

DEADLINE FOR SMALL BUSINESS REOPENING AND SUPPORT GRANT EXTENDED

The application deadline for the Small Business Reopening and Support Grant has been extended to Friday, July 17.

As we head into the final two weeks for the program, business associations, RENs, Chambers of Commerce and others are asked to make a final push to members and encourage those eligible to apply.

To date, the program has supported over 3,200 small Nova Scotia business across the province to safely reopen, with grants of up to \$5,000 totalling more than \$9.7 million. In addition to the grant, these businesses also gain automatic access to the Business Continuity Voucher to engage consultants or service providers for advice and activities that help their small business reopen, adapt to the impacts of Covid-19, and become more resilient.

There is still capacity in the program. Please encourage businesses in your network to apply. Eligible businesses include:

- restaurants and drinking establishments
- fitness studios and gyms
- live performing arts events
- trade shows and exhibitions
- small retail
- dental offices
- independent retail gas stations
- those offering personal services such as massage therapy, eye care, and physiotherapy

Applications will be accepted until midnight June 17th, 2020.

Find more information and apply at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/small-business-reopening-support-grant/#eligibility>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXTENDS RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

The federal government announced it will extend the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent (CECRA) program to cover eligible small business rents for July.

The CECRA provides forgivable loans to qualified commercial property owners so they can reduce the rent owed by their small business tenants that have been impacted by COVID-19. The program also helps owners meet their operating expenses on commercial properties.

The program was developed to support small businesses during the months of April, May and June. It is administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and allows federal and provincial governments to help cover 50 per cent of the rent, with tenants and landlords paying the rest.

The extension will provide important relief for small businesses that continue to experience financial hardship, and also allow property owners to maintain rental income and keep tenants in their commercial properties as the economy begins to restart.

CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

The Cape Breton Partnership is introducing a new Virtual Advisor Program to help Cape Breton companies adjust to the impacts of COVID-19.

The free program will match qualified Cape Breton businesses with a seasoned virtual advisor to help them manage and recover from COVID-19. The virtual advisors are experienced professionals from across Canada and represent a full range of disciplines, industries and environments.

Businesses can apply on the Cape Breton Partnership website at <https://capebretonpartnership.com/initiatives/virtualadviser-program/>. The partnership will review applications and if accepted, businesses will be matched with an advisor based on the business need or challenge.

BUSINESSES DELIVER FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED DURING COVID-19

During the pandemic, Chester's Café and Julien's Bakery both in Chester, and The Other Bean, in Halifax, made and delivered 5,000 sandwiches and 7,000 sweets to food banks and service organizations from Halifax to Bridgewater.

The *Give Us Your Lunch Money* program started when the brother of Laura Mulrooney, owner of Julien's Bakery, gave her the spare change he would have spent on parking and lunch had he been going to the office each day. Asking her customers to pitch in as well, the program raised \$20,000.

Some of the food was delivered to Adsum House for Women and Children where volunteers used to make food for the clients but could no longer do so because of the virus. While helping others in need, Laura was also providing work for staff and supporting local producers.

The program wrapped up last weekend with a final delivery of sandwiches to St. George's, a shelter in Chester.

TECH FIRMS CREATE NATIONAL COALITION TO FIGHT RACISM

A new national coalition formed on Monday, June 29, is a diverse group of senior business leaders that are committed to fighting anti-Black and systemic racism and creating pathways for diverse professionals to participate meaningfully in the innovation economy.

Founding members include senior officials from companies like KPMG, ScaleUp Ventures, Sandpiper Ventures and Siemens Canada.

The Atlantic Women's Venture Fund will serve as the East Coast representative of the coalition. The fund was created by Atlantic Canadian businesswomen to invest in companies that are run by female entrepreneurs. It's first fund, \$20 million Sandpiper Ventures, is being overseen by the former principal of Dream Maker Ventures, Danielle Graham.

The coalition is focused on five priorities: youth skills development, job opportunities, venture and founder support, investment and funding, as well as community leadership.

SOME NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS REOPENED JULY 1

Some provincial museum sites reopened on Canada Day with new measures in place to ensure people can safely enjoy their visits. Visitors to museums will be required to practise physical distancing and follow the site-specific guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all.

