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| <u>136. August 17 – Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings</u> | <u>149. October 29, 2021 – Ontario Building New and Improved Long-Term Care in the Ottawa area</u> |
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| <u>140. September 1 – Ontario Reinstating Renewal Requirements for Driver’s Licences, Licence Plate Stickers and Health Cards</u> | <u>153. November 22, 2021 - COVID-19 Vaccine Bookings to Open For All Children Aged Five to 11</u> |

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154. December 1, 2021 - Ontario Investing Billions to Modernize and Expand Trillium Health Hospitals

155. December 2, 2021 - Ontario Accelerating Booster Eligibility to Adults Aged 50+

156. December 7th, 2021 - Ontario Extending Pause on Lifting Capacity Limits in Remaining Settings Where Proof of Vaccination is Required

157. December 7th, 2021 - Ontario Extending COVID-19 Paid Sick Days

158. December 10th, 2021 - Ontario Taking Action to Protect Against Omicron Variant

159. December 15th, 2021 - All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval

160. December 16th, 2021 - Ontario Launching Holiday Pop-Up Testing Blitz

161. December 17th, 2021 - Ontario Further Strengthening Response to Omicron

COVID-19 – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

162. April 27th - Government of Canada assists Ontario with COVID-19 response

163. April 8th - Federal Government Extends Support for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes in Ontario

164. March 25th - Government Announces Additional Pandemic Support For Vaccines, Health Care, and Municipalities

165. February 10th - Government of Canada invests to support local innovators and maximize business growth opportunities

166. January 27th - Minister Ng announces launch of Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program

167. November 23rd (Update) - New, targeted support to help businesses through pandemic receives Royal Assent

168. November 3rd - New measures to help Canadian small businesses access global markets amid COVID-19

169. October 2nd (UPDATE) - Small Business and Community Support Measures - Now accepting applications for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

170. August 31st (Update) - Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) – Various Enterprise Loans – Currently Active

171. August 24th (Update) - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - 75% Wage Subsidy - (Currently Accepting Applications– Direct deposits will begin to appear in employers' accounts as of May 7th)

172. August 11th - Government of Canada launches updated Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Calculator to support employers

173. July 17th - FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario

174. June 9th - Government of Canada creates a hub for organizations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment: **Currently Active**

175. May 20th (Update) - Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) – **Applications Open**

176. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Term Loans – Currently Active

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177. April 27th (Update) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately

178. March 18th – BCAP - BDC Working Capital loans: Currently Active

179. May 4th - Government of Canada continues unprecedented investments for economic recovery, business growth and job creation in Northern Ontario

180. May 12th - Government of Canada continues to support southern Ontario businesses and organizations amid and beyond the global pandemic

181. May 17th - Government of Canada invests to boost immigration to meet the workforce needs of Greater Sudbury employers

182. May 18th - Government of Canada continues to strengthen Canada's biomanufacturing sector

183. May 20th - FedDev Ontario investment helps North York-based fabricator expand into next-generation telecommunications and 5G markets

184. May 26th - Government of Canada invests in innovative Canadian solutions to help in the fight against COVID-19

185. May 27th - Government of Canada invests to accelerate business development and growth, and create up to 60 jobs throughout the Greater Sudbury region

186. May 31 – Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund

187. June 2 – Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program

188. June 21 – Minister Ng Announces Shop Local Investment Benefiting Canada's Small Businesses

189. June 29 – Online Course Provides Guidance on COVID-19 Risk Assessments and Workplace Safety Plans

190. July 12 – Federal Government Launches Tourism Relief Fund to Help Tourism Businesses and Organizations Recover and Grow

191. August 6 – Government of Canada Investments of \$70 Million to Support Canada's Artists and Live Music Sector

192. August 11 – Government of Canada Supporting Canadian Cleantech Companies from Seed to Scale-up

193. August 13 – Government of Canada Supporting Canada's Major Airports with Funding for COVID-19 Testing and Screening Infrastructure

COVID-19 – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

194. April 23rd – Government of Canada suspends flights from India and Pakistan

195. April 23rd - Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021

196. April 20th - Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience

197. April 13th - FedDev Ontario supports production of personal protective equipment in Waterloo Region

198. March 24th – Government of Canada funds more than 3,000 projects across Canada to support seniors

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199. March 23rd - Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites under Ontario's High Priority Community Strategy
200. February 25th - Government of Canada introduces legislation to increase number of weeks for EI regular benefits and to prevent international travellers from qualifying for recovery benefits during mandatory quarantine
201. February 12th - Government of Canada invests \$53 million to address COVID-19 virus variants of concern
202. February 9th - Government of Canada addresses CERB repayments for self-employed individuals and announces interest relief on 2020 income tax debt due to COVID-19 related income support
203. January 13th – Government of Canada Announces Further Reinforcement of COVID-19 Supports for Indigenous Communities
204. December 16th – FedDev Ontario announces support for women in advanced manufacturing and digital technology
205. December 4th - Government of Canada announces funding to train 4,000 personal support worker interns, support sector
206. December 3rd - Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic
207. May 3rd - Minister Murray highlights investments to support seniors in Budget 2021
208. June 8 – Government of Canada Funds Five New Projects to Encourage Vaccine Uptake in Canada
209. June 20 – Individuals Approved for Permanent Residence May Travel to Canada as of June 21
210. June 21 – Helping Indigenous Youth Get Skills Training and Supports Needed to Get Good Jobs
211. June 21 – Government of Canada's First Phase to Easing Border Measures for Travellers Entering Canada
212. June 22 – Legislation to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Becomes Law
213. June 23 – More Sport Opportunities for Youth in Indigenous Communities
214. June 24 – Government of Canada Funds New Project to Encourage Vaccine Uptake in Canada
215. June 28 – Indigenous Intellectual Property Program Grants Applications are Now Open
216. June 30 – Canada Invests in Green Jobs for Youth
217. July 5 – Government of Canada Funds Three New Projects to Encourage COVID-19 Vaccination in Canada
218. July 7 – Government of Canada Announces that the Pay Equity Act Will Come into Force on August 31, 2021
219. July 7 – Date Announced for \$500 One-Time Payment, and Old Age Security to be Automatically Increased by Almost \$100 Over the Coming Year
220. July 13 – Government of Canada Launches Jobs and Growth Fund to Create Jobs and Foster Economic Activity in Canada's Communities

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221. July 14 – Federal Government Delivering \$5 Billion in Pandemic Support to Provinces and Territories for Vaccines and Health Care

222. July 19 – Government of Canada Announces Easing of Border Measures for Fully Vaccinated Travellers

223. July 26 – Minister of Health to Announce Two New Projects Promoting the Importance of Vaccinating Against COVID-19 in Youth

224. August 9 – Canada Invests in Net-Zero Retrofits for Affordable Housing in Ottawa

225. August 11 – Canada Moving Forward with a Proof of Vaccination for International Travel

226. August 13 – Government of Canada Negotiates Additional Agreement with Moderna for Vaccine Supply Beyond 2021

227. August 24 – COVID-19: Border Services Resume at a Number of Small Canadian Marine Vessel Reporting Sites, Airports of Entry and Ferry Terminals

228. October 16th, 2021 - Support for long-term care homes in Ontario extended to manage COVID-19 outbreaks

1. Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover - 2020 Budget

- The Government of Ontario has released **Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover** — the next phase of a comprehensive action plan to respond to the serious health and economic impacts of COVID-19.
- **Ontario's Action Plan** now sets out a total of **\$45 billion in support over three years** to make available the necessary health resources to continue protecting people, deliver critical programs and tax measures to support individuals, families and job creators impacted by the virus, and lay the groundwork for a robust long-term economic recovery for the province.
- ✓ **Highlights of Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover:**
 - **Protect — \$15.2 billion, including \$7.5 billion in new funding, for the government's urgent response to COVID-19.** Highlights of the new funding include:
 - The government is investing an additional **\$572 million in Ontario's hospitals** to support additional costs of COVID-19, including testing, assessment centres, laboratory and medical equipment, and PPE.
 - i. This brings the total funding to hospitals above and beyond what was provided last year to over **\$2.5 billion.**
 - ii. The Province is investing more than \$18 billion in capital grants over 10 years to **build new and**

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to \$10,000 — to help seniors stay in their homes longer by making **Support — \$13.5 billion, including \$2.4 billion in additional supports for people and jobs**. Highlights of the new funding include:

- Providing **\$380 million to parents** through another round of payments, following the \$378 million of funding in March of their homes safer and more accessible.
 - i. Seniors would be eligible regardless of their incomes and whether they owe income tax for 2021.
 - ii. Family members who live with them and support them would also be eligible.
 - Investing an additional \$60 million over three years starting in 2020-21 in the **Black Youth Action Plan**, doubling its base funding to extend the current program and create a new economic empowerment stream that will **support Black youth** in achieving social and economic success.
 - Investing \$100 million over two years for the **Community Building Fund** to **support community tourism, cultural and sport organizations** which are experiencing significant financial pressures due to the pandemic.
 - Providing one-time emergency funding of \$25 million for **Ontario's arts institutions** to help cover operating losses incurred as a result of COVID-19.
 - Providing an additional \$1.8 billion in the **Support for People and Jobs Fund** over the next two years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, to remain responsive to emerging needs and continue providing supports for the people of Ontario.
- **Recover — \$4.8 billion in new supports to build the foundation for a strong recovery fuelled by economic growth**. Highlights include:
- Making additional investments of over \$680 million over the next four years in **broadband infrastructure** which, combined with its prior commitments, increases Ontario's investment to a historic nearly \$1 billion to ensure communities across the province are connected.
 - Bringing more jobs to Ontario with a comprehensive plan to address the job-killing high **costs of electricity, saving medium-size and larger industrial and commercial employers about 14 and 16 per cent respectively**, on

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average, on their electricity bills (at an additional expense of \$1.3 billion over three years).

- **Reducing property taxes on job creators** and levelling the playing field **by lowering high Business Education Tax (BET) rates** for over 200,000 employers, or 94 per cent of all business properties in Ontario, to a rate of 0.88 per cent.
 - i. This is creating \$450 million in immediate annual savings and representing a reduction of 30 per cent for many businesses currently subject to the highest BET rate in the province.
- Responding to requests from local governments by proposing to **provide municipalities with the ability to cut property tax for small businesses** and a provincial commitment to consider matching these reductions.
 - i. This would provide small businesses as much as \$385 million in total municipal and provincial property tax relief by 2022-23, depending on municipal adoption.
- Ending a tax on jobs for an additional 30,000 employers by proposing to make permanent the **Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption** increase from \$490,000 to \$1 million.
 - i. With this additional relief about 90 per cent of employers would pay no EHT, saving them \$360 million in 2021-22 that could be reinvested in jobs and growth.
- Committing to provide Ontario residents with **support of up to 20 per cent for eligible Ontario tourism expenses** to encourage them to safely discover Ontario in 2021, the year of the Ontario staycation.
- **Connecting workers in the tourism and hospitality sector** and others most affected by the pandemic **to training and jobs** with an investment of \$180.5 million over 3 years, including a skilled trades strategy, an additional \$100 million of dedicated investments through Employment Ontario for skills training, a redesigned Second Career program, and \$59.5 million to acquire in-demand skills.
- Providing \$500 million over four years **to make government services more reliable, convenient and accessible** through the Ontario Onwards Acceleration Fund.

- For additional details, please visit the [2020 Ontario Budget](#).

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2. September 30th - Ontario Delivers \$2.8 Billion COVID-19 Fall Preparedness Plan

- The Ontario government has developed a **\$2.8 billion COVID-19 fall preparedness plan** to ensure the province's health care, long-term care and education systems are prepared for the immediate challenges of the fall, including a second wave of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season.
- [*Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19*](#) will enable the province to **quickly identify, prevent and respond to surges and waves of the virus** to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians.
- The Keeping Ontarians Safe plan focuses on **key areas** to rapidly identify and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks and surges, build health system capacity, and reinforce the province's health care workforce. These areas are:
 1. [Maintaining strong public health measures, including continued expansion of testing and case and contact management](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$1.376 billion** to enhance and expand efforts to test, trace and isolate new cases of COVID-19.
 - [Up to 80 pharmacies in Ontario are currently offering free COVID-19 testing by appointment only.](#)
 - The province has also added over 1,700 staff to assist with case and contact management.
 2. [Implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history](#)
 - Ontario is investing nearly **\$70 million** to purchase and distribute flu vaccines to deliver a robust and expanded campaign this year.
 - In addition, Ontario is investing **\$26.5 million** to purchase and administer additional flu vaccine doses if required and **\$2 million** to purchase additional antiviral medication to support outbreak management of influenza