

COVID-19 Weekly Information Update / Mise à jour de la semaine – June 5, 2020

We would like to share with you a few updates related to COVID-19 that you may find of interest. Please do not hesitate to share this information with your networks.

Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates. This week, we updated our website to include a link to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's [online tool](#) that helps businesses find a tailored list of government programs and services, and included new information in our [Workplace guidance for sector employers and employees](#).

1) Assistance available to Atlantic Canada businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic

Through the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund](#), Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) will provide approximately \$110M over the next year to support Atlantic Canadian businesses (\$67 million directly and \$43 million through Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC)). ACOA is now accepting online applications.

Existing ACOA clients are invited to contact their project officer to discuss their needs. CBDC clients can apply for the RRRF through their local CBDCs. All other businesses or organizations can call 1-888-576-4444 or send an email to ACOA.information.APECA@canada.ca to obtain more information.

ACOA can also help in other ways by:

- Deferring scheduled payments until October, 2020
- Confirming eligibility for additional funding and/or flexible arrangements
- Providing information about federal programs and services
- Coordinating efforts to connect potential PPE suppliers in the region with appropriate federal and provincial procurement departments, municipalities and businesses seeking PPE materials in order to maintain or resume operations. Please visit the following website: <https://igniteatlantic.com/covid19/>.

2) Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

On May 15, 2020, the Government of Canada [announced](#) that the CEWS would be extended for an additional 12 weeks. As such, the subsidy is now available for up to 24 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020, to August 29, 2020, with specific program parameters to be determined for the CEWS extension.

Please visit [CRA's CEWS web page](#) for the most up-to-date information as the content is being updated regularly. The CRA has also established a dedicated toll-free line for the CEWS - 1-833-966-2099, which is available from 9 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

3) Members of new Industry Strategy Council

On June 2, 2020, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, [announced](#) the names of nine business leaders who will join Monique Leroux – a strong business leader with a distinguished career in Canadian finance – on the new and recently announced [Industry Strategy Council](#) (ISC). Murad Al-Katib, President and Chief Executive Officer, AGT Food and Ingredients was identified as the agri-food sector member on the ISC. The Council will hold virtual meetings every two weeks over the next 90 days.

Reminder

In case you missed it:

1) New Guide for Temporary Foreign Workers

On May 28, 2020, ESDC released a “COVID-19: A Guide for Temporary Foreign Workers in Canada”, which is customized for Temporary Foreign Workers under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. The Guide, available in English, French and Spanish, can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/foreign-worker-rights/covid19-guide.html>.

2) Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) Consultation – Closes today

On May 25, 2020, the Department of Finance Canada launched a [consultation](#) to inform potential changes to the CEWS, which covers 75 per cent of an employee’s wages (up to \$847 per week) for employers who have been hard-hit by COVID-19. This consultation is closing today.

Industry Engagement Division / Division de la consultation du secteur
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada