

### COVID-19 Government Announcement Tracker

	General Measures	Beverage Alcohol
Federal	<p><i>March 18</i> – The Prime Minister <a href="#">announced</a> a new set of economic measures delivered as part of the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> – The <a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Response Act</a> passed and received Royal Assent. The legislation implements measures to deliver direct economic aid to Canadians as well as new health transfers to the provinces and territories and the opening of credit lines for businesses through Canada’s credit agencies.</p> <p><i>April 11</i> – Finance Canada <a href="#">announced</a> that legislation to implement the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for businesses affected by COVID-19 has received Royal Assent (under the <a href="#">COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2</a>). CEWS makes a 75% wage subsidy available for eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020 and is a key measure in <a href="#">Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan</a>.</p> <p><i>April 16</i> – The Prime Minister <a href="#">announced</a> new measures to support business including expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account to businesses that paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. This new range will replace the previous one of between \$50,000 and \$1 million. It was also announced that the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will be introduced for small businesses.</p> <p><i>April 24</i> - The federal government reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the <a href="#">Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance</a> (CECRA) program for small businesses.</p> <p><i>May 5</i> – The Prime Minister <a href="#">announced</a> a new program to support farmers, food business and food supply. This includes the creation of a \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund to help food producers access more personal protective equipment (PPE), adapt to health protocols, automate or modernize their facilities, processes, and operations, and respond to emerging pressures from COVID-19 so they can better supply Canadians with food during this period.</p> <p><i>May 8</i> - The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be extended beyond its previously announced end date of June 6. More details on this extension are expected to be released soon.</p> <p><i>May 11</i> - The Prime Minister <a href="#">announced</a> the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (FEEFF) program to provide support (bridge loans) to employers with annual revenues of more than \$300 million whose credit needs are not being met through conventional financing. The program is open to large commercial businesses in all sectors (except those in the financial sector) and certain not-for-profit businesses, like airports. Details are still being worked out. In addition, the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) offered through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada will be expanded to assist mid-sized companies with larger financing needs.</p>	<p><i>April 6</i> – The Business Development Bank of Canada <a href="#">announced</a> that those in the hospitality sector operating bars and lounges will now be eligible for the Business Credit Availability Program.</p>

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PEI	<p><i>March 16</i> – PEI declared a <a href="#">public health emergency</a> in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to this measure, a <a href="#">State of Emergency</a> was declared on <i>April 16</i>.</p> <p><i>March 18</i> – All <a href="#">non-essential businesses</a> were closed until further notice.</p> <p><i>April 24</i> - PEI announced the <a href="#">Emergency Working Capital Financing</a> program to help small businesses maintain normal business operations.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> - Under the “<a href="#">Renew P.E.I. Together</a>” approach, Phase 1 began on May 1. Phase 2 begins on <i>May 22</i>. Phase 3 is targeted for <i>June 12</i> with Phase 4 TBD. Non-essential businesses in PEI must remain closed unless the government indicates otherwise. Phase 1 easing of restrictions include allowing limited outdoor gatherings of no more than five individuals involving people from different households and non-contact recreational activities like walking, hiking, cycling and golf.</p>	<p><i>March 19</i> – All PEI Liquor corporate retail stores were <a href="#">closed</a> until further notice. Agency stores, which are run by private operators in rural areas, remain open.</p> <p><i>March 21</i> - The province changed rules to allow the agency stores and breweries to deliver.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> - A PEILCC retail store in Charlottetown was re-opened, with subsequent re-openings of some other PEILCC retail locations in April.</p> <p><i>April 9</i> – <a href="#">Effective immediately</a>, restaurants that have a Package Sales Licence can sell unopened liquor, including beer, wine and spirits, to customers that order a meal for takeout.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> – With a potential start date of <i>June 12</i>, Phase 3 of re-opening will include indoor dining at food premises (under restrictions).</p> <p><i>May 3</i> - Payments of the annual <a href="#">liquor license renewal fees</a> for the period June 1 to May 31 were waived.</p>
