

## Province Seeks Input From Manitobans on Plans for Phase Three of Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic Economic Recovery Roadmap

*(June 11, 2020 Government of Manitoba News Release)*

The Manitoba government is seeking feedback from the public on its proposed plan to ease public health restrictions and continue safely restoring services, while ensuring physical distancing, Premier Brian Pallister announced.

"Thanks to the efforts of 'Team Manitoba', we have successfully kept our COVID curve flat and continue to have among the lowest test positivity rates in Canada," said Pallister. "There is a lot to take into consideration as we reopen our businesses and communities, safely. I am pleased to share with Manitobans the draft plan for Phase Three of Restoring Safe Services, and I encourage their input and advice as we move forward in our recovery efforts, together."

The draft plan for Phase Three of reopening the Manitoba economy is based on public health advice and consultation with key sectors.

Proposed measures include:

- increasing gathering sizes to up to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors;
- developing guidelines for faith-based and other cultural gatherings, pow wows and other Indigenous cultural and spiritual gatherings, and small summer fairs and festivals;
- easing border restrictions to allow residents of western Canada and northwest Ontario to enter Manitoba without the need to self-isolate for 14 days;
- resuming regular licensed capacity for child-care centres with guidelines in place;
- increasing group sizes for day camps from 24 children to 50;

- increasing indoor occupancy levels for community/service centres and senior centres/clubs;
- allowing people employed by or affiliated with a film production to enter Manitoba without self-isolating for 14 days;
- allowing people employed by or affiliated with a professional sports team to enter Manitoba without self-isolating for 14 days;
- removing occupancy limits for retail businesses while ensuring physical distancing measures are in place;
- increasing indoor and patio occupancy limits to 75 per cent of total capacity for restaurants, bars, beverage rooms, brew pubs, microbreweries and distilleries; and
- lifting occupancy limits for regulated and non-regulated health professions including registered massage therapists.

Detailed information on the plan for Phase Three, including service restoration, measures the public can take to reduce their risk of COVID-19 exposure or spreading the virus, and workplace guidance for businesses, can be found at [www.manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices](http://www.manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices).

"As we reopen the economy, we will have to adjust to some level of risk and each person has to decide the level of risk they are willing to accept," said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer. "All Manitobans, especially those choosing to resume some activities, must remember to practise good hand hygiene, not to share items with others and practise physical distancing when with others outside their households."

For reliable information and resources please visit:



**COVID-19 UPDATES**  
 2020-04-16-09:00  
 We've placed the latest resources, our weekly e-Newsletter, media coverage of MBP and provincial/federal industry updates here to help you find the information you need. Our office hours remain 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday.  
 Telephone: 204-773-4342 or toll-free 1-800-773-0482  
 Fax: 204-773-2284  
 Email: [info@mbbeef.ca](mailto:info@mbbeef.ca)  
 Social media: [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

**RESOURCES**  
 As information (fake news) about the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing, we encourage you to visit trusted sources including:  
 • The Government of Manitoba or the Public Health Agency of Canada for updates and reliable information about COVID-19.  
 • Manitoba Farm, Fore & Fisheries Support Funding offers free, confidential and non-judgmental counselling for anyone who lives on a Manitoba farm, or in a rural or Northern community. Call 1-888-367-4276 or 204-691-4188 or visit: [Support421.ca](#)  
 • The [Canadian Cattlemen's Association \(CCA\)](#) have established an advisory support line for anyone seeking support during this challenging time. Producers are invited to call the support line at 204-893-0606. The line will be open on regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Calls are asked to leave their name, phone number or email address and an ADAMI representative will get in touch with them within a short period of time.  
 • [Kids Help Phone](#) is a Canadian charitable organization that provides 24/7 free confidential professional online and telephone counselling and volunteer-led text-based support in English and French to youth across Canada. Kids Help Phone also provides information on how to access community support services for youth. Call a counsellor: 1-800-688-8888.  
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency:  
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/information/fr/covid-19/2020/03/18/1844572476>

**E-NEWSLETTER**  
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← 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/>



Hot demand keeps regional abattoirs hopping

How big beef and soya firms can stop deforestation

Young farmers more stressed, less able to cope, study finds

# Phase 3 re-opening cont. from page 1

Roussin also noted it is key for people to stay home if they are sick to further reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

The province continues to encourage businesses to take steps to help staff, customers 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;
- ensuring staff stay home when feeling sick; and
- following personal risk reduction measures.

“While we can take pride in the progress we’ve made and the additional steps we are considering today, we must remain vigilant,” Pallister said. “If public health results deteriorate or guidelines are not sufficient, Phase Three measures may be paused and previous measures may be re-introduced. We do not want a COVID comeback, we want a Manitoba comeback.”

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

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

## HAVE YOU CAUGHT OUR NEW COMMERCIAL?



# 2020 Canada-Alberta Fed Cattle Feed Cost Offset Initiative Includes Immediate Fed Cattle Feed Assistance Payment and a Bid Set-Aside

*(June 12, Agriculture Financial Services website)*

Starting June 12, 2020 fed cattle producers can apply for support for fed cattle set aside between May 1 and June 30, 2020. Immediate support is the first component of the 2020 Canada-Alberta Fed Cattle Feed Cost Offset Initiative, in response to industry disruptions due to COVID-19.

This joint Canada-Alberta AgriRecovery initiative has two components – first, the Fed Cattle Feed Assistance, a retroactive payment for cattle set aside from May 1 to June 30 and second, a Bid Set-Aside process for cattle set aside starting June 29, 2020. The bid component of the initiative will continue until the initiative’s funds are distributed, the need to set aside animals no longer exists or the end date of March 31, 2021. This initiative is subject to a signed contribution agreement by both levels of government. Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) will administer both stages of the program in Alberta.

“COVID-19 disrupted cattle processing across North America, which bottlenecked fed-cattle ready for slaughter. More than 130,000 cattle have been backed up in Alberta requiring us to act,” said the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. “To bring certainty to the cattle market, we also announced a Set-Aside program using a market-driven approach.”

Overall, the initiative compensates producers for the extraordinary cost of keeping slaughter-ready cattle on maintenance rations. Beef producers can hold on to market-ready cattle for several weeks, allowing the supply of animals to more evenly match demand and processing capacity.

“It is imperative that a set-aside program effectively meets the needs of cattle feeders relevant both to today’s processing backlog, but also into the summer months where there is potential for an even more significantly increased backlog,” said Greg Schmidt, Chair of the Alberta Cattle Feeders’ Association.

*“COVID-19 disrupted cattle processing across North America, which bottlenecked fed-cattle ready for slaughter. More than 130,000 cattle have been backed up in Alberta requiring us to act. To bring certainty to the cattle market, we also announced a Set-Aside program using a market-driven approach.”*

**Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry**

“We appreciate the work the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation are doing to establish a set aside program to help to producers who have had to hold back their cattle. Our hope is this program will facilitate stability to the live-cattle market by ensuring the number of cattle coming to slaughter matches the slaughter capacity available.”

“While it is encouraging to see our processing capacity normalizing, many of Alberta’s beef producers continue to face the backlog challenges caused by COVID-19,” said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. “I want to reassure our beef producers that our Government stands behind them as we get through this period together. This support, offered in partnership with the provincial Government, will help producers cover the additional feed costs associated with holding their market-ready cattle during this difficult time.”

**Eligible Participant:** To be eligible for either component of the initiative, the producer must be a Canadian resident that reports farm income for tax purposes in Alberta and is actively feeding the eligible cattle in Alberta. For the second stage of the initiative (bid set aside or bidding process), producers must commit to keep cattle from slaughter for 63 days. Eligible producers can choose to participate in one or both stages of the initiative.

**Eligible animals:** Eligible animals are slaughter-ready fed cattle, eligible for grade “A” designation, where the average weight of the lot of animals at the time they are accepted for set-aside must be a minimum of 1,300 pounds for heifers and a minimum of 1,400 pounds for steers. Cows, bulls and cull animals are not eligible under this initiative.

**First stage:** Fed Cattle Feed assistance – Beginning June 12, applications for the Fed Cattle Feed assistance component open. This initial component includes retroactive benefits to help compensate producers for the cost of keeping these animals on maintenance rations.

*Continued on next page*

# Canada-Alberta Fed Cattle Feed Cost Offset Initiative cont. from page 4

**How do I apply for the Fed Cattle Feed assistance component?** Producers can access and download the online application at [www.afsc.ca/agrirecovery](http://www.afsc.ca/agrirecovery). For each lot, the producers must provide information about the premise ID where the lot is located, the lot number, number of animals in the lot, type of animal (fat steer/fat heifer) in the lot, average per head weight in pounds, the original targeted marketing date and the actual or estimated marketing date.

Producers can return the application form for the first stage via email at [AgriRecovery@afsc.ca](mailto:AgriRecovery@afsc.ca), online via AFSC Connect, by fax to AFSC at 1-403-782-8441, or at your local AFSC office, by arrangement. An initial payment will be issued the week of June 22 for those applications received by June 22, with the second payment issued in July. All applications received after June 22 will receive only one payment, issued the week of July 6.

