

TABLE 1: Chronological listing of COVID-19 funding announcements from the provincial and federal governments (as of March 30, 2020)

March 11
<p>Federal government announced a \$1.1B Response Fund, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500M for provinces and territories (health system related) • \$275M for research • \$226M for personal protective equipment and EI benefits • \$100M for additional support for federal public health response
March 13
<p>Federal government announced \$10B credit facility through the Business Development Bank and Export Development Canada to lend money to businesses.</p>
March 17
<p>Ontario announced a \$304M COVID-19 Relief Package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100M for increased capacity in hospitals • \$50M for COVID-19 testing and Public Health costs • \$75M for front line workers, including purchase of protective equipment • \$50M for Long Term Care homes • \$20M for residential facilities in developmental services, gender-based services and protective care for children and youth • \$5M to protect seniors in retirement homes • \$4M for Indigenous communities for transportation support, supply distribution, and costs for health care professionals
March 18
<p>Federal government announced an \$82B stimulus package (Amended on March 25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$27B in direct assistance (including providing eligible small businesses a 10% wage subsidy for 90 days and other supports to impacted and vulnerable groups) • \$55B to help meet liquidity needs and stabilize the economy (including deferring income tax payments and waiving the interest, making additional credit available to businesses, and purchasing up to \$50 billion insured mortgage pools)
March 19
<p>Ontario passed two key pieces of legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies)</i>, 2020 which provides job-protected leave for employees who are in isolation or quarantine or those who need to care for their children due to COVID-19. Retroactive to January 25,

2020.

- The *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020* ensures the delivery of goods to Ontario businesses and consumers is not impacted by municipal noise-by laws. Legislation also gives municipalities the ability to conduct Council, local board and committee meetings electronically.

Ontario is extending the validity period of driving products, services, and health cards to promote social distancing and contain the spread of the virus.

Ontario courts and tribunals are limiting in-person proceedings and making use of audio and video conferencing to hear priority matters.

March 20

Federal government issued a **Call to Action to all manufacturers** in Canada who have equipment or facilities that can be retooled for medical needs and equipment, including personal protective gear.

Through the Ministry of Health, Ontario is **waiving the three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)** coverage. Additionally, Ontario will also cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage.

March 23

Ontario announced \$200M for municipal and social services support such as shelters, food banks, emergency services, charities, and non-profits.

Federal government announced \$5B in additional lending capacity through Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and a \$192M investment in funding the development and production of vaccine for COVID-19.

March 24

Ontario is providing immediate electricity rate relief for families, small businesses and farms paying time-of-use (TOU) rates for a 46-day period, holding prices to the off-peak rate of 10.1 cents per kilowatt hour. This reduced price will be available 24 hours per day.

March 25

Ontario announced \$17B funding through the Ontario Action Plan 2020: Responding to COVID-19:

- \$3.3B for health care funding
- \$3.7B for People and Jobs funding
- \$10B for Cash-flow support

The Federal government approved \$107.4B in Economic Response Plan funding.

Federal Minister of Heritage announced that Ottawa would spend \$30 million on a COVID-19 awareness advertising campaign, and was moving forward with a previously announced tax credit plan to support news and media organizations covering Covid-19.

March 27

The federal government announced an **increase to the temporary business wage subsidy from 10% to 75% for small and medium-size businesses**, under the \$52.4 billion in direct supports.

The federal government is also **deferring Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) remittances and customs duty payments** to June 30, 2020. This measure could provide up to \$30 billion in cash flow or liquidity assistance for Canadian businesses and self-employed individuals over the next three months.

The federal government announced a new \$65 billion Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP), through the following:

- Canada Emergency Business Account (\$25 billion) - Interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits
- New Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium Enterprises by Export Development Canada (\$20 billion) - EDC will guarantee new operating credit and cash flow term loans that financial institutions extend to SMEs, up to \$6.25 million.
- New Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium Enterprises by Business Development Bank of Canada (\$20 billion) - Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts up to \$6.25 million

March 28

Ontario proclaimed the *Supply Chain Management Act*. The regulations will enable the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and the Ministry of Health to centrally manage public sector supply chains. It will allow the collection of key data on inventories, orders and supply constraints and the development of a virtual inventory tool so that demand for crucial supplies are visible and trackable.

Ontario implemented a new emergency order to ensure that staffing resources are available to help care for and protect long-term care residents. The order will help homes tackle a COVID-19 outbreak by addressing restrictions around staffing, reporting complaints, and documentation to help ensure there are enough staff to care for residents.

Based on the best advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government issued a new emergency order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to **prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people.**

March 29

The federal government pledged \$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide mental health support to children and youth impacted by school closures and reduced access to social support and community resources. **The government will also boost aid for Canadian seniors, contributing \$9 million through United Way Canada to help the**

country's older population get groceries, medication and other critical items. The aid will also go toward assessing seniors' individual needs and connecting them to the necessary community resources.

March 30

Ontario is investing an additional \$5 million to help community organizations with the coordination of subsidized deliveries of meals, medicines and other necessities to seniors. This investment doubles the government's initial commitment of \$5 million in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 on March 25. The government is also working with grocers and pharmacists to prioritize seniors' delivery orders and establish senior-only shopping hours.