

Cash Flow and Liquidity Measures

Initiative	Agriculture Implications and Analysis
<p>Increased lending to agriculture sector</p> <p>Lead: Farm Credit Canada</p> <p>Description: \$5 Billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors</p>	<p>To offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cash flow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales.</p>
<p>Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) – Two Initiatives totaling \$65 billion in lending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada Emergency Business Account • SME Loan and Guarantee Program 	<p>Businesses seeking support through BCAP are instructed to contact the financial institutions with whom they have a pre-existing relationship, so that the financial institutions may assess the client's financial request. If the needs of the client exceed the level of support the financial institution is able to provide, the financial institution will work alongside BDC or EDC to access additional resources the Government has made available under BCAP.</p>
<p>Initiative 1: Canada Emergency Business Account</p> <p>Lead: Export Development Canada (EDC) and Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) through financial institutions.</p> <p>Description: This program will provide up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.</p> <p>To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019.</p>	<p>Agriculture and agri-food businesses that meet the payroll qualifications may be eligible for this loan. Access to this type of loan, along with specific agricultural loans, to help defray some immediate cashflow requirements for the spring planting period.</p>

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<p>Initiative 2: Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program</p> <p>Lead: Export Development Canada (EDC) and Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) through financial institutions.</p> <p>Description: This program will enable up to \$40 billion in lending and includes: Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs. Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements. Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.</p>	<p>EDC aspect of this loan guarantee program could have uptake by the agriculture and agri-food sector specifically those who have existing loans with EDC.</p>
<p>Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance</p> <p>Lead: TBC, in collaboration with provinces and territories</p> <p>Description: This program will provide support to help small businesses with their rent for the months of April, May and June. More details to follow.</p>	<p>The program is expected to provide loans, including some forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who are then to either lower or forgo the rent for small businesses during these months.</p>
<p>Support for Rural Businesses</p> <p>Lead: ISED and Regional Development Agencies.</p> <p>Description: An investment of \$962 million to rural development agencies and the Community Futures Network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$675 million to give financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government’s existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada’s Regional Development Agencies. 	<p>Beneficial to rural communities who do not have access to the increased credit options that have become available. The \$962 million investment is essentially doubling the budget of the development agencies to help support start-ups that have not qualified for the federal emergency programs such as the 75 percent wage subsidy and emergency business loans.</p>

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Canada’s response during the COVID-19 pandemic – Information and implications for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$287 million to provide access to capital for rural businesses and communities through the Community Futures Network. The Community Futures Program is a community-driven, economic development program designed to help communities in Canada’s rural areas develop and implement strategies to deal with a changing economic environment. 	
<p>Income Tax deferral</p> <p>Lead: Finance Canada</p> <p>Description: Allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020</p>	<p>To allow for more short-term cash flow.</p>
<p>Advance Payments Program (APP)</p> <p>Lead: APP advances are available through 36 industry associations across Canada. Contact one of the Advance Payments Program Administrators</p> <p>Description: Federal loan guarantee program which provides agricultural producers with access to low-interest cash advances to help provide marketing flexibility to allow producers to sell their commodity at the most opportune time.</p>	<p>Tool for producers to manage cash flow concerns related to market disruptions related to COVID-19. If there is a decline in commodity prices due to COVID-19, producers can use advances to delay sales until markets are more favourable.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 the Government announced a Stay of Default for eligible farmers to provide farmers the flexibility they need to manage their cash flow when facing lower prices or reduced marketing opportunities. In addition, applicable farmers who still have interest-free loans outstanding will have the opportunity to apply for an additional \$100,000 interest-free portion for 2020-2021, if their total APP advances remain under the \$1 million cap.</p>
<p>AgrilInvest</p> <p>Lead: AAFC through financial institutions.</p> <p>Description: Government matching savings account intended to provide producers with cash flow to manage losses and invest in farm operations.</p>	<p>Most agricultural producers have an AgrilInvest account, with access to some level of government-matched funding that could be used to address near-term cash flow requirement, including covering some of the costs associated with COVID-19.</p>

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Exceptional Costs and Demands

