded to the program.

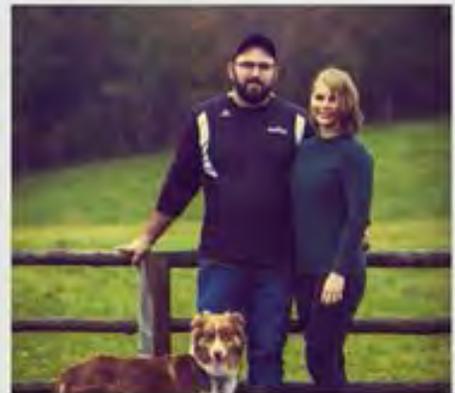
“As Manitoba restores services safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, students can be an important resource to help employers reopen,” said Economic Development and Training Minister Ralph Eichler. “This easy-to-use online tool will allow students to find jobs in their communities and will help employers connect with quality applicants.”

More information on student and youth employment opportunities can be found at:
www.studentjobsmb.ca.

A comprehensive list of Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at:
<https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.

FEEDING THE FUTURE

How COVID-19 has impacted Canada's young ranching and farming families



CCA CANADIAN
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

National Voice Of Cattle Producers

COMPETITIVE FEED COSTS

TIME TO BOOK YOUR SPRING/SUMMER GRAIN & PROTEIN NEEDS

TRUCKLOAD LOTS

(APPROX. 42 MT)

Delivered right to your farm

BROKEN CORN

(Similar nutrient value to whole kernel corn)

No grinding or rolling required to feed!

WHEAT PELLETS

(Approx. 19% Protein, 6% Fat, 77 TDN – As Fed)

BARLEY PELLETS

(Approx. 10% Protein, 3% Fat, 67% TDN – As fed))

GROUND OAT HULLS

(Great for stretching silage)

OTHER FEED INGREDIENTS AVAILABLE!!

**For Prices Delivered to Your Area
PLEASE CONTACT US**

Feed Ingredients from a Name that Delivers!!

Quality, Reliability and Value



SHAFER
Commodities Inc

Jan or Heather

(204) 822-6275

1 (877) 999-6604

RESTORING SAFE SERVICES

MANITOBA'S PANDEMIC AND ECONOMIC ROADMAP FOR RECOVERY

Second Phase of Restoring Safe Services Plan to Begin June 1

(May 27, 2020 Government of Manitoba News Release) Based on feedback from Manitobans and current public health data, the Manitoba government has finalized the draft Phase Two plan and will implement measures effective June 1 to continue safely restoring services and opening additional businesses while ensuring physical distancing, Premier Brian Pallister announced.

"I want to thank Manitobans for their input, and as a result of these discussions and advice from public health experts, we are in a position to move forward with phase two of our plan to safely restore our services," said Pallister. "I also want to thank Manitobans for continuing to respect physical distancing guidelines and ask everyone to keep taking steps to protect themselves and others as we continue to ease restrictions."

As of June 1, limited access to educational facilities, where physical distancing can be maintained, will be allowed for additional tutorial days, such as one-on-one learning, assessment and specific programming. Manitoba Education will continue planning and consulting with school divisions and other education stakeholders, the premier noted.

The plan for Phase Two was revised from the original draft document, released May 21, based on input from the public and businesses, as well as additional input from public health officials. Changes include:

- detailed guidance for post-secondary educational institutions and vocational colleges;
- removing occupancy limits for therapeutic and health-care services;
- detailed guidance for senior's clubs;
- additional details on requirements for the safe operation of splash pads;
- updated guidance for community centres;
- the reopening of arts and cultural activities, such as dance, art and theatre;

- clarifications on the opening of bars, beverage rooms, brew pubs, micro-brewers and distilleries to allow sites that do not serve food to open, as well as updated guidance from public health that all patrons must be seated at tables and stand-up service is not allowed; and
- detailed public health guidelines for film productions.

