

COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RELIEF PROGRAMS & OPPORTUNITIES



MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD
Jewel of the Rideau

LOCALLY in Merrickville-Wolford

Council approved financial relief measures due to challenges from COVID-19:

- Reduced previously approved 2020 tax increase of 3.13% down to 0.44% for all ratepayers.
- Waived late payment fees for residents and businesses connected to the water/wastewater system until end of July 2020.
- Reduced utility rates for businesses, applying residential rates to all commercial users.

Federal & Provincial

Many Federal and Provincial government programs, resources and tools have been announced and are being developed to help small businesses through this challenging time. Here are a few highlights, as of May 25, 2020:

- Deferral of sales tax remittances and WSIB premiums
- Extension for income tax filing & payment dates
- Income support - CERB provides \$2,000 for a 4-week period for up to 16 weeks for eligible self-employed and other workers
- Wage subsidies to 75% or 10% remuneration for eligible employers
- Business loans up to \$40,000 at 0% interest for eligible businesses
- Regional Relief & Recovery Fund - financial contributions (no interest loans) for rural small businesses that could not access other federal relief programs. Focus on "mainstreet" businesses such as retail shops, restaurants, corner stores, tourism and more.
- Commercial rent assistance by way of forgivable loans to eligible landlords who reduce rent payments for small business tenants

Going Digital: gov't and non-gov't

DIGITAL MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Enhance digital capabilities & online presence, access business resources and see list of Merrickville-Wolford approved vendors <https://digitalmainstreet.ca/>

FED/PROV CANADIAN AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIP

Agri-Food Open for E-Business initiative (funding intake) to help food producers, farmers markets, garden centres, nurseries, and agricultural associations develop an online business <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/ebusiness.htm>

Resources to take your small business online:

Shopify 90-day free trial <https://www.shopify.ca/free-trial/compass>

GoDaddy <https://www.godaddy.com/garage/take-your-small-business-online/>

Google Business Resources

<https://www.google.com/business/?ppsrc=GPDA2>

Facebook Business Resources

<https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/resource?ref=banner>

ONTARIO E-BUSINESS TOOLKIT: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/e-business-toolkit>

Helpful Links

CANADA ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

ONTARIO ACTION PLAN:

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/action-plan.html>

Answer a few questions about your business here, to receive a summary of Covid related government supports: <https://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca/s/?language=en>.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Canadian Agriculture Partnership (funding intake) to help people connect with in-demand job opportunities in the agri-food sector, and help businesses recruit and train workers across the supply chain

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/cap/labour_supply_training.htm

Ontario Essential Workplaces <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>

Stop the Spread <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-businesses> : 1-888-444-3659

Reopening ON - Framework & Guidelines: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19>

Leeds Grenville & Lanark Health Unit - Guidance for Businesses: https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Public_Health_Guidance_for_Businesses.pdf

Workplace Safety & Prevention Services, including sector specific aids: <https://covid19.wsps.ca/>

ON COVID News, incl. Extending Infection Disease Emergency Leave: <https://news.ontario.ca/newsroom/en>

For the latest list of business resources, relief programs and PPE suppliers:

Email edo@merrickville-wolford.ca, call **613-269-4791**, or visit

<https://invest.leedsgrenville.com/en/contacts-news-events/covid-19.aspx#>

SMALL BUSINESS



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TOOLS & RESOURCES

The following organizations and resources are here for you, always. They are government-funded and their goal is to help businesses of all sizes, in all sectors to grow, innovate, increase competitive advantage, create jobs and succeed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many offer additional programs and services.

Learn & Grow

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY CENTRE

Programs for start-ups, youth and growth businesses. Free online workshops and seminars on topics such as managing cash flow through Covid, How to Market your business through Covid, How to operate remotely through Covid, and more.

<https://smallbizcentre.ca/resource-centre/consultations/>

FUTURPRENEUR

Financing, mentorship and support tools for aspiring business owners aged 18 - 39 years.

<https://www.futurpreneur.ca/en/about/>

Train & Hire

CSE CONSULTING

Employment services, recruiting, selecting & training employees. Canada Ontario Job Grant and other financial assistance programs for employers & employees
www.cseconsulting.com or 613-258-6576

KEYES Community Employment Centre

Employment programs for a diverse population and employer job boards
<https://keys.ca/jobboard/> or 613-552-2759

Local College programs include Skills Development, Experiential Learning & Placements, Applied Research and many ways to connect students with local businesses. Need help to create a business or marketing plan?

ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

<https://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/>
Brockville campus: 613-345-0660

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

<https://www.algonquincollege.com/perth/>
Perth Campus: 613-267-2859

Innovate & Fund

For financing, mentoring, grant programs, business templates, innovation opportunities and more:

Ontario Together - retool or adapt business to produce medical supplies or equipment for the healthcare sector
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/how-your-organization-can-help-fight-coronavirus>

BDC Business Development Bank of Canada - financial investments, consulting services & tools for small businesses
<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/home.aspx>

Chartered Banks - business & commercial financial services, including RBC branch in the Village

Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation - Delivering Regional Relief & Recovery Fund, financing, training and mentorship programs for entrepreneurs <https://www.valleycfdc.com/>

Fair Finance Fund - social finance fund for local food and farm enterprises
<https://fairfinancefund.org/>

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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT