

British Columbia's COVID-19 Response

PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM DETAILS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	APPLICATION PROCESS
CHILD CARE			
<p>1. Parents and Families</p>	<p>Parent who can, should care for their children at home, childcare provider fees will not be charged.</p> <p>If you are an essential service worker requiring temporary emergency child care for children ages 0-5 years old, you can complete the request form and be contacted.</p>	<p>Eligible families will continue to receive the Affordable Child Care Benefit. For Affordable Child Benefit Eligibility click here.</p> <p>Essential services workers must confirm their role qualifies as per the list of essential services. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Health Services • Law enforcement, public safety, first responders and emergency response personnel • Vulnerable population service providers • Critical infrastructure • Food and agriculture service providers • Transportation • Industry and manufacturing • Sanitation • Communications and information technology • Financial institutions • Other non-health essential service providers 	<p>To apply for Affordable Child Benefit, click here.</p> <p>Contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency to find a centre that is open and accepting the children of essential service workers. You can also apply online.</p>
<p>2. Parents of Children with Special Needs</p>	<p>Emergency Relief Fund for children with special needs will provide a direct payment of \$225 per month to eligible families over the next three months (to June 30, 2020).</p> <p>Policy guidelines for many Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) services will also be more flexible. To know more click here.</p>	<p>For more information on Special Needs Support for Families, follow this link.</p>	<p>There is no need to apply, families already registered will receive the extra funding automatically.</p>
<p>3. Childcare Providers</p>	<p>Licensed group child care providers and smaller home-based child care providers are eligible for Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF) to keep operations going or maintain their business while closed</p>	<p>Eligibility for TEF can be found at this link.</p>	<p>The link to the sign-up form has been emailed to all providers with an active CCOF Funding Agreement. Providers can sign up for TEF at any time, and eligibility will be assessed from the first of the month in which the sign-up form is received. For more information on the steps, please click.</p>

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EDUCATION			
4. Student Loan Repayments Suspended	Effective March 30, 2020, all BC student loan borrowers will temporarily have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020. During this time, no payment will be required, and interest that currently applies to the federal portion of student loans will not accrue.	Every who is currently repaying student loans through BC. For more information, please click here .	There is no need to apply. Repayment will be paused automatically.
EMPLOYMENT & FINANCES			
5. Emergency Benefit for Workers	Provides a one-time \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents who lost income due to COVID-19. More information can be found at this link .	B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance, or the new federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit are eligible	Applications for the one-time payment will open soon.
6. Support for Income and Disability Assistance	B.C. has put new emergency measures in place to ensure that people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors, do not encounter additional barriers. For more information, please click here .	<p>You are eligible for \$300 supplement, if you are not receiving federal Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and are on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Assistance • Disability Assistance • Comforts Allowance • BC Senior's Supplement <p>You are not eligible for the supplement if you are receiving ER or CERB, and receiving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Assistance • Disability Assistance 	You will automatically receive a \$300 supplement on your cheques issued in April, May, and June. No action is required on your part.
7. Climate Action Tax Credit	<p>A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An adult will receive up to \$218.00 • A child will receive \$64.00 <p>More information can be found at this link.</p>	<p>You are eligible to receive the credit if you are a resident of B.C. and you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are 19 years of age or older, or • have a spouse or common-law partner, or • are a parent who resides with your child. 	If you are eligible for the climate action tax credit, you will receive the credit payment from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The credit payment is combined with the federal goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit into one quarterly payment.

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8. COVID-19 Leave of Absence	During the COVID-19 public health emergency, many employees are unexpectedly taking time off work. In response to this, a new unpaid, job-protected leave has been established for employees unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19. Employees can take this leave for as long as they need it without putting their job at risk. Once it is no longer needed, this leave will be removed from the Employment Standards Act.	All employees working for organizations that follow the Employment Standards Act of B.C.	Employees and employer must follow the organization's policy and practices of notifying about leave of absences. Employers cannot require an employee to provide a doctor's note.
BUSINESSES			
9. Tax and Revenue Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective immediately, B.C. is extending filing and payment deadlines for the Employer Health Tax and Sales Tax until September 30, 2020 • Some PST Budget 2020 Tax Changes will be postponed until further notice • Carbon tax rates will remain at their current levels until further notice • School tax rates for commercial properties (Classes 4, 5 and 6) will be reduced by 50% for 2020 tax year • An additional one-time payment will be made in July 2020 on top of the regular climate action tax credit amount for qualifying individuals and families (see #5 above) 	N/A	N/A
10. Economic Development Resources	Companies looking to offer support or supplies for COVID-19 efforts can visit B.C.'s COVID-19 Supplier Hub . \$1.5 billion in provincial funding will support economic stimulus once the pandemic has passed. More information on B.C. action plan and business and economic development resources can be found here	N/A	N/A