A number of measures initially outlined in the draft plan for Phase Two can resume effective June 1 including:

- increasing child-care centre occupancy to up to 24 children plus staffing;
- increasing day camp group sizes to 24;
- resuming sports, arts and cultural activities for children and adults;
- lifting occupancy limits at outdoor recreation facilities and golf courses outdoors, as long as physical distancing can be maintained and allowing limited access to indoor spaces;
- allowing direct travel to northern parks, campgrounds, cabins, lodges and resorts while ensuring physical distancing;
- allowing public/private swimming pools, spas, fitness clubs, gyms and community/service centres to reopen with some limitations;
- allowing religious or other organizations to hold outdoor services or events without limitation on numbers if people stay in their vehicles;
- reopening manicurists and pedicurists, tattoo parlours, estheticians, cosmetologists, electrologists and tanning parlours at 50 per cent capacity;
- allowing restaurants to reopen indoor spaces at 50 per cent capacity and continue to offer patio services at that capacity level; and
- allowing bars, beverage rooms, micro-brewers and similar businesses to operate patio service at 50 per cent of site capacity and to reopen indoor spaces at 50 per cent capacity.

Second Phase cont. from page 8

No changes will be made to the requirements for reopening museums, galleries and libraries, and parks, campgrounds yurts and vacation cabins.

Detailed information on the plan for Phase Two of service restoration and steps people can take to reduce their risk and workplace guidance for businesses can be found at:

www.manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices and

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-two.html>

Other changes that came into effect on May 22 included increasing gathering sizes to 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors, and allowing professional sports teams to resume practicing.

“Case numbers and positive test rates continue to be low and other key factors are also positive,” said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba’s chief provincial public health officer. “These additional steps to safely restore services will help ease the impacts on Manitobans and ensure the health system continues to be able to respond if case numbers increase slightly.”

Mass gatherings such as concerts, festivals and major

sporting events will not be considered before September 2020, Roussin noted. He also noted that it is key for people to stay home if they are sick to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Roussin continued to encourage businesses to take steps to help staff, patrons and visitors stay safe including:

- ensuring people are able to reasonably maintain two metres of distance;
- only conducting necessary and brief exchanges within two metres of others;
- applying enhanced cleaning protocols, especially in common areas like washrooms;
- maintaining physical distancing and food-handling protocols in workplace areas including lunch and common areas;
- staying home when feeling sick; and
- following personal risk reduction measures.

Manitoba businesses can submit questions about how the plan applies to them by visiting <https://engagemb.ca>

A comprehensive list of MB government COVID-19 measures can be found at:

<https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.

Government of Canada Benefits Finder

The Benefits Finder is a tool that can help you find Benefits and Services that you may be eligible to receive. It asks a few questions and uses your answers to search. It does not collect or track your information. The more questions you answer, the more customized and accurate your results will be.

[Get Started with Benefits Finder](#)

You may be eligible for support via other programs as well. [Answer some questions to find financial help during COVID-19.](#)



CCA CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
National Voice Of Cattle Producers

Virtual News Roundup
May 28, 2020

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association

(CCA) has launched a new communications initiative called the *Virtual News Roundup*, which features short video updates from various industry representatives. It is designed to continue to inform producers of important developments in weeks where a Producer Town Hall is not being held.

**CLICK
HERE**





TESA Applications Due to MBP December 4

Manitoba Beef Producers is accepting applications for Manitoba's Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) until Friday, December 4, 2020.

Since 1996, the Canadian Cattlemen Association's (CCA) TESA has recognized producers who go above and beyond standard industry conservation practices, setting positive examples for other cattle producers and the general public.

At the provincial level, the winning operation receives recognition for its outstanding contributions, which in MBP's case occurs in conjunction with its annual general meeting in February. All provincial award recipients then move forward to compete at the national level.

The national TESA recipient is announced in conjunction with the Canadian Beef Industry Conference and CCA Semi-Annual Meeting in August.

Each TESA nominee exemplifies significant innovation and attention to a wide range of environmental stewardship aspects of their farm operation. Such innovations extend beneficially to areas far beyond their land, including water, wildlife and air.

All beef cattle operations in Canada may apply. Producers can either be nominated by an individual or organization, or apply themselves. Nominees and applicants compete for one of the provincial awards based on their province of residence.

For more information and to access the application go to <http://www.cattle.ca/sustainability/the-environmental-stewardship-award/>, or contact MBP for a copy.

The form, along with all supporting documentation (such as letters of support, photos and/or videos), is to be submitted to Manitoba Beef Producers c/o 220-530 Century Street, Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Y4 by December 4, 2020. The application is to be emailed to info@mbbeef.ca. If you have questions, please contact the MBP office at 1-800-772-0458.

**HEALTHY
FARMERS
= HEALTHY
FARMS**

"It helps to talk to someone who listens and understands..."

