

Government Financial Relief Resources

Highlighting the Government of Canada and Government of BC's economic response programs to financially support individuals, businesses and local governments. This is an inclusive but not an exhaustive list of programs.

Support for Individuals

Level of Gov't	Program	Description	Link
Federal	Canada Child Benefit	The Government of Canada is providing an extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20. This will mean approximately \$550 more for the average family. Increased by \$1,200 on May 28th, 2021	Child Benefit
	Employment Insurance; COVID-19	Medical Certificate is no longer required for claims beginning in March 15, 2020. Reduced waiting period for Regular Benefits and Sickness Benefits.	Employment Insurance Benefits and Leave
	Extended Tax Filing and Payment Date	Penalties & Interest will not be charged if deferred payments are made by September 1, 2020.	Income tax filing and payment dates
	Special Goods and Services Tax Credit Payment	Canadians who receive GST/HST credit, will continue to receive payments until the end of September 2020. Amounts are based on 2018 tax return if 2019 tax return has not been assessed.	GST/HST Credit - Overview
	Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad	COVID-19 Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad established for citizens or permanent residents who have no available source of funds to return home from outside of Canada.	Financial help if you are outside Canada
	COVID-19 Exposure App	A new, voluntary, anonymous, nation-wide app to provide notifications of exposure to COVID-19 across Canada with beta testing to begin in Ontario.	COVID-19 Mobile App Canada
	Investing in Young Canadians	\$5.7 billion over five years in measures to support students and young Canadians by creating 215,000 new training and work opportunities, waiving interest on student loans for an additional year, doubling the Canada Student Grants for two more years and expanding access to supports, grants, and repayment assistance/flexibility	Investing in Young Canadians
Provincial	Supporting post-secondary students affected by India, Pakistan travel restrictions	Students who are feeling stressed or anxious about these new restrictions, or who are unable to return to their families, have access to free 24-7 supports, including Here2Talk; languages available include Punjabi	BC Advanced Education and Skills Training
	Mental Health Online Resource Hub	Tourism, hospitality and community social services sectors now have access to an online hub offers a range of tools to help address common workplace concerns, such COVID-19 exposure and coping with stress, etc.	BC's Hub for Workplace Mental Health
	Job-protected leave for workers to get COVID-19 vaccine	Regulatory improvements under the Employment Standards Act will provide workers job-protected leave to travel and receive the vaccine or to take a dependent family member to receive the vaccine	BC Job Leave for COVID Vaccine
	Monthly Bills (BC Hydro, ICBC)	BC Hydro: Residential customers who have stopped working may be eligible to credit on their BC Hydro bill until August 2020. ICBC: Monthly payments deferred for up to 90 days; cancellation and plating fees waived;	BC Hydro: Relief Fund for Customers ICBC: Covid-19 Updates
	Support for Income & Disability Assistance	New emergency measures are in place to ensure that people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors do not encounter additional barriers. For Individuals not receiving EI or CERB. Program continued until December 16, 2020.	COVID-19 Support for Income & Disability Assistance

	BC's Restart Plan	BC Restart Plan takes a phased approach to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Each phase provides guidance for individuals and businesses. Currently in Phase 3 beginning June 24 onwards.	BC's Restart Plan
	Anti-Racism Program	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) will serve as a Provincial hub to help communities address racism activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the program will be to connect communities with a network of information, supports and training to help them respond to incidents of racism and hate.	BC Government's Anti-Racism Program
	Smartphones for Vulnerable Persons	3,500 smartphones to be distributed by community organizations who provide services and support for vulnerable people to help keep them informed about proper health guidelines during.	Smartphone Aid
Municipal	Burnaby Rent Bank	The Burnaby Rent Bank provides support to keep low income individuals and families housed.	Burnaby Rent Bank
	Delayed Penalty Charges for Property Tax Late Payments	The City of Burnaby will not charge penalties for late property tax payments until September 30th, 2020; after which a 10% penalty will apply to all property classes.	Burnaby Fees, Charges and Penalties