*"It is imperative that a set-aside program effectively meets the needs of cattle feeders relevant both to today's processing backlog, but also into the summer months where there is potential for an even more significantly increased backlog."*

**Greg Schmidt, Chair of the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association**

**Second stage:** The Fed Set-Aside component involves a weekly bid process that producers can choose to participate in each week. All components of this process will occur online, and producers will need an AFSC ID and an AFSC Connect account to participate in the weekly bidding process. Once your AFSC account is set up, you can log in to AFSC Connect and complete a one-time registration to participate in the fed set-aside bid process. For help with this, call AFSC at 1.877.899.2372 or reach out to any branch office.

**Note:** Producers who wish to take part in the initial June 29 bid process must ensure they have an AFSC ID number and an AFSC Connect account set up, and have accepted the program terms and conditions by June 24. Program application for the bid process will be available online through AFSC Connect starting June 22. If you are interested in participating in the bid process, contact AFSC to set up your online account.

Once registered, producers will have an opportunity to tender a bid to set aside slaughter ready cattle for up to nine weeks. Participants, whose bids were accepted for the week, will be required to provide AFSC with their Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) Account number and registered RFID tag numbers for all of the eligible animals associated with each Premise ID and Lot number that were accepted.

Participating producers and animals in the Fed Cattle Feed assistance and the Fed Set-Aside components may be subject to verification processes by AFSC and or Livestock Identification Services Ltd.

**Can I apply for both components of the initiative at the same time?** Each component of the initiative requires the completion of a separate application.

- The Fed Cattle Feed assistance (retroactive) component: You can return the PDF application form (available on the AFSC website) via email at [AgriRecovery@afsc.ca](mailto:AgriRecovery@afsc.ca), online via AFSC Connect, by fax to AFSC at 1-403-782-8441, or at your local AFSC office, by arrangement.
- Bid set aside – All components of this process are online, through AFSC Connect. Participants require an AFSC ID and AFSC Connect account before they can take part in the bid process.

Find more information on the [AgriRecovery](http://AgriRecovery) page, call the AFSC Client Service Centre at 1.877.899.2372, contact a [branch office](http://branch office) or use the [AFSC.ca](http://AFSC.ca) online chat. AFSC is ready and available to answer your questions and assist you.



# TESA Applications *are due* 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](mailto:info@mbbeef.ca). If you have questions, please contact the MBP office at 1-800-772-0458.

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# Temperature screening to be required for travellers at Canadian airports

*(June 12, 2020 Transport Canada News Release)*

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented global crisis that is having a significant impact on all aspects of the Canadian transportation industry, travellers, and the economy. The Government of Canada is committed to implementing a multi-layered framework of measures to protect Canadians, and help prevent air travel from being a source for the spread of the virus.

The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, announced an additional measure to this framework. The Government of Canada will now require temperature screenings for all passengers travelling to Canada or travellers departing Canadian airports for either international or domestic destinations.

For international flights to Canada, air operators must conduct temperature screenings at the point of departure, unless the local authority has an equivalent measure in place, in addition to the existing required health check questions for symptoms prior to boarding.

Within Canada, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority screeners will conduct the temperature screening of passengers as part of departure screening procedures. This is in addition to the health screening questions and the wearing of face coverings that are already required for all passengers.

The Government of Canada is taking a phased approach to implementing temperature screening.

- Phase 1: By June 30, 2020, all air operators will be required to conduct temperature screenings of all passengers travelling to Canada prior to departure from international or transborder points of departure.
- Phase 2: By the end of July, temperature screening stations will be placed in the departure section of the four major airports that are currently identified as the only Canadian airports for international travel (Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver).
- Phase 3: By September 2020, temperature screening stations will be in place in the departure sections of the next 11 busiest airports in Canada (St. John's, Halifax, Québec City, Ottawa, Toronto – Billy Bishop, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Kelowna, Victoria).

In addition, all employees and personnel that enter or work in the restricted area of the airport will be subject to temperature screening procedures by Canadian Air Transport Security Authority personnel.

All passengers who have an elevated temperature and do not have a medical certificate to explain a medical or physical condition that would result in an elevated temperature, will not be permitted to continue their travel and will be asked to re-book after 14 days.

## Quotes

*“As Minister of Transport, my highest priority is the safety and security of Canadians and the transportation system. We have already introduced measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19, including mandating face coverings, and publishing health guidance for the air industry. Mandatory temperature screenings are yet another measure in our multi-layered approach to help protect the safety of the travelling public and air industry workers.”*

**Minister of Transport**

**The Honourable Marc Garneau**

## Quick facts

- Airport temperature screening has been endorsed by the International Air Transport Association and the International Civil Aviation Organization. Canadian implementation is necessary to help align with measures taken by an increasing number of international partners and will help build confidence and trust in the global aviation system.
- In response to COVID-19, countries like Italy, Poland, Chile, Mexico, China, South Korea, and India have implemented required temperature screening protocols for travellers at certain airports. Other countries like Belgium, France and Spain are recommending temperature screening.
- In Canada, a number of airline operators including Air Canada, Westjet, Perimeter, Bearskin, Keewatin and CalmAir have independently elected to pilot the implementation of passenger temperature screening. The United States have also pilot tested temperature screening.
- The federal government will monitor and evaluate the continued need for expansion of this measure.

## Associated links

- [Backgrounder – Temperature Screening For Air Travel](#)
- [COVID-19 measures, updates, and guidance issued by Transport Canada](#)

# Maintaining and strengthening Canada's food production and processing sector

*(June 12, 2020 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada News Release)*

COVID-19 has caused significant changes and adaptation in Canada's food system. As a result, Canadian food producers, processors, and manufacturers have taken on unexpected and exceptional activities associated with risk mitigation measures to be able to maintain Canada's food production.

That is why 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 Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, today launched the \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund (EPF) as part of the Government of Canada's action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The program will prioritize projects based on two objectives:

- Emergency COVID Response to assist companies to implement changes required by COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of workers. This funding will assist with:
  - o plant retrofits or adjustments to existing operations to accommodate changes to processes and production; and
  - o increasing capacity for herd management.
- Strategic Investments to assist companies to improve, automate, and modernize facilities needed to increase Canada's food supply capacity.

Eligible applicants include for-profit organizations, cooperatives and indigenous groups. Activities can be retroactive to March 15, 2020 and must be completed by September 30, 2020. Information on the application process is available through the [Emergency Processing Fund](#) or to learn more, please contact [aafc.epf-fut.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aafc.epf-fut.aac@canada.ca) or call: 1-877-246-4682.

## Quotes

*"Canadian food processors are key to ensuring Canada's food supply chain is protected during COVID-19, and beyond. Our Government understands the challenges that Canadian food processors, producers and manufacturers are facing. This Emergency Processing Fund will help our processors to adapt their activities to ensure the safety of their workers, and to increase their capacity of production."*

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

## Quick facts

- Applications are being accepted (AAFC Emergency Processing Fund) on a continuous basis until 12:00 p.m. (midnight) EDT Friday, July 31, 2020 or earlier if funding is fully allocated before that date.
- This announcement builds on the measures we have introduced to keep Canada's agri-workforce strong, including:
  - o 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.
  - o Travel exemptions for all temporary foreign workers, including seasonal agricultural workers and fish/seafood workers.
  - o \$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.
  - o An expanded Canada Summer Jobs program to prioritize agri-food workers.
  - o 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.
  - o A pilot project for temporary foreign workers who work year-round in the agriculture industry to have a pathway to permanent residency.
  - o A 'Step up to the Plate' employment portal and agriculture jobs recruitment campaign.

## Related products

- [Backgrounder: Supporting Canada's food processing and production sectors](#)

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# Province Announces Nearly \$600 Million in Infrastructure Investments and Highway Improvements

*(June 10 Government of Manitoba News Release)*

The Manitoba government is making a number of investments to improve provincial infrastructure and safeguard the well-being of Manitobans and their communities, Premier Brian Pallister announced.

“As Manitoba is now in a position to slowly and carefully restart our economy as we move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, these investments will help ramp up the construction industry and create opportunities to bring more Manitobans back to work,” said Pallister. “These shovel-worthy infrastructure investments reflect municipal priorities, and will improve the safety and well-being of our communities today and well into the future.”

Pallister revealed which projects will be funded through the \$500-million Manitoba Restart Program, which was announced May 7 to help boost the provincial economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic stimulus package adds an additional \$500 million above the \$3-billion infrastructure investment in Budget 2020.

Projects selected include pre-existing provincial and municipal priorities, and waste and water projects. The \$500 million will be allocated over two years as follows:

- \$230 million earmarked for the provincial share of projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a cost-sharing, application-based program with the federal government;
- \$150 million for asphalt highway resurfacing;
- \$50 million for the Water Services Board to address the significant backlog of water and sewer projects across Manitoba;
- \$65 million for major projects that will improve the safety of Manitoba’s highways; and
- \$5 million on municipal law enforcement priorities including local jails to alleviate pressure on the Winnipeg Remand Centre.