NS	<p><i>March 22</i> –Provincial <a href="#">State of Emergency</a> declared. Workplaces or businesses that are not considered essential or have not yet been ordered to close may stay open, so long as a two metre distance between employees can be maintained. Additional information on restrictions and closures can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>April 2</i> – Nova Scotia <a href="#">announced</a> measures to help citizens and businesses including \$20 million to fund a new program – the Small Business Impact Grant, and a \$20 million Worker Emergency Bridge Fund.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> – Nova Scotia <a href="#">announced</a> that it was easing some of the public health restrictions around COVID-19. Re-openings include provincial and municipal parks, community gardens and garden centres, golf driving ranges and drive-in religious services, among others.</p> <p><i>May 3</i> – State of Emergency <a href="#">extended</a> to <i>May 17</i>.</p>	<p><i>March 19</i> – Effective March 19 <a href="#">new measures</a> introduced: restaurants restricted to takeout and delivery only and no in-person dining; drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms and small brewer taprooms must close; private liquor stores permitted to operate and small breweries, wineries and distilleries to sell their product from their storefronts. NSLC retail outlets remain open.</p> <p><i>March 30</i> - Restaurants may include beverage alcohol with takeout and delivery orders if the cost of the beverage alcohol is not more than three times the value of the food.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> – As the province moves to ease restrictions, no clear indication as to re-opening of restaurant in-dining or for bars and pubs.</p>

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NB	<p><i>March 19</i> – Provincial State of Emergency <a href="#">declared</a> mandating the closure of many public facing businesses. All businesses in retail sales are required to stop admitting patrons with specified exceptions.</p> <p><i>March 24</i> – New Brunswick <a href="#">announced assistance</a> to support provincial businesses including providing working capital loans as well as deferring interest and principal payments on existing loans. Opportunities New Brunswick has issued a Guide for Business (<a href="#">April 29 Update</a>) highlighting the province’s and the federal government’s relief measures on COVID-19.</p> <p><i>April 24</i> - The first phase (<a href="#">Red Level</a>) of New Brunswick’s <a href="#">Recovery Framework</a> and the loosening of some public health restrictions were announced. Large gatherings such as festivals and concerts however are prohibited through Dec. 31, 2020, subject to change. The start dates for the remaining stages will be decided based on meeting and maintaining certain health benchmarks.</p> <p><i>May 8</i> – New Brunswick <a href="#">announced</a> the move to the second phase of recovery (<a href="#">Orange Level</a>) in its Recovery Framework. Retail establishments including malls and restaurants will be permitted to re-open but with physical distancing measures in place. Outdoor public gatherings with 10 or fewer people and physical distancing will be permitted.</p>	<p><i>March 19</i> – Corporate and agency stores of the ANBL were exempted from closure orders. All food and beverage businesses limited to takeout and delivery service only; all lounges and special facilities licensed under the Liquor Control Act will stop admitting patrons.</p> <p><i>April 16</i> – Licensed restaurants permitted to sell beverage alcohol off their menu for takeout delivery.</p> <p><i>May 8</i> – New Brunswick moved to second phase of its recovery plan, permitting the re-opening of restaurants (for in-dining) and other venues that serve food as long as they can respect physical distancing. It is not yet clear as to when bars will be permitted to re-open.</p>
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QC	<p><i>March 13</i> – Québec adopted an Order in Council declaring a health emergency throughout the province. Subsequently, it was announced that the closing of all non-essential stores and services will be ordered as of March 25.</p> <p><i>March 17</i> - Revenue Québec announced it is applying <a href="#">flexibility measures</a> for individuals and businesses in the province during income tax filing season. In addition, it also introduced the <a href="#">Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW)</a>. Eligible essential workers during the pandemic could benefit from the IPREW to make up the difference between their salary and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).</p> <p><i>April 3</i> - To help businesses whose cash flow is affected by the impact of COVID-19, Québec has implemented the <a href="#">Emergency Support Plan for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses</a> and the <a href="#">Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses</a> (PACTE).</p> <p><i>May 4</i> – Québec announced the <a href="#">gradual re-opening</a> of the economy throughout May. The approach involves opening different parts of the province at different times. Since May 4, retail business situated elsewhere than in the territory of the Montreal Metropolitan Community are open (access restrictions apply).</p> <p><i>May 11</i> - Manufacturing (with restrictions on capacity) and construction to re-open. Subsequent stages will be announced gradually and will include a greater variety of businesses, such as personal care services, and dine-in restaurants. Starting on <i>May 25</i>, manufacturing companies throughout Québec will be authorized to resume their operations with no restriction on the number of employees present to ensure such operations. The province has issued a temporary ban on all events and large gatherings until <i>August 31</i>. Information on pending re-openings can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><i>March 15</i> – Under a health emergency order issued March 13, Québec ordered the closure of bars. Restaurant owners were asked to limit the number of customers to 50% of a room’s capacity. SAQ retail outlets remained open but the number of clients must be limited to respect social distancing.</p> <p><i>March 22</i> - All restaurants must close dining-room service, while takeout service can continue. SAQ stores will remain open, but with stores on Sundays for an indefinite period, to give tired workers a break.</p> <p><i>May 11</i> – No clear indication for re-opening of restaurant in-dining or bars.</p>

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ON	<p><i>March 17</i> – Ontario <a href="#">declared a state of emergency</a> in response to the escalating public health threat posed by COVID-19. All organized public events of over 50 people, including parades, events and communal services within places of worship are prohibited.</p> <p><i>March 23</i> - The <a href="#">mandatory closure</a> of all non-essential workplaces was announced for an initial 14-day period, effective March 24. Included as an essential service were restaurants and other food facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or takeaway, together with food delivery services. The mandatory closures were extended in April and in May.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> – The Finance Minister in his Spring Fiscal Update <a href="#">released</a> Ontario’s Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19. The <a href="#">Action Plan</a> includes measures that will make available \$10 billion in support through tax and other deferrals to improve cash flows.</p> <p><i>April 27</i> - Ontario released <a href="#">A Framework for Re-opening our Province</a>, which outlines the criteria Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts are using to advise the government on the loosening of emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual re-opening of businesses, services and public spaces.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> –The Ontario <a href="#">announced</a> that it is allowing certain businesses to re-open as long as they adhere to strict public health measures and operate safely. As of May 4, garden centres, nurseries, lawn care and landscaping, additional essential construction projects and motor vehicle dealerships (by appointment only). Also permitted are limited outdoor gatherings and non-contact recreational activities.</p> <p><i>May 12</i> - Ontario <a href="#">extended the Declaration of Emergency</a> under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Passed during a special sitting of the Ontario Legislature, the Declaration of Emergency has been extended until June 2.</p> <p><i>May 14</i> – Ontario announced more details on the first stage of the province’s “Phase 2: Restart” program. The first stage will begin on <i>May 19</i> and will include: retail services that are not in shopping malls and have separate street-front entrances, seasonal businesses and recreational activities for individual or single competitors, indoor and outdoor household services, animal services, and the lifting of essential workplace limits on construction. As soon as <i>May 16</i>, the following will be permitted to re-open: golf courses, marinas, boat clubs and public boat launches for recreational use, and private parks and campgrounds to enable preparation for the season and to allow access for trailers and recreational vehicles whose owners have a full season contract. Details including any restrictions can be found in the Ontario Government <a href="#">News Release</a>.</p>	<p><i>March 17</i> – Under a declared state of emergency, all bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout and food delivery are required to close until March 31. The Beer Store and LCBO retail outlets remained open but operating under reduced hours.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> – Ontario announced a <a href="#">five-month relief period</a> for Ontario businesses unable to file or remit select provincial taxes on time, including beer, wine and spirits taxes, due to the special circumstances caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ontario. Beginning April 1, penalties and interest will not apply to Ontario businesses that miss any filing or remittance deadline for select provincial taxes.</p> <p><i>March 26</i> - Regulation 719 amended under the <i>Liquor Licence Act</i> (LLA) to temporarily allow liquor sales licensees (i.e., licensed bars and restaurants) to sell beer, wine and spirits as part of a food order for takeout or delivery. These changes were effective immediately, and last until December 31, 2020. <a href="#">AGCO Information Bulletin, No. 61.</a></p> <p><i>April 6</i> - The Beer Store will begin to accept empties at select retail locations as of April 6th. The return of empty containers had been suspended across all TBS outlets on March 19.</p> <p><i>April 29</i> - The beer basic tax rates were scheduled to increase by an adjustment factor on June 1. The Minister of Finance signed <a href="#">an amendment</a> to O. Reg 257/10, made under the Alcohol, Cannabis and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act, 1996 to <a href="#">delay the date</a> of the next scheduled adjustment to December 1, 2020. As a result, the current beer basic tax rates will continue to apply until November 30. Current basic rates for wine will remain in place until December 31.</p> <p><i>May 14</i> – No clear indication yet as to re-openings for restaurant in-dining or for bars and pubs.</p>

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MB	<p><i>March 20</i> – <a href="#">State of emergency declared</a>.</p> <p><i>March 30</i> - Several new measures introduced to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As of <i>April 1</i>, public gatherings will be limited to 10 people, restaurants may only serve food for delivery and takeout, and all businesses not in the schedule of critical services (<a href="#">Manitoba Order, Schedule, page 4</a>) must close.</p> <p><i>April 3</i> – Manitoba <a href="#">announced</a> the deferral of a number of provincial fees and charges, among other measures, intended to provide cash flow tax relief to businesses and individuals.</p> <p><i>April 16</i> – Manitoba released a list of critical services under Orders issued under Section 67 of the Public Health Act (See Schedule section, page 6 of <a href="#">document</a>).</p> <p><i>April 29</i> – Manitoba announced a phased approach in easing restrictions in its <a href="#">Restoring Safe Services Plan</a>.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> – The government’s online portal to facilitate business applications to the <a href="#">Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP)</a> is now live. The premier <a href="#">announced</a> the \$120-million MGPP on <i>April 22</i> which provides an interest-free, forgivable \$6,000 loan to small and medium-sized businesses in Manitoba. Loans are available to businesses that fail to qualify for the various federal government assistance programs and wage subsidies created because of COVID-19.</p> <p><i>May 4</i> - Manitoba began Phase 1 of its two-phase plan (<a href="#">Restoring Safe Services Together</a>), with medical practices, retail stores and restaurants (those that offer patio and walk-up services) re-opening. The second and final phase, expected to begin no earlier than <i>June 1</i>, will continue to expand public gatherings and open additional personal services such as nail salons, in addition to restaurants for dine-in services.</p>	<p><i>March 20</i> – Under a <a href="#">declared state of emergency</a>, hospitality premises where food or beverage alcohol is served are limited to 50 people or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is less. These establishments must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers. Manitoba Liquor Marts remained open.</p> <p><i>March 30</i> – Restaurants were banned from dine-in services and bars were shut down as of <i>April 1</i>.</p> <p><i>April 3</i> – Under a <a href="#">suite of measures</a> announced to provide cash flow tax relief the government instructed Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores.</p> <p><i>April 15</i> - Manitoba <a href="#">authorized</a> the sale of liquor with delivery and takeout food orders by licensed dining rooms and lounges.</p> <p><i>May 4</i> – Under Phase 1 of the <a href="#">Restoring Safe Services Together Plan</a> restaurant patio/walk-up services were restored with physical distancing and capacity restrictions. Phase 2 will begin no earlier than <i>June 1</i> and will include the restoration of restaurant dine-in services.</p>

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SK	<p><i>March 18</i> - <a href="#">State of emergency declared</a>. Gatherings larger than 25 people are prohibited. Retail spaces including grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are exempt from this policy but must have processes to maintain a one-to-two metre separation between customers.</p> <p><i>March 20</i> –Public gatherings subsequently limited to 10 people.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> - Saskatchewan <a href="#">announced</a> that effective <i>March 26</i>, non-allowable business services will be unable to provide public-facing services. This does not preclude online retailing or providing pick-up or delivery services. The official list of priority services and activities can be found <a href="#">can be found here in PDF format</a>.</p> <p><i>April 2</i> - Saskatchewan businesses unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges (<a href="#">Downloadable Information Notice</a>). Other provincial relief programs rolled out can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>April 23</i> - Saskatchewan became the first Province to release a re-opening plan with <a href="#">Re-Open Saskatchewan</a>. The Re-Open Saskatchewan plan introduces five phases to re-open businesses and services. Phase 1 begins on <i>May 4</i>, and Phase 2 begins on <i>May 19</i>. The timing for remaining phases will be determined as the situation develops.</p> <p><i>May 3</i> – A <a href="#">new public health order</a> was issued to align with the staged lifting of restrictions under the phased approach of Re-Open Saskatchewan. Public access is now allowed to previously restricted medical services: dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, optician services, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic treatment.</p> <p><i>May 8</i> - Saskatchewan announced the <a href="#">Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) program</a> will be extended to the month of May for businesses that are required to remain closed or substantially curtail operations after May 19. Businesses will not need to reapply to the program. Businesses that qualify for the program will automatically receive a second payment after May 19.</p>	<p><i>March 18</i> – Under a declared state of emergency, all restaurants, bars and event venues must limit their seating to 50% of capacity or up to a maximum of 50 people, whichever is less. All must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers.</p> <p><i>March 20</i> – All restaurants and bars have been ordered closed, with the exception of takeout and delivery orders. Licensed retail stores selling beer, wine, liquor have been listed as Allowable Business Services that may continue to operate.</p> <p><i>March 25</i> – The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority is allowing licensed restaurants to provide off-sales and delivery services for liquor products, with or without an accompanying food order. (<a href="#">SLGA FAQ</a>)</p> <p><i>May 4</i> – Phase 1 of the re-opening plan began. The dates for re-opening of bars and restaurants (in-dining) has yet to be determined.</p>

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AB	<p><i>March 17</i> - Alberta declared a <a href="#">State of Emergency</a>. Under this order, the government restricted mass gatherings, prohibited attendance at public and private recreational facilities, limited occupancy at restaurants and cafés, and prohibited Albertans from attending at premises holding Class A – Minors Prohibited liquor licenses (e.g. bars and nightclubs).</p> <p><i>March 18</i> - Alberta announced new <a href="#">business tax relief measures</a>. Alberta businesses with corporate income tax balances that become owing on or after March 18, 2020, or installment payments coming due between March 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020, can defer making these payments until August 31, 2020. Alberta will waive penalties and interest that would otherwise be payable in respect of these payments.</p> <p><i>March 27</i> – A <a href="#">list</a> of restricted and non-restricted services was released. The businesses and services on the non-restricted list can continue providing services at locations accessible to the public, but they must have proper risk mitigation measures in place, such as appropriate distancing between customers.</p> <p><i>April 30</i> – Alberta <a href="#">announced</a> a plan to move forward with re-opening: <a href="#">Opening Soon: Alberta’s Relaunch Strategy</a>.</p> <p><i>May 13</i> - Alberta <a href="#">announced</a> that <i>effective May 14</i> the province is lifting some health restrictions in Phase 1 of its relaunch strategy, meaning cafes, restaurants, bars, and pubs can re-open for table service only with 50% capacity. Retail stores, museums and art galleries and hair salons can also re-open with restrictions. Re-openings in Calgary and Brooks have been delayed until <i>May 25</i> for cafes, restaurants, bars, pubs, hair salons and barber shops.</p>	<p><i>March 17</i> - Albertans were restricted from visiting bars and nightclubs. Sit-down restaurants, pubs, delis and coffee shops are now limited to a maximum of 50 people or 50% of their maximum capacity, whichever is lower. Private liquor stores remained open.</p> <p><i>March 24</i> – A <a href="#">Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation amendment</a> was introduced allowing licensed restaurants and bars to sell liquor as part of their take-out and delivery services.</p> <p><i>March 27</i> - Dine-in restaurants no longer able to offer dine-in service. Take-out and delivery services will continue to be available.</p> <p><i>May 14</i> – Restaurants, bars and pubs were permitted to re-open for table service only with 50% capacity. Re-openings in Calgary and Brooks are delayed until <i>May 25</i>.</p>
BC	<p><i>March 17 &amp; March 18</i> – Public health emergency declared followed a day later by a <a href="#">State of Emergency</a>. Any business or service that has not been ordered to close may stay open at this time if it can adapt its services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer (1-2 metres social distancing for customers, increased sanitation, no gatherings over 50 people).</p> <p><i>March 23</i> – Effective immediately, British Columbia is deferring many provincial tax filings to Sept 30, 2020. The deadline to file and pay for the following taxes has been extended: employer health tax, provincial sales tax, carbon tax, motor fuel tax and tobacco tax. Detailed information on provincial tax related support can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>May 6</i> - British Columbia <a href="#">announced</a> its’ four-phase plan to slowly begin being re-opening and easing COVID-related restrictions starting in mid-May: <a href="#">BC’s Restart Plan</a>.</p> <p><i>May 14</i> - Provincial parks reopened, the first of a handful of restrictions to begin easing over the next few days.</p>	<p><i>March 18</i> – All bars, nightclubs, and pubs (i.e. businesses with primary liquor licenses) in the province must close indefinitely.</p> <p><i>March 21</i> – <a href="#">Policy Directive 20-05</a> issued allowing food primary and liquor primary licensees to sell and deliver packaged liquor for off-site consumption to patrons with the purchase of a meal. This policy change remains in effect until July 15.</p> <p><i>May 1</i> – The general manager of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch has authorized the <a href="#">temporary extension</a> for liquor licences expiring between March 31 and June 30, 2020, to ease the financial burden of upcoming renewal fees.</p> <p><i>May 15</i> – It is not yet clear as to when B.C. will permit the re-opening of restaurants (in-dining), pubs and bars. However, the B.C. Restaurant and Food Services Association indicates that restaurants are looking at a possible June 1 reopening date, pending approval from WorkSafeBC.</p>