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HOUSING			
11. Temporary Rent Supplement	Provides a rent supplement up to \$500 per month for renters facing financial hardship. The supplement will be paid directly to landlords	It will be available to low to-moderate-income renters who are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs	Applications for the supplement will open mid-April on the BC Housing website
12. Freezing Rent Increases	Any type of rent increases are frozen during the state of emergency.	N/A	N/A
13. Halting Evictions	Most evictions are not allowed during the state of emergency. For more information, visit this link	N/A	N/A
BC HYDRO			
14. BC Hydro Relief Fund (Residential Customers)	<p>This program allows eligible residential customers who have experienced job loss to receive three months of free credit on their BC Hydro bill based on their average consumption.</p> <p>The program also allows eligible small businesses that needed to close due to COVID-19 to have up to three months of electricity charges waived</p>	<p>For residential customers, if you or your spouse/partner have stopped working due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for three months of bill credit based on your average consumption. To learn more about eligibility, please click here</p> <p>If you own a small business that needed to close due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to have your business' electricity use charges waived for up to three months. Learn more about eligibility here</p>	<p>Application form for residential customers is now open and can be accessed here. Eligible customers can apply any time until June 30, 2020 to receive the credit.</p> <p>Application form for eligible business customers will open the week of April 13, 2020, and can be accessed here</p>
15. COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program	This program allows residential and commercial customers to defer their BC Hydro bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty	For residential and commercial customers that are not eligible for BC Hydro's COVID-19 Relief Fund	Call customer service team at 1-800-224-9376 to discuss bill payment options
16. Customer Crisis Fund	<p>The Customer Crisis Fund is an existing program that offers support for residential customers who are facing disconnection of their BC Hydro service, despite attempting to make payments</p> <p>It can be used by customers dealing with financial hardship of job loss, illness or loss of wages due to COVID-19.</p>	The eligibility criteria remains the same. You can learn more about it here	The application process remains the same. You can apply online here

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OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES			
17. Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Ferries is operating at reduced capacity and advises against non-essential travel • ICBC insurance renewals can now be done by phone or email. Road test and all other assessments have been postponed. Customers can defer monthly payments for up to 90 days • BC Transit and Translink fares and passes are not required • DriveBC travel restrictions for highways, rest areas and borders. 	N/A	N/A
18. Travel & Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have travelled outside of Canada and returned after March 12, 2020 must self-isolate. • Canadians who are abroad must register with the Government of Canada • Global Affairs Canada is offering emergency loans for people abroad attempting to return to Canada • The Canada-U.S. border is closed to all non-essential traffic • BC Parks campgrounds and accommodations are closed until April 30. The Discover Camping reservation system is suspended • For more information: Destination BC resources for the tourism industry 	N/A	N/A

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19. Civil Resolution Tribunal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRT has extended deadlines for respondents who are impacted by the pandemic until at least May 15, 2020. For this reason, the CRT will not process new applications for default decisions and orders from March 18, 2020, until at least May 15, 2020. • CRT waives fees for those who cannot afford to pay them. • For more information click here. 	N/A	For requests to CRT for waiving, suspending or extending a mandatory time period, contact the tribunal immediately, with dispute number and the reason for the request, by email or phone.
20. Reduced Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service BC centres remain open for core services • BC Parks campgrounds and accommodations are closed until April 30. The Discover Camping reservation system is suspended • Recreation Sites and Trails BC has suspended services and closed facilities in most locations • FrontCounterBC has closed all in-person locations • BC Liquor Stores remain open with reduced hours • BC Cannabis Stores online orders must be collected from a post office • Vital Statistics Vancouver office is closed 	N/A	N/A