

# Financial supports for Indigenous businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak

**Indigenous businesses (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) have access to the business support programs offered by the Government of Canada during COVID-19.**

Visit [innovation.canada.ca](https://www.innovation.canada.ca) for a personalized list of business supports

## **\*IMPORTANT**

Every business that is required to file tax returns is encouraged to file their 2019 return to ensure they receive the benefits and credits to which they are entitled. For more information on filing your 2019 income taxes, visit the [CRA website](https://www.cra.gc.ca).

## **Support Targeted towards Indigenous Businesses**

### **Funding for small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses, and Aboriginal Financial Institutions**

- Small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses and Aboriginal Financial Institutions that finance these businesses can access interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions
- Up to \$40,000 will be available to small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses in the form of:
  - An interest-free loan up to \$30,000
  - A non-repayable contribution up to \$10,000
- Contact your [Aboriginal Financial Institution](#) to apply for support.

### **Indigenous tourism stimulus development fund**

- The fund will provide \$16 million in grants to Indigenous tourism operators.
- Contact the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada for more information.

### **Support Measures for community-owned First Nation, Inuit and Métis businesses**

- \$117 million will reach more community-owned businesses, and micro-businesses in First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities located in the provinces, that are not eligible for existing business support measures.
- The application process for these funds will be announced soon



## Support available for all businesses, including Indigenous businesses

### Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

- The CEBA provides 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.
- Small businesses and not-for-profits should contact their financial institution to apply for these loans
- See a list of participating financial institutions on the [CEBA](#) page.
- The Government announced an expansion to the eligibility criteria that will soon allow businesses with total payroll below \$20,000 to qualify, if they demonstrate having eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million in 2020. This includes sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends.
- Small or medium-sized Indigenous businesses looking to apply for up to \$40,000 in support must choose between CEBA or the AFI support program as both programs are for a similar purpose.

### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

- 75% wage subsidy for qualifying businesses
- Employers of all sizes and across all sectors that have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 15% in March, and 30% in the following months are eligible.
- Indigenous-government-owned corporations that are carrying on a business as well as partnerships where the partners are Indigenous governments and eligible employers are eligible for the CEWS.
- Apply using your Canada Revenue Agency [My Business Account](#) or using the [Web Forms application](#).

### Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

- The RRRF is targeted towards businesses that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been unable to access existing support measures.
- Nearly \$962 million will be provided through the RRRF
- Apply to the RRRF through your local [Regional Development Agency](#)

### Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses

- The CECRA provides forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners who in turn will lower rent by 75% for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19.
- Go to the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance](#) page for more information and to apply.

### Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

- The CERB provides a taxable benefit of \$500 per week for a maximum of 16 weeks to eligible workers and the self-employed who have stopped working related to COVID-19.
- Begin your application on the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) page

### Northern Business Relief Fund (NBRF)

- \$15 million available in non-repayable support for operating costs for businesses in the Territories.
- The NBRF provides short-term relief for operational costs in the form of non-repayable grants ranging from \$2,500 to a maximum of \$100,000. Visit [CanNor's](#) webpage to apply.

For more programs available to Indigenous businesses, visit Indigenous Service Canada's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#) page.