The Museum of Natural History in Halifax has extended the Egyptian Mummies and Eternal Life exhibit until Nov. 8.

A list of museums that will open can be found here <https://museum.novascotia.ca/blog/welcome-back>

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

Hosted by NSBI

Monday, July 6 to Thursday, July 9 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FITTSkills – International Market Entry Strategies

NSBI, in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) is pleased to offer this FITTSkills course on International Market Entry Strategies.

The course will help ensure your success in new markets by showing you how to conduct proper research, select the most effective entry strategy, and implement it efficiently. It examines what individuals in organizations need to know and do to ensure the success of new international ventures. You will also learn how to research market entry options, analyze them, and then select the most effective strategy for your needs.

More information and registration is available at <https://novascotiabusiness.com/events/fittskills-international-market-entry-strategies>

Hosted by Tourism Nova Scotia

Thursday, July 9 at 10 a.m.

Reaching Your Target Audience with the Right Media Channels

Tourism Nova Scotia and m5 Marketing Communications will give an overview of the most effective media channels and marketing tactics to promote your business to Atlantic Canadians.

More information and registration is available at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1215930523887/WN_fEHMu9i6QMCuixkCJXmMcg

Hosted by NSBI

Thursday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

How Leaders Can Keep Employees Engaged – Group 2

70 per cent of an individual's engagement is driven by their manager. In this course, the main challenges of leading remotely will be discussed, along with the 13 tips to help managers engage at a higher level.

More information and registration is available at <https://novascotiabusiness.com/events/leading-remotely-how-leaders-can-keep-employees-engaged-july-16>

Hosted by COVE

Thursday, July 16 at 1 p.m.

Changing Tides: Discussing Diversity in Ocean Technology

Sponsored by the Black Business Initiative, the panel will discuss supporting the advancement of African Canadians in ocean tech, encouraging growth for Indigenous-owned companies, making space for women, and retaining skilled immigrants and international graduate students.

More information and registration is available at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rhYz95cVSt6RhJcw2XV5vQ

Hosted by Volta and the Centre for Women in Business

Thursday, July 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WTWT Workshop: Visioning

This visioning workshop will help you establish a clear mission, vision, and build confidence in your business plan. By participating in the session, you will be able to describe your business' value proposition, articulate your vision for the future and know what steps to take next to create or update your business plan.

More information and registration is available at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/wtwt-workshop-visioning-tickets-108990944850>

PROVINCIAL SUPPORTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The provincial government has announced several initiatives to address cash flow and access to credit for small and medium sized businesses in Nova Scotia:

- The Small Business Reopening and Support Grant program is a \$25 million fund to help businesses as they begin to reopen. The \$25 million fund will provide grants to help eligible businesses, non-profits, charities and social enterprises as they begin to reopen, as well as business continuity vouchers so businesses can access advice and support to become more resilient in the coming months. Online applications opened June 15. Application deadline is July 17
- The COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support program provided targeted eligible business a loan of up to \$25,000, an up front grant of 10% of the loan (up to \$1,500) and a voucher to hire a consultant to help businesses adapt to, or recover from COVID-19. \$20 million was available to fund this temporary program. Applications are now closed.
- The Small Business Impact Grant provides a one-time grant equal to 15% of revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000 to eligible small businesses, non-profits, charities and social enterprises who have had to close or greatly reduce operations because of the public health order. Application deadline was April 25.
- The COVID-19 Rent Deferral Guarantee Program indemnified qualified landlords for losses incurred as a result of granting a rent deferral to qualified businesses directly impacted by the Health Protection Act orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Application deadline was April 3.
- Payment deferrals until June 30 on all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.
- Fees, including business renewal fees and workers compensation premiums, will be deferred to June 30. A list of applicable fees is posted online.
- Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through 16 provincial Credit Unions, include deferring principal and interest payments until June 30.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Provincial website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

[Provincial reopening online resource website: https://www.novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia](https://www.novascotia.ca/reopening-nova-scotia)

Follow the Department of Business on Twitter - @NS_DoB

Follow Nova Scotia government on Instagram - nsgov

To watch today's (and previous) live webcasts visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwLZ9YtgHtLcPAtUVFKVf72xyF103eHaE>

[NSBI Business Readiness: https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/covid-19-information/business-readiness](https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/covid-19-information/business-readiness)

Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus>

Government of Canada toll-free information line 1-833-784-4397

Government Business Navigators: More information on this service is available <https://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/business-navigators.asp>. Navigators are available by calling or [1-844-628-7347](tel:1-844-628-7347), [902-424-4475](tel:902-424-4475) Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm or by email BusNavigation@novascotia.ca

SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refer to novascotia.ca/news for full details

- June 26 Announcements include:
- 16 days with no new cases of COVID-19
 - Further easing of restrictions, gathering limits increased
 - State of Emergency is extended to July 12
 - Yarmouth Ferry has been cancelled for this year's sailing season
 - Swimming pools and splash pads can open
 - Restaurants, licensed liquor establishments can operate at 100 per cent capacity
 - Campgrounds can operate at 100 per cent capacity
- June 24 Announcements include:
- Atlantic travel bubble announced
 - 15 days with no new COVID-19 cases
- June 18 Announcement includes:
- 9th day in a row with no new COVID-19 cases
 - New gathering restrictions announced. 10 people can gather without having to physical distance. 50 people can gather for social events, but must practice the social distancing of 6 feet or 2 metres
 - Playgrounds can open
- June 17 Announcements include:
- 8th day in a row with no new COVID-19 cases
- June 16 Announcements include:
- 7th day in a row with no new COVID-19 cases
- June 15 Announcements include:

- Visits resume at long-term care facilities and homes for persons with disabilities funded by the Department of Community Services under the Homes for Special Care Act
- June 14 Announcements include:
- Licensed childcare centres and family daycare homes open June 15
- June 12 Announcements include:
- State of Emergency extended to June 28
 - Guidelines released for day camps
 - Licensed childcare centres and family daycare homes will reopen on Monday, June 15. Visits can also resume as early as June 15 at long-term care homes and homes for persons with disabilities.
- June 11 Premier McNeil statement re Atlantic bubble
- June 12 Announcements include:
- State of Emergency extended to June 28
 - Guidelines released for day camps
 - Licensed child care centres and family daycare homes will reopen on Monday, June 15. Visits can also resume as early as June 15 at long-term care homes and homes for persons with disabilities.
- June 11 Premier McNeil statement re Atlantic bubble
- June 10 Announcement includes:
- Province eases visitor restrictions in long-term care, homes for persons with disabilities
- June 5 Announcement includes:
- Community organizations, businesses or municipalities can hold celebrations to recognize graduates
- June 2 Announcement includes:
- Child care facilities will reopen at 50 per cent capacity June 15
- May 29 Announcement includes:
- Gathering limit has increased to 10
 - Outdoor weddings and funeral services can have a gathering of 15 people
 - Private campgrounds can open June 5, with reduced capacity
 - Pools can start maintenance to prepare for opening
 - Shubenacadie Wildlife Park will reopen on June 1
 - Provincial campgrounds will open June 15 with reduced capacity
- May 27 Announcement includes:
- Businesses ordered to close can re-open June 5
 - Goal to open daycares is now June 15 (previously June 8)
 - Small Business Reopening and Support Grant Announced to help eligible businesses reopen safely
 - \$230 million infrastructure announcement to create jobs and stimulate the economy
- May 15 Announcement includes:
- Two immediate families can now come together without having to physical distance.
 - Public beaches opened can open Saturday, May 16 at 8 a.m.
 - Outdoor recreational facilities that offer individual activities such as paddling, boating, tennis, archery and equestrianism can open.

- The provincewide ban on open fires remains until June 1 at 11:59 p.m. Backyard appliances such as chimineas and fire pits will be temporarily allowed for households. This doesn't apply to private campgrounds
- May 8

Announcement includes:

 - Schools will remain closed, with online learning to continue until June 5
 - The goal to open daycares is June 8, but the timeline will be based on consultations with the sector
 - Reopening plan is underdeveloped
- May 7

Province has signed agreement with federal government that will provide cash bonus health-care workers, which will provide up to \$2,000
- May 1

Announcement includes:

State of emergency has been extended until Sunday, May 17

 - Province has started to lift some restrictions, including the opening of trails and parks. Golf driving ranges can open, as can garden centres.
 - Plans to develop a phased plan to lift additional restrictions is under development
- April 28

Announcement includes:

 - Schools and licensed day cares will be closed until at least May long weekend.
 - \$380 million loan program to support municipalities with financial losses due to COVID-19
- April 24

Announcement includes:

 - Temporary extensions to Driver Licenses, Inspections and Vehicle Permit Renewals
 - New supports for business include COVID-19 Small Business Credit and Support stream, virtual business support hub with post-secondary institutions and NS participation with the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance for Small Businesses
- April 22

Announcements include:

 - Government will pay extra dispensing fees for Pharmacare clients for refills on prescriptions usually filled for longer periods
 - Red Cross Nova Scotia Stronger Together fund announced
- April 17

Announcements include:

 - State of Emergency is extended to May 3, 2020
 - NSP, EfficiencyOne and the province redirecting \$3 million from the HomeWarming program to fund organizations that support vulnerable Nova Scotians
- April 9

Announcements include:

 - Province recorded its second death from COVID-19
 - Applications for Small Business Impact Grant and Workers Emergency Bridge will be available tomorrow, April 10, at 8 a.m.
 - Private campgrounds are closed until May 1, inclusive. Will be reassessed.
 - Only veterinarians working with the SPCA may carry out spay and neuter surgeries
 - 211 will launch a new service to connect people needing COVID-19 assistance with the Canadian Red Cross
 - Workers in the fishing and offshore industries must self-isolate when they enter the province
 - Nova Scotia Securities Commission launches COVID-19 Investing Information website
- April 7

Announcement includes:

 - Province records its first death from COVID-19

- April 6 Announcement includes:
- Travel is removed from testing requirements
 - Testing Lab has moved to round-the-clock operations
- April 2 State of Emergency is extended to April 19, 2020
Announcement includes:
- COVID-19 Worker Emergency Bridge - \$20 million
 - Small Business COVID-19 Impact Grant - \$20 million
 - Map and graphs of COVID-19 test results is now online at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/data>
- March 30 Announcement includes:
- Schools closed until May 1. Online and paper-based learning strategies are being developed to support student learning
 - Employer Assessment Tool to help businesses and non-profits clarify if they can remain open and how to comply with public health orders and workplace safety requirements added online.
- March 27 Announcement includes:
- Support for landlords who enter into a rent deferral agreement with their commercial tenants
 - Restaurants can now include alcohol in their take-out and delivery sales
 - Government has purchased 800 iPads for use in long term care facilities
- March 26 Announcement includes:
- COVID testing is being expanded to include:
 - Anyone referred by 811 to an assessment centre
 - All close contacts of people who test positive
 - People in hospital that meet the criteria for testing
 - Reservations for 2020 camping season are on hold until further notice
 - Open fires for any purpose in woods or within 305 metres of woods in any part of the province are banned until May 15
- March 24 Announcement include:
- Measures to strengthen the health system, help Nova Scotians dealing with COVID-19
 - Access Centres and Registry of Motor Vehicle Offices to resume operations in a scaled back, limited contact business model.
 - Regulated health professions can stay open for emergency or urgent care or to provide virtual care as long as they meet social distancing requirements
 - Non-regulated health professions must close (with exception of podiatrists)
- March 22 State of Emergency declared
- March 21 Dentists can no longer practice dentistry in their offices unless deemed necessary to perform an emergency dental procedure
- March 18 Announcement re: Personal Services and fitness establishments
- Includes: hair salons, barbershops, spas, nail salons, body art establishments, gyms
- March 17 No public gatherings of more than 50 people
Announcements re: restaurants
- Only take-out and delivery permitted
 - Drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms closed
 - Private liquor stores permitted to be open, and craft breweries, wineries and distilleries can still sell storefront

- March 15 Access Nova Scotia closed
Announcements include
- Long-term care closed effective immediately
 - Public schools and regulated childcare closed
 - Social distancing – 2 meters/6 feet, gatherings of less than 150 or much smaller if possible

Tracy Barron
Media Relations and Communications Advisor
Department of Business