

New federal and provincial COVID-19 announcements

Since the April report and May, June, July and September update memos, the federal and provincial governments have made further announcements regarding financial and social supports. In addition to/as elaborated on those outlined in the memorandum, these supports include:

Federal Actions:

- Announced an [additional investment of \\$100 million](#) through the Emergency Food Security Fund. This investment will help improve access to food and increase food supply for vulnerable Canadians across the country who are facing the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada will provide this funding to national and regional organizations, who will then support food banks and local food organizations across Canada in order to help reach people experiencing food insecurity
- Announced the release of the second round of the [Emergency Community Resource Fund](#) to help community organizations serve vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 crisis. Three national partners (Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada and United Way Centraide Canada) will distribute the funds to community organizations that deliver essential services to those in need
- Enacted the [COVID-19 Response Measures Act](#) (formerly Bill C-4). This legislation creates three new temporary recovery benefits to support Canadians who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19. These benefits will be in place for one year beginning September 27, 2020, and replace the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which ended as of September 26, 2020, although individuals can receive CERB payments until October 3, 2020. The new temporary recovery benefits are:
 - Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not eligible for EI and who still require income support
 - Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) of \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19
 - Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19 or because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine

Provincial Actions:



- Developed a [\\$2.8 billion COVID-19 fall preparedness plan](#) to help prepare the province's health care, long-term care and education systems for the immediate challenges of the fall, including a second wave of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season. [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#) outlines provincial plans to quickly identify, prevent and respond to surges and waves of the virus
- Enacted [Bill 204](#), the *Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act, 2020*, which amends a number of statutes related to the functions of the *Commercial Tenancies Act, 1990* and the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* (RTA). The amendments to the RTA are intended to freeze rents at 2020 levels for most tenancies in 2021
- Announced an additional investment through the [one-year Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement \(ELCC\) of nearly \\$147 million](#) to Ontario for 2020-21. This funding will help licensed child care providers and EarlyON child and family centres. Funding provided through the ELCC is in addition to \$234.6 million being provided through the Safe Restart Agreement to keep children and staff safe in child care and early years settings
- Launched a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#) This [webpage](#) will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies
- Set out [increased precautions for congregate care settings](#) in areas where there is a high rate of community spread of COVID-19 to ensure safety of residents and caregivers. Residential care settings located in a community that is beginning to see increased cases of COVID-19 will be asked to apply further precautions such as enhanced infection prevention and control protocols, enhanced visitor and home visit restrictions, or increased restrictions to client participation in community day programs
- Extended the [Ontario Community Support Program \(OCSP\)](#) until March 2021. This will ensure that low-income seniors and people with disabilities, many who are self-isolating due to COVID-19, can continue to get meals and other essential supplies delivered to their homes in the upcoming winter months. The program was launched in partnership with the [Ontario Community Support Association](#) in April
- Unveiled plans to build a more responsive, efficient and person-centred [social assistance system](#) to get people back to work and help the economy recover from the COVID-19 crisis. As part of the first phase of the social assistance recovery and renewal plan, the province will be focusing on improved access to employment and training services, developing new digital tools and modern service options, and ways to process financial assistance faster. The initial phase of the plan will be rolled out in the coming months

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