**Free & Confidential Phone
and Online Counselling**
For Farmers, Rural and Northern Manitobans.



SUPPORTLINE.CA 1-866-367-3276

Update on Financial Support Offered to Farmers from CEBA Changes

(Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Statement)

The Canadian Emergency Business Account has potential to provide up to \$670 million directly to farmers from the forgivable portion of Canadian Emergency Business Account interest-free loans.

It is estimated that the expanded eligibility to the CEBA announced on May 19 more than doubled the amount of farmers eligible for the CEBA benefits.

The changes allow an estimated additional 36,566 farms nation-wide to access the CEBA, for a total of over 67,000 eligible farms across Canada. This equates to up to \$2.68 billion in interest-free loans to Canadian farmers, 25% of which is forgivable. Each farmer can access up to \$40,000 in interest-free loans, which, if paid off by the end of 2022, entitles the farmer up to \$10,000 of that amount to be forgiven.

We heard from many farmers that the Canada Emergency Business Account did not work for them, because many did not meet the payroll criteria. We listened to their concerns, and changed the eligibility to ensure a total of 67 000 farm operations without payroll, 36,500 more, can now access the program.

In dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, our Government has consistently said that we are prioritizing speed, and we continue to fill the gaps. For those farmers who are still unable to access CEBA, they can turn towards the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.

Farmers can be assured that we have their back, and we are continuing to roll-out supports for our agriculture sector."

- Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

HAVE YOU CAUGHT OUR NEW COMMERCIAL?



Youth Employment and Skills Program enhanced to help create new positions for youth in the agriculture sector

(May 26, 2020 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada News Release)

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada is taking steps to ensure the resilience of the food supply chain and to provide support to keep the agriculture sector strong. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced an investment of up to \$9.2 million to enhance the Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) and fund up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture industry.

This additional funding will help the agriculture industry attract Canadian youth, ages 15 to 30, to their organizations to assist with labour shortages brought on by the pandemic. This program aims to provide youth, and particularly youth facing barriers to employment, with job experience in agriculture that will provide career-related work experience.

The YESP will provide agriculture employers up to 50 per cent of the cost of hiring a Canadian youth up to \$14,000. Indigenous applicants and those applicants hiring a youth facing barriers are eligible for funding of up to 80 per cent of their costs.

Eligible applicants include producers, agri-businesses, industry associations, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations and research facilities. Employers may apply for this funding retroactive to April 1, 2020, with projects to be completed by March 31, 2021.

Application forms are available through the Youth Employment and Skills Program, or to get more information, please contact aafc.yesp-pecj.aac@canada.ca, or call: 1-866-452-5558.

Quotes

"During this unprecedented time, our food producers are working hard to feed Canada, while adjusting their businesses to new challenges, such as a shortage of workers. This program will help agricultural and agri-food businesses meet their labour needs with support for up to 700 workers, while allowing more young people in Canada to explore the limitless potential this industry has to offer."

- The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

"Our government recognizes the importance of investing in our youth, and keeping them connected to the labour market in these extraordinary times. Programs like the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, that help to break down barriers to employment and give young Canadians the support they need to launch meaningful careers in vital sectors like such as agriculture, are paramount to ensuring a strong economic recovery."

- The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

"Young Canadians are talented, ambitious, and hard-working, yet getting a strong start in the workforce can be challenging for many, especially during this uncertain time. This funding will go to support up to 700 jobs in agriculture and provide young people an opportunity to discover the limitless potential of the agriculture and agri-food industries."

- The Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth

Quick facts

- Applications are being accepted (AAFC Youth Employment and Skills Program) on a continuous basis beginning immediately.
- The Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) is an Employment and Social Development Canada-led horizontal initiative involving 11 federal departments and agencies.
- This announcement builds on the measures we have introduced to keep Canada's agri-workforce strong, including:
 - Travel exemptions for all temporary foreign workers, including seasonal agricultural workers and fish/seafood workers.
 - \$50 million to help the farming, fish harvesting, and food production and processing sectors cover the incremental costs of associated with the mandatory 14-day isolation period imposed under the Quarantine Act on temporary foreign workers upon entering Canada.
 - An expanded Canada Summer Jobs program to prioritize agri-food workers.
 - IRCC changes to its process to allow temporary workers with an employer-specific work permit, including in agriculture, to quickly change employers when they find a new job. Workers who used to wait 10 weeks or more to begin a new job, will now only wait 10 days or less.
 - A pilot project for temporary foreign workers who work year-round in the agriculture industry to have a pathway to permanent residency.
 - A 'Step up to the Plate' employment portal and agriculture jobs recruitment campaign.

Associated links

- [AAFC Youth Employment and Skills Program](#)
- [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy \(YESS\) – Employment and Social Development Canada](#)
- [Supporting Canada's farmers, food businesses, and food supply](#)
- [Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#)

Hotline to provide small businesses in need with financial planning advice amid COVID-19

(May 25, 2020, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada News Release)

Small businesses have been facing unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so as they take steps toward reopening. To help them get through this crisis, the Government of Canada has introduced a wide range of supports to help businesses retain their employees, keep their costs low and pay their operating expenses.

The smallest businesses may face the additional challenge of accessing tailored financial planning advice to help them survive this difficult period.

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, announced that the Government of Canada will support the launch of a four-week hotline service called the Business Resilience Service. This service will help entrepreneurs and small business owners in need of financial planning advice, particularly those who may not have access to an accountant. The service will also be open to not-for-profit organizations and charities.

The hotline is a national, bilingual service operated by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. As of today, small business owners with pressing financial needs can call 1-866-989-1080 (toll-free) seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET).

Business advisors—125 members of Chartered Professional Accountants Canada (CPA Canada)—will be available to provide customized financial guidance to the smallest business owners in the most urgent need and help them make the best decisions for their business as they navigate this crisis. Advisors can answer questions about tax regulations and the implications of COVID-19, inform business owners about government support programs that best fit their unique circumstances, and provide strategic financial planning for their road to recovery.

Every step of the way through this crisis, the government will continue to support Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs—especially vulnerable businesses in dire need of help.

Quick facts

- The Government of Canada is investing \$3 million in the Business Resilience Service, a four-week trial project. It may be extended in the coming weeks depending on the demand and the progress made in the fight against COVID-19.
- As of December 2017, there were 1.18 million employer businesses in Canada. Of these, 1.15 million (97.9%) were small, 21,926 (1.9%) were medium-sized and 2,939 (0.2%) were large businesses.
- To support Canadians and Canadian businesses as we fight COVID-19, the Government of Canada introduced the largest relief package in our country's history. This includes major programs such as:
 - the [Canada Emergency Business Account \(CEBA\)](#), which is providing businesses with a \$40,000 interest-free loan, through participating Canadian financial institutions. If the loan is repaid by December 31, 2022, up to \$10,000 will be forgiven.
 - the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#), which is helping businesses by covering up to 75% of payroll, retroactive to March 15 and continuing through to the end of August.
 - The [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#), which is helping businesses forced to close by supporting landlords to cover 75% of commercial rents for April, May and June.
 - In addition to broad support programs, we have also introduced targeted measures to help artists and athletes, innovative and high-growth businesses, Indigenous-owned businesses, women entrepreneurs, farmers and agri-food businesses, and more. Find out more: [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance now open for applications

(May 25, 2020, Prime Minister of Canada News Release) Canadian families and small businesses across the country are feeling the impacts of COVID-19. That's why the Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to protect jobs and businesses, and give property owners support so they can help small business tenants make it through these difficult times.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that applications are now being accepted for Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses.

Over the course of the program, property owners will reduce rent by at least 75 per cent for the months of April and May (retroactive), and June, for their small business tenants. CECRA will cover 50 per cent of the rent, with the tenant paying up to 25 per cent and the property owner forgiving at least 25 per cent.

Applying for CECRA makes financial sense for property owners, as their success depends on the success of their tenants. If a tenant declares bankruptcy and is evicted, the property owner receives zero rental income and faces additional costs while they search for new tenants. With this program, property owners will continue to receive income, and small business tenants will receive the help they need to recover and come back after the pandemic.

CECRA is another measure announced by the Government of Canada to provide important relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship, and help keep Canadians on the payroll.

Quick Facts

- As of May 25, 2020, applications will be accepted through the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation \(CMHC\)](#) website.
- The CMHC expects a large number of applications. To manage this volume, the intake of applications will be staggered based on the size and location of the commercial property. Property owners can submit their applications according to the following timetable:
 - Tuesday, May 26: Property owners who are located in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the Territories, with up to 10 tenants who are eligible for the program.
 - Wednesday, May 27: All other property owners in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the Territories.
 - Friday, May 29: All property owners across Canada.
- This program is for small business tenants that are paying less than \$50,000 per month in gross rent, with annual consolidated revenues of less than \$2 million, and that have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. It will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.

A note of **appreciation** from
Manitoba Beef Producers