<p>Temporary Foreign Workers</p> <p>Lead: ESDC and AAFC</p> <p>Description: Changes to ensure TFWs are still able to enter and support the sector.</p> <p>\$50 million will be made available to help farmers, fish harvesters, and all food production and processing employers, put in place the measures necessary to follow the mandatory 14-day isolation period required of all workers arriving from abroad.</p> <p>FAQ on Changes to TFW Program</p>	<p>Exemptions to travel restrictions to temporary foreign workers in agriculture, agri-food, seafood processing and other key industries. However, all individuals entering from abroad must isolate for 14 days upon arrival.</p> <p>A temporary modification is being made to the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) process for agriculture and food processing employers, as the required 2-week recruitment period will be waived for the next 6 months.</p> <p>The maximum duration of employment under LMIA is increased from 1 to 2 years for employers of workers in the low-wage stream as part of a three-year pilot. LMIA in key occupations related to the agriculture and agri-food sectors will be prioritized.</p> <p>The \$50 million federal investment will provide \$1,500 to eligible employers for each TFW to help cover the incremental expenses associated with the 14-day mandatory isolation period such as wages, accommodations, transportation, food, health and safety products.</p>
<p>Local Food Infrastructure Fund</p> <p>Lead: AAFC working with key national and regional agencies that have an established network and distribution system for food aid and hunger relief</p> <p>Description: The LFIF program aims to strengthen food systems and to facilitate access to safe and nutritious food for at-risk populations</p>	<p>Under the Food Policy for Canada’s Local Food Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada is making up to \$100 million available to Canadian food banks and local food organizations to help improve access to food for people experiencing food insecurity in Canada due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
<p>Nutrition North Canada</p>	<p>In response to COVID-19, the Government of Canada is providing an additional \$25 million to Nutrition North Canada to increase subsidies so</p>

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<p>Lead: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)</p> <p>Description: Nutrition North Canada is a Government of Canada subsidy program to provide Northerners in isolated communities with improved access to perishable nutritious food.</p>	<p>families can afford much-needed nutritious food and personal hygiene products.</p>
<p>Strengthen Food Inspections</p> <p>Lead: CFIA</p> <p>Description: \$20 million for the CFIA to strengthen food inspections and keep food supply safe.</p>	<p>This additional funding will mean CFIA can build capacity for more overtime, and extra shifts from inspectors to fill demand. It also means CFIA can invest in hiring and training to get more people on board.</p>
<p>AgriRecovery Framework</p> <p>Lead: AAFC. PT governments put forward AgriRecovery proposals to the federal government.</p> <p>Description: Objective of the framework is to help producers with the extraordinary costs of activities necessary to resume business operations as quickly as possible after a disaster and/or the extraordinary costs associated with short-term actions necessary to minimize/contain the impacts of a disaster on producers</p>	<p>Extraordinary costs faced by the agricultural sector related to COVID-19 could be eligible under the framework, if they are not already addressed under other existing programs. An assessment of the event would be needed in order to determine whether COVID-19 and its impact on producers meet the eligibility criteria.</p>

Overall Income Loss and Wage Support

<p>Canada Emergency Response Benefit</p> <p>Lead: Service Canada and the CRA</p> <p>Description: Provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months.</p>	<p>Absenteeism issues have been challenging in the sector. Of note, a person cannot quit their job voluntarily to apply for the benefit.</p> <p>Allowances related to part-time workers to collect the CERB while earning up to \$1000 part-time to encourage workers to stay in the labour force.</p>
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Updated: 23 April 2020

The benefit is available to:

- working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.
- workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.
- wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.
- workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.
- seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Individuals, including those self-employed, can earn up to \$1000 per month and still receive the benefit.

[Essential worker wage top up](#)

Lead: CRA

Description: The Government will work with provinces and territories through a new transfer to cost-share a temporary top up to the salaries of low-income essential workers that the provinces and territories have deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19.

- The Government of Canada will cover a portion of the cost of providing temporary financial support to these low-

To provide a wage boost for qualifying workers on the front-line in hospitals, caring for seniors in long-term care facilities, those working hard to make sure that there that is food on our shelves and tables, and others.