Support for Businesses

Level of Gov't	Program	Description	Link
Federal	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)	Supports employers who have been affected by providing a temporary wage subsidy of 75% of employee wages. Businesses experiencing revenue losses may be eligible to receive to receive this subsidy until August 29, 2020.	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
	Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)	Provides credit for small businesses to pay for immediate operating costs such as payroll, rent, utilities, insurance, property tax, or debt service. Available to employers with \$20,000 to \$1.5M in total payroll in 2019 and operating as of March 1, 2020.	CEBA
	Tax Deadlines Extensions	Businesses are allowed to defer the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period. GST and HST payments, as well as duties and taxes owed on imports, will be deferred until June.	Income tax filing and payment dates: CRA and COVID-19
	Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium Enterprises	Program provides credit and cash flow term loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. Allows financial institutions to issue operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to existing clients, with 80% guaranteed by Export Development Canada.	EDC Loan Guarantee
	Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)	Program established to bridge financing to Canada's largest employers whose needs during the pandemic are not met through conventional financing. Intended to help keep their operations going. Details will be provided in the coming week.	LEEFF FAQ
Provincial	BSAFE Program	COVID-19 safety certificate program to provide training for workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors to increase consumer confidence; organizations will receive a decal to indicate they have completed the training	BSAFE
	PST Rebate for Capital Investments	Up to half-billion dollars in expected rebates available for purchases or leases of select machinery and equipment, including tools, furniture, computers, software and zero-emission vehicles.	BC PST Rebate
	Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant (Updated April 26 to increase amount to \$125M)	\$50 million (Increased to \$125 million on April 26th 2021) to help the 14,000 restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres affected by the March 30, 2021, provincial health orders; will provide affected businesses with up to \$10,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance and utilities	Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant
	Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant program	\$10 million to eligible small and medium-sized businesses to help them adjust to the economic changes created by the COVID-19 pandemic and better prepare for the future	BC Manufacturing Grant
	EquipCare BC	\$10-million program to support seniors living in long-term care and assisted-living residences for enhanced infection prevention and control measures	EquipCare BC
	Reduced School Tax Rates for Businesses	Late payment penalties postponed for commercial properties in classes 4,5,6,7 and 8 to Oct 1, 2020 in order to provide businesses and landlords more time to pay their reduced property tax without penalty. Overall, the commercial property tax bill for most businesses will be reduced by 25% on average.	Reduced School Tax Rates for Businesses
	Deferred Tax Payments	Effective March 23, 2020, the filing and payment due dates for the following sales taxes are extended to September 30, 2020: Carbon tax, motor fuel tax, PST, and tobacco tax.	Ministry of Finance Tax Notice

	Carbon Tax Rate and Application of PST	The scheduled increase to the carbon tax rate, and application of PST to e-commerce transactions and sweetened and carbonated drinks will be postponed until further notice.	Provincial Tax & Revenue Changes
	Child Care Providers; Temporary Emergency Funding	Funding available to licensed child care providers who have a 2020/21 funding agreement through the Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF).	Temporary Emergency Funding
	Patio Service Areas	Expansion of service industry areas like patios to support physical distancing requirements and industry recovery during the pandemic are being temporarily authorized.	Patio, service area expansions support safe reopening
Municipal	Delayed Penalty Charges for Property Tax Late Payments	The City of Burnaby will not charge penalties for late property tax payments until September 30th, 2020; after which a 10% penalty will apply to all property classes.	Burnaby Fees, Charges and Penalties

Support for Local Governments

Level of Gov't	Program	Description	Link
Federal	Gas Tax Funding (Timing)	\$2.2 Billion in gas tax funding will be delivered sooner than planned as a single payment in June as opposed to two payments throughout the year. City of Burnaby is expecting to receive \$751,000 funding in June.	Federal Gas Tax Fund
	Community Response Fund for Vulnerable Populations	The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) provided an \$85,000 grant to the City to help support vulnerable populations. This grant money will be used to support warming centre operations.	FCM Grant
	Safe Restart Agreement	Agreement between Prime Minister and all Premiers for \$19B in funding to help restart the economy over the next 6-8 months providing assistance with transit, sick leave programs, COVID-19 testing/tracing, and child care support. Some funding will be allocated to local governments which Burnaby may be a recipient.	Support for Canadians through the Safe Restart Agreement
Provincial	Use of Capital Reserves	Authorizing local governments to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves to help pay for operating expenses. Allows the City to utilize capital reserve & reserve funds to support operating activities not previously permitted.	Use of Capital Reserves
	Provincial School Tax Remittances	Delay of provincial school tax remittances until the end of the year providing relief to local governments facing cash flow issues. Allows the City to save cash on hand for immediate needs instead of remittances to the Province.	School Tax Remittances
	Property Tax Sale Provisions	Municipalities now permitted to delay tax sales for one year and allow delinquent property owner an additional year to carry taxes as delinquent. The City will no longer need to immediately pass delinquent taxes over to a third party for collection purposes.	Tax Sale Provisions
	Debt Flexibility	Local Governments have been granted greater flexibility to carry debt for an additional year which will provide further options to help finance City operations if required.	New support for businesses, local governments
	Electronic Local Government Meetings	Municipalities are allowed to hold public hearings electronically during the current Provincial state of emergency. The City can proceed with reviewing development applications and public hearings can now take place.	Electronic Local Government Meetings
	Infrastructure Funding for Communities	Funding available to local governments for a wide range of projects. The City will be eligible to apply for the Community, Culture and Recreation program to offset the cost of planned capital projects.	Infrastructure Program BC

Additional Information

[Canada's Interactive COVID-19 Financial Help Guide](#)

[Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

[BC's Provincial Support and Information](#)

[COVID-19 Impacts in Burnaby](#)