Pallister noted project goals include increasing clean drinking water, reducing boil water advisories and advancing clean sewer projects. The province will reveal further details of its prioritized ICIP project applications in the weeks and months ahead as it works with other levels of government and Indigenous partners, and it will use the \$230 million set aside for ICIP to leverage additional dollars through federal and municipal government sharing.

Once Ottawa approves final ICIP projects, the premier

noted the province is prepared to immediately advance funds to municipal partners to allow planning and construction to commence without delay. Other construction projects announced today, such as highways and Water Services Board projects, will be put out to tender in the coming weeks.

The premier also announced, as part of the initial \$3 billion worth of infrastructure investments in Budget 2020, the province has allocated \$91 million in total capital investment on construction improvements to the Trans-Canada Highway (PTH 1) across Manitoba. Projects include:

- road reconstruction on the westbound lanes from the Brokenhead River to PTH 11;
- road reconstruction on the eastbound lanes from Provincial Road (PR) 248 to the east junction of PTH 26;
- road rehabilitation on the eastbound lanes from 3.4 kilometres west of PTH 83 to PR 257; and
- structure replacement at the Assiniboine River 13.2 km east of Portage la Prairie.

“Our number one priority is to ensure the health and well-being of all Manitobans, and we are working to make the Trans-Canada Highway safer from border to border,” said Pallister. “Investments in Highway 1 help ensure the safe and continued movement of people and economic goods across the province. We are also rejuvenating and planting additional shelterbelts to help improve safety and reduce road closures between Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.”

Pallister announced the province is providing up to \$2.5 million in funding for Trans-Canada Shelterbelt Renewal Project through the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Trust program. The province is working with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) to restore and add to 16 km of shelterbelts on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway from St. François Xavier to Elie, and west of the PTH 430 intersection.

“It is exciting to take on a project that uses trees to directly protect the well-being of Manitobans,” said Tim Sopuck, chief executive officer, MHHC. “These shelterbelts will also sequester carbon and help to slow spring run-off.”

The project will plant approximately 20,000 new trees and shrubs, sourced from Manitoba nurseries, and employ a Manitoba tree-planting company. The project, expected to be complete in 2022, will be one of Canada’s largest road-related shelterbelt planting initiatives.

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# Government of Canada launches second call for proposals under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund

*(June 9, 2020 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada News Release)*

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced the launch of the second call for proposals under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund. This second call for proposals, valued at \$43.4 million, will begin accepting applications today. The Fund aims to strengthen food support organizations and to help improve access to safe and nutritious food for Canadians at risk.

This second call for proposals under the program will support small and large community-led projects at facilities such as urban gardens, community kitchens, food banks, and greenhouses. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been allocated. Projects valued at up to \$250,000 will be accepted. This second call for proposals could also support a cluster of organizations who are ready to enhance their regional food systems.

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund, a \$50 million, five-year program under the Food Policy for Canada, is aimed at community-based, not-for-profit organizations. The program's goal is to reduce food insecurity by establishing and/or strengthening local food networks in the medium to longer term. Under the first call for proposals of the program, 362 projects received funding of up to \$25,000 for a total \$6.6 million. This funding supported projects such as the purchase of new refrigerated trucks, kitchen equipment, community gardens, equipment needed to prepare, store and distribute food, and the installation of solar panels and irrigation systems, among others.

In April, the Government also launched a separate, \$100-million emergency fund under the program to support national, regional, and local organizations across Canada that are able to reach people and communities experiencing food insecurity and who have been impacted by COVID-19. To date, this emergency funding has supported 1,765 individual projects in communities across Canada that are providing healthy food to Canadians in need.

## Quotes

*"Our Government is committed to helping to improve food security for those who need it most. Through the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, we are making meaningful improvements across Canada in support of access to food. I am pleased to launch the second call for proposals of the program, which opens the door to a cluster of organizations who are ready to enhance their regional food systems, and will help recipients continue their great work."*

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

## • Quick facts

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund provides non-repayable funding for activities such as the construction of greenhouses and garden boxes, the purchase of equipment for the preparation, refrigeration, distribution and storage of food, and vehicle and transport equipment.

- The government has also committed significant resources to ensure food security during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:
  - \$100 million in emergency funding through the Local Food Infrastructure Fund to support national food organizations focussed on food security and food recovery;
  - A first-ever Surplus Food Purchase Program with an initial \$50 million fund designed to help redistribute existing and unsold inventories;
  - Providing an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies so families can afford much-needed nutritious food and personal hygiene products.

## Associated links

- [Local Food Infrastructure Fund](#)
- [Food Policy for Canada](#)
- [Prime Minister announces support for food banks and local food organizations](#)
- [Prime Minister announces health and social support for northern communities](#)
- [Supporting Canada's farmers, food businesses, and food supply](#)

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