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<p>income workers, thereby helping to support employers in keeping their workers on staff, while also ensuring fairness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provinces and territories will be able to provide their low-income essential workers (earning less than \$2500 per month) with a top up. • Further details will be released shortly. 	
<p>10% wage subsidy</p> <p>Lead: CRA</p> <p>Description: A 10% wage subsidy (announced March 17) for small businesses is available for the next 90 days, up to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Corporations that are eligible for the small business deduction are eligible for this wage subsidy.</p>	<p>Employers benefiting from this measure could include incorporated farms.</p>
<p>Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy</p> <p>Lead: CRA</p> <p>Description: Announced a 75% wage subsidy (to a maximum of \$58,700 or \$847 a week per employee) for qualifying businesses, for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020, ending June 6, 2020. The subsidy will be available to all taxable businesses. To receive the subsidy, a business must demonstrate a 15 percent drop in revenue for March 2020 (and 30 percent for April or May) by choosing one of two calculation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparison of average revenue for January and February of 2020 relative to revenue in March 2020; or - Comparison of revenue in the current month to the same month of 2019. 	<p>Eligibility is based on sales lost due to COVID. Agriculture stakeholders seeking guidance on how to show a decline in sales when losses won’t be realized until later in the season (typically after harvest).</p>

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<p>A calculator has been developed as a tool to help potential applicants to estimate the amount of their wage subsidy.</p>	
<p>GST/HST Deferral</p> <p>Lead: Finance Canada</p> <p>Description: Allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) payments until June, as well as customs duties owed for imports.</p>	<p>Most supplies of agricultural and fishing products are zero-rated (i.e. subject to GST/HST at 0%). Incorporated agriculture businesses that sell taxable agricultural products such as cut flowers, foliage, bedding plants, sod, living trees could be eligible for this GST/HST deferral.</p>
<p>Working While on EI Claim</p> <p>Lead: ESDC</p> <p>Description: Under the existing Employment Insurance rules, the Working While on Claim provision allows a worker to keep receiving part of their EI benefits and all earnings from a new job.</p> <p>A person earning money while receiving EI benefits can keep 50 cents of their EI benefits for every dollar they earn, up to 90 percent of their previous weekly earnings (roughly four and a half days of work). Above this cap, their EI benefits are deducted dollar-for-dollar.</p>	<p>This could be an incentive for those who are laid off from their jobs to continue to receive EI benefits and take on part time work in the agriculture and agri-food sector.</p> <p>Example: Alyssa lives in Ontario and lost her job as a data entry clerk where she earned \$1000 weekly. Her weekly EI benefit rate is \$550 (55% of \$1000). To help make ends meet, she decides to take a part time job as a labourer in a local greenhouse growing vegetables. A labourer at an Ontario greenhouse in 2020 earns \$14.18 per hour. Working part time, at four days a week for 8 hours a day, or 32 hours a week, Alyssa earns \$453.76 (\$14.18 x 32 hours).</p> <p>As a result, her \$550 in EI benefits are reduced by \$226.88 or 50 cents for every dollar she earns at the greenhouse ($\\$453.76 \div 2 = \\226.88). This brings her total EI benefit to \$323.12 ($\\$550 - \\$226.88 = \\323.12). In the end, Alyssa takes home \$323.12 per week in EI benefits plus her part time wages of \$453.76, for a total of \$776.88.</p>
<p>Work-Sharing Program – Employment Insurance</p> <p>Lead: ESDC</p>	<p>Could have utility for farm and agri-food businesses.</p>

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Description: Work-Sharing is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer.

The program provides EI benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers.

Effective March 15, 2020 to March 14, 2021, and not limited to one specific sector or industry, the Government of Canada is introducing temporary special measures due to COVID-19.

- Extension of the maximum possible duration of an agreement from 38 weeks to 76 weeks
- Mandatory cooling off period has been waived for employers who have already used the Work-Sharing program so that eligible employers may immediately enter into a new agreement

Reduce the requirement and expand eligibility to employers affected by accepting business who have been in business for only 1 year rather than 2 and eliminate the burden of having to provide sales/production figures at the same time.

[Canada Summer Jobs Program](#)

Lead: ESDC

Description: Canada Summer Jobs is an initiative of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, which aims to provide flexible and holistic services to support all young Canadians develop the skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition in the labour market.

Temporary changes to the program for this year due to COVID-19 include:

The Agriculture and Agri-food sector is eligible, as are other sectors. A process has been established for Members of Parliament (MPs) to identify local needs. As some employers may choose not to hire youth this year amid the current pandemic, MPs will be asked to identify potential employers and local organizations, that provide critical services such as a local food bank, who may not have applied for Canada Summer Jobs funding but could be solicited to offer job placements.

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- an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee
- an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021
- allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
- allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis

The application deadline is April 24, 2020.

[Support for Students](#)

Lead: CRA, ESDC, SSHRC, NSERC, CIH, ISED

Description: \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates to help provide financial support for the summer, continue their studies in the fall, and help provide experience needed to start careers. This support includes:

- A new Canada Emergency Student Benefit will provide \$1,250 a month to eligible students from May to August;
- a new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5000 to students who choose to do national service and serve their communities;
- double the Canada student Grants;
- broaden Eligibility for student financial assistance by removing expected student's and spouses' contributions in 2020-21;
- raise the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21;

The Government of Canada will expand existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students find employment and develop valuable skills this summer and over the coming months. Student job opportunities in the agricultural sector will also be advertised on the recently launched [agricultural jobs portal](#).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase existing distinctions-based support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students by providing an additional \$75.2 million in 2020-21; and • extend expiring federal graduate research scholarships and postdoctoral fellowship and supplement existing federal research grants by providing \$291.6 million to federal granting councils. 	
<p>Agricultural Jobs Portal</p> <p>Lead: AAFC</p> <p>Description: An online jobs portal directing Canadians to job opportunities in the sector</p>	<p>To further help address labour challenges facing the sector, and help Canadians who have had their jobs affected by COVID-19, the department has launched an agricultural jobs portal to inform Canadians about the diverse and rewarding job opportunities available in the sector.</p>
<p>AgriStability</p> <p>Lead: AAFC administered by provincial jurisdictions</p> <p>Description: A margin-based, whole farm program that provides support to producers when their program margin declines more than 30% relative to their reference margin</p>	<p>In response to COVID-19, governments have agreed to extend the enrollment deadline from April 30, 2020 to July 3, 2020.</p> <p>Participants may also request interim payments for the program year once they are able to estimate potential losses.</p>
<p>AgriInsurance</p> <p>Lead: AAFC administered by provincial jurisdictions</p> <p>Description: Provides producers with actuarially sound insurance against crop yield and quality losses caused by uncontrollable natural perils</p>	<p>AgriInsurance provides production insurance based on quality and yield of crops.</p>

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Strategic Opportunities

Initiative	Agriculture Implications and Analysis
<p>AgrilInnovate</p> <p>Lead: AAFC</p> <p>Description: This program provides repayable contributions for projects that aim to accelerate the commercialization, adoption and/or demonstration of innovative products, technologies, processes or services that increase agri-sector competitiveness and sustainability.</p>	<p>AgrilInnovate could further ensure Canadian food security by funding projects that utilize innovations to improve productivity, helping to address strains on Canadian food supply brought on by COVID-19.</p>
<p>Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP)</p> <p>Lead: AAFC</p> <p>Description: The Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) supports the Canadian agricultural sector’s participation in the Government of Canada’s growth and policy objectives, by investing in the sector’s design, development and implementation of tools and strategies to respond to and seize opportunities created by these objectives.</p>	<p>CASPP programs can support sector-based organisations respond to new supply and trade realities developed through COVID-19. Projects must be led by Canadian agriculture based non-profit organizations and be national or sector wide in scope.</p>
<p>Dairy Processing Investment Fund</p> <p>Lead: AAFC</p> <p>Description: The Dairy Processing Investment Fund was established to provide funding to dairy processors for investments that will improve productivity and competitiveness and help them prepare to market changes resulting from the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).</p>	<p>The DPIF was initially designed to support the sector adapt to market changes resulting from CETA. The program supports investments in capital to assist and improving dairy processors productivity and competitiveness. The program can function to help dairy processors address market changes brought on by COVID-19.</p>
<p>Industrial Research Assistance Program</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 the Government has invested \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing</p>

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<p>Lead: National Research Council of Canada</p> <p>Description: The National Research Council of Canada’s Industrial Research Assistance Program provides advice, connections, and funding to help Canadian small and medium-sized businesses increase their innovation capacity and take their ideas to market.</p>	<p>COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada’s Industrial Research Assistance Program.</p>
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Other benefits

Beneficiary	Initiatives
<p>Workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waived, for a minimum of six months, the mandatory one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits for workers in imposed quarantine or who have been directed to self-isolate, as announced on March 11. • Waived the requirement for a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits. • Extended the tax filing deadline for individuals to June 1, and allowed all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the <i>Income Tax Act</i>. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. This measure will result in households having more money available during this period. • Provided increased flexibility to lenders to defer mortgage payments on homeowner government-insured mortgage loans to borrowers who may be experiencing financial difficulties related to the outbreak. Insurers will permit lenders to allow payment deferral beginning immediately. • Provide additional assistance to individuals and families with low and modest incomes with a special top-up payment under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit.

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