

**From: Halifax Chamber of Commerce**

**Date: May 4, 2021**

Today, the Nova Scotia Provincial Government announced one new program and an update for two previously announced programs, for businesses that have been impacted by the current health protocols and restrictions. Information on the announcements is below. Although the Halifax Chamber is happy about any announcements that support small businesses and not for profits it is important to look at all programs in total. We will provide information on the provincial programs, which have to date provided slightly over \$100 Million to businesses but I also wanted to remind everyone about the Federal programs that have provided over \$2 Billion to businesses and not for profits in Nova Scotia. Please look at all programs to determine if they can help your organization. **IMPORTANT:** Please see the NS Government's Covid Support Page for links to programs: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): financial help and social supports](#)

### **NEW PROVINCIAL PROGRAM:**

The new **Small Impact Business Grant Part 3** opens for applications this week to provide grants of up to \$5,000 for Nova Scotia businesses directly affected by the April 2021 restrictions. Eligible businesses will receive a one-time grant of 15 percent of their sales revenue for the month of April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

- For businesses established after March 15, 2020, the grant amount will be calculated as 15 percent of the sales revenue for any month from April 2020 to March 2021. The applicant can choose the month.
- Businesses must have experienced an average monthly revenue decrease of 30 per cent or more for the period of March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021 compared to the same time the previous year or expect at least a 30 per cent decrease in revenues in May 2021 resulting from the new restrictions introduced in April.
- An email about next steps will be sent to previous recipients of a Small Business Impact Grant in eligible business sectors this week so keep an eye out and check your spam folders to apply. Applications for businesses that did not receive a previous Small Business Impact Grant will be available by May 19. An additional \$12 million has been allocated for this program, which will be administered by the province.
- This program will be available to restaurants offering in-person dining service, bar or licensed drinking establishments, fitness, recreational and leisure facilities including gyms, yoga studios, indoor play areas, arcades, climbing facilities, dance programs and music lessons, personal services including hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments, independent retailers with a physical retail location and live performing arts.

### **PROVINCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES:**

1. **TOURISM ACCOMMODATIONS REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM PART 2 (originally announced March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021)**

Applications are open today, May 4, for the **Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program Part 2**, announced on March 12th. This program provides qualified operators with a 50 percent rebate on the first six months of commercial property tax paid in 2021-22.

- Operators who received payments under the first Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program will be automatically eligible if they are still the owners of the property.
- \$7.3 million has been allocated for this program, which will be administered by Tourism Nova Scotia.
- Businesses applying for this program must meet the definition of a roofed accommodation as set out in the Tourist Accommodation Registration Act, be registered as a host under the act, have more than five rooms available to rent, not be in arrears of property taxes or property tax installment payments and have experienced a year-over-year revenue loss of at least 30 percent from April 1 to Oct. 31, 2020.

1. **SMALL BUSINESS REAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM (originally announced March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021)**

Applications will open the week of May 10 for the **Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program**. Eligible businesses can receive a one-time rebate of a portion of their paid property taxes. They can choose a rebate of \$1,000 or 50 per cent of the commercial real property taxes paid for the final six months of the 2020-21 tax year.

- \$7 million has been allocated for this program, which will be administered by the Nova Scotia COVID-19 Response Council.
- This program will be available to gym and fitness establishments, hair salons and barber shops, spas, nail salons, body art establishments, restaurants offering in-person dining service and bars and licensed drinking establishments.
- Eligible businesses must be recipients of previous Small Business Impact Grants (part 1 or 2), have experienced a year-over-year decline in revenues of at least 30 percent for the period April 30, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021, or have started operations on or after Jan. 1, 2020.

**Link:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Real Property Tax Rebate Program - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

### **FEE DEFERRAL**

- The government will be deferring fees until June 30 for businesses that were required to close or were significantly curtailed by the April public health restrictions. Workers' compensation premium payments will be deferred until the end of July.

### **FEDERAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES**

The Federal Government still has many programs available for businesses and although there has not been a change in these programs in a while, please review below to see if there are any you may qualify for:

#### **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:**

As an employer who has seen a drop in revenue during the pandemic, you may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of your employee wages, enabling you to re-hire workers, help prevent further job losses, and ease your business back into normal operations. This is available until September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 but will decline over time.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

#### **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy:**

Businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop in revenue during the pandemic may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of their commercial rent or property expenses. Extended to September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This program provides up to 65% of rent plus a top of 25% during lockdown. This does not require landlord approval.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html>

#### **Canada Emergency Business Account:**

If you are a small business or non-profit, you may be eligible for an interest-free loan of up to \$60,000. This is the program that provided \$40,000 and an additional \$20,000 for a total of \$60,000 of which \$20,000 will be forgiven.

<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

**Employment Insurance:**

EI has changed to support more Canadians through the pandemic. Read more at the link below.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit.html>

**Canada Recovery Benefit:**

Income support may be available to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>

**Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit:**

Income support may be available to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-caregiving-benefit.html>

**Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit:**

Income support may be available to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they are sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-sickness-benefit.html>

**Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program:**

Businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 can access guaranteed, low-interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1 million to cover operational cash flow needs.

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/special-support/hascap?ref=shorturl-hascap>

**Regional Relief and Recovery Fund:**

If your business has been rejected by or was unable to access other federal pandemic support programs, or continue to have liquidity needs, you may be eligible for funding through ACOA.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/campaigns/covid19/rrrf.html>

Please review all your options from all levels of government to ensure you take advantage of all the supports you may need. As per public health guidelines, we urge you all to get tested regularly, wear your mask, book your vaccine appointment as soon as you are able, stay home and stay safe.