



# Ontario's Action Plan - Responding to COVID-19

On March 25, 2020, the government of Ontario announced \$17 billion of financial measures to assist the health care system, families and businesses cope with the effects of COVID-19.

More specifically, the following measures are included:

## **HELPING FAMILIES**

Provides for one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools.

## **GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME SYSTEM**

Proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payment for low-income seniors for six months.

## **WSIB DEFERRAL**

The financial relief package allows businesses to defer the premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. Businesses who report and pay monthly, quarterly or annually based on their insurable earnings are eligible for this deferral.

For more information, please visit WSIB Ontario: <https://www.wsib.ca/en/financialrelief>

## **EMPLOYER HEALTH TAX**

The government is proposing a temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million for 2020. The exemption would return to \$490,000 on January 1, 2021.

Eligible private-sector employers with annual payrolls of up to \$5 million would be exempt from EHT on the first \$1 million of total Ontario remuneration in 2020. The maximum EHT relief would increase by \$9,945 to \$19,500 for 2020 for eligible employers.

## **REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INVESTMENT CREDIT**

The Regional Opportunities Investment Credit would be available to eligible businesses that construct, renovate or acquire qualifying commercial and industrial buildings in designated regions of the province. The credit is available at a rate of 10% of the expenditures in excess of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$500,000 resulting in a credit of up to \$45,000.

In addition to the city of Greater Sudbury, areas of the province where investments would be eligible are:

- City of Kawartha Lakes
- County of Bruce
- County of Elgin together with the City of St. Thomas
- County of Essex together with the City of Windsor and Township of Pelee
- County of Frontenac together with the City of Kingston
- County of Grey
- County of Haliburton
- County of Hastings together with the City of Belleville and City of Quinte West
- County of Huron
- County of Lambton
- County of Lanark together with the Town of Smiths Falls
- County of Lennox and Addington
- County of Middlesex together with the City of London
- County of Northumberland
- County of Oxford
- County of Perth together with the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys
- County of Peterborough together with the City of Peterborough
- County of Prince Edward
- County of Renfrew together with the City of Pembroke
- District of Algoma
- District of Cochrane
- District of Kenora
- District of Manitoulin
- District of Muskoka
- District of Nipissing
- District of Parry Sound
- District of Rainy River
- District of Sudbury together with the City of Greater Sudbury
- District of Thunder Bay
- District of Timiskaming
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- United Counties of Leeds and Grenville together with the City of Brockville, the Town of Gananoque and the Town of Prescott
- United Counties of Prescott and Russell
- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry together with the City of Cornwall

## **INTEREST AND PENALTY RELIEF FOR ONTARIO BUSINESSES**

Beginning April 1, 2020 until August 31, 2020, penalties and interest will not apply to Ontario's businesses that miss any filing or remittance deadlines under select provincially administered tax programs:

- Employer Health Tax
- Tobacco Tax
- Fuel Tax
- Gas Tax
- Beer, Wine and Spirits Taxes
- Mining Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- International Fuel Tax Agreement
- Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts and Benefit Plans
- Race Tracks Tax

The interest and penalty relief period is available to all Ontario businesses that are required to file returns and make remittances under these tax programs. Businesses will not be required to provide documentation supporting their reasons for late-filing or payments and they will not be required to advise the Ontario Ministry of Finance on their inability to meet deadline.