

Hello,

We would like to send you a few updates regarding COVID-19 and ask you to share this information in your networks. Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates.

### **1. COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources**

During the week of September 28, a [COVID-19: Workplace Health and Safety Guide](#) was released by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), which includes information on the responsibilities of employers and workers, and what workplaces should do to control risks of COVID-19. The CCOHS has a wealth of information available [online](#), including tip sheets and guidance material to support employers and workers in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Employers can select the information most relevant to their business to develop a customized COVID-19 toolkit. Information available includes sector specific tip sheets, including for agricultural workplaces and food processing workplaces, infographics, and more.

If you are interested in learning more, CCOHS will provide an update on their guidance material at the roundtable call on October 21.

### **2. Canada Emergency Rent Support, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Business Account**

On October 9, 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland [announced](#) the government's intention to introduce new targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue.

This announcement noted that the government plans to introduce legislation to provide support that would help these businesses safely get through the second wave of the virus and the winter, cover costs so they can continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery. These supports include:

- The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, which would provide simple and easy-to-access rent and mortgage support – up to a maximum of 65% of eligible expenses – until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners.
  - In addition to the 65 per cent subsidy, there will be a top-up of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25 per cent for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority. This follows a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to provide direct financial support to businesses temporarily shut down as a result of a local public health decision.
- The extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until June 2021, which would continue to protect jobs by helping businesses keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to re-hire their workers. This measure is part of the government's commitment to create over 1 million jobs and restore employment to the level it was before the pandemic.
- Also, an expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), which would enable businesses, and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans to access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in

addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000. Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020. Further details, including the launch date and application process will be announced in the coming days.

- More details will be sent when information becomes available.

Thank you,

**Industry Engagement Division**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Government of Canada

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