

# Federal Government COVID-19 Emergency Aid Response Package

The Federal Government has announced a new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy as part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. This includes immediate measures, along with responses to be implemented in the coming months.

The BDC is offering "**Support for entrepreneurs impacted by the Coronavirus COVID-19**" using the following three programs:

## SMALL BUSINESS LOAN

- Loans of up to **\$100,000** to buy equipment, software or for other business expenses
- Capital payment can be postponed for the first 6 months and repaid over five years

[Details here >](#)

## WORKING CAPITAL LOAN

- Loans of up to **\$2 million** (for both current and new clients of BDC) for working capital, increase inventory to meet demand, taken advantage of discounts offered by suppliers, and supplement a line of credit
- Payments can be matched to cash flow patterns
- Personal assets will not be taken as collateral for the loan

[Details here >](#)

## PURCHASE ORDER FINANCING

- Loans of up to **\$100,000** to buy equipment, software or for other business expenses
- Capital payment can be postponed for the first 6 months and repaid over five years

[Details here >](#)

## EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ("EI")

The Federal government will also be making the following changes to EI:

- The one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim
- Priority EI application processing for EI sickness claims for clients under quarantine
- People claiming EI sickness benefits due to quarantine will not have to provide a medical certificate
- People who cannot complete their claim for EI sickness benefits due to quarantine may apply later and have their EI claim backdated to cover the period of delay

On **March 17**, Premier Doug Ford declared a State of Emergency for the Province of Ontario, and announced that Ontario will make available **\$300 Million** in what is called "first stage" relief package. The funds will go to providing 75 more critical care beds, 500 more acute care beds, 75 more COVID-19 response centers, purchasing more personal protective equipment and adding 1,000 more nurses and 50 more doctors to cover emergency response. Details on the funds available for businesses are still being worked out.

The Ontario government also intends to pass emergency legislation that will ensure people who are forced to stay home from work because of COVID-19 will not lose their jobs.

On **March 18**, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced additional measures to help businesses, which include:

- Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes
- Money for businesses that will allow them to keep people on the payroll while working from home.
- Help with Employment Insurance Applications

Here is a [link](#) to the latest announcement from the Federal Government

Lastly, it should be noted that **Hydro One** is administering a [Relief Fund](#) to offer financial assistance as well as increased payment flexibility to customers experiencing hardship due to COVID 19.