



Lantzville

Economic Development Update

Dear Lantzville Businesses,

Thank you for participating in our business impact survey during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey closed on April 21, 2020, and here is a [link to the results](#).

This mailing list has been created to keep you updated on key announcements, as well as information on resources and programs available to your business. For all other previously announced supports, please refer to the Small Business BC COVID-19 [Resource Directory](#). This mailing list will also be used for updates and announcement of any future initiatives from the District's economic development office and the Economic Development and Sustainability Committee.

Note: Information regarding COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. Information provided here is subject to change, and users should refer to the agency of authority before relying on it for decisions.

Digital Economy Rapid Response Program Launched

Considering a change or pivot to your business model?

The **Digital Economy Response Program (DER3)** is a free service that provides one-to-one consultations for businesses considering to enter or expand their online presence, or put technology-based tools in place to better serve their needs. This initiative, supported by the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) and powered by Innovation Island Technology Association (IITA), is only open to individuals living or working on Vancouver Island, north of the Malahat, the Sunshine Coast and Gulf Islands – so sign up and take advantage [here](#)!



Applications For BC Emergency Benefit Open

The BC Emergency Benefit will begin accepting applications on **Friday, May 1st**. This is a tax-free, one-time payment of \$1,000 for BC residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19. To be eligible, you must meet the requirements and have also applied to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. For more information on how to apply, [start here](#).



BC Hydro Relief Fund Applications Open

Small businesses that have closed as a result of COVID-19 may be able to receive a 3-month credit of their average electricity charges to their BC Hydro account. To be eligible, you must have held your account prior to March 31st, and have closed your businesses for at least 14 consecutive days. Interest free bill deferrals and payments plans are also available. Eligible customers can apply [here](#) any time before **June 30, 2020**.



CANADA'S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN



Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Applications Open

Employers whose business has been affected by COVID-19 may be eligible for a 75% subsidy of employee wages for up to 12 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2020. This wage subsidy enables businesses to rehire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19, help prevent further job losses, and better position them to resume normal operations following the crisis. Organizations that do not qualify for the 75% wage subsidy may qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10%.

Applications opened on **April 27th**. An [online calculator](#) has been launched to help businesses determine their eligibility and how much they can claim through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. To check your eligibility and how to apply, visit the [Federal government's CEWS website](#).

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Details Announced

On April 24th, the federal government announced details of the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. The CECRA will provide forgivable loans to qualifying, commercial property owners to cover 50% of the rent otherwise payable by small businesses during April, May and June. Loans will be forgiven if the property owners agrees to reduce their tenant's rent by at least 75% for three months.

Under this agreement:

- tenants will be responsible for 25% of monthly rent;
- property owners are responsible for 25% of monthly rent;
- federal and provincial governments share responsibility for the remaining 50%.

To be eligible, impacted small business tenants must be paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent, and have temporarily ceased operations or experienced at least a 70% drop in pre-COVID revenues. This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations. The CECRA will be in place by mid-May, and administered through Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Read the full press release [here](#).

Canada Emergency Business Account Expanded

The Government of Canada is expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include businesses that paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. This new range will replace the previous one of between \$50,000 and \$1 million and will help address the challenges faced by small businesses to cover non-deferrable operating costs.

Small Business BC Support Services

Small Business BC has launched a **COVID-19 Support Service Hotline**, to answer questions about accessing supports available to businesses. Advisors are available Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at 1-833-254-4357, or covid@smallbusinessbc.ca and via live chat.



For information on all other supports available to businesses, please refer to Small Business BC resource directory

*For other information on available resources, and assistance accessing supports, please contact:
Lantzville Economic Development - 250.933.8085, ahutchison@lantzville.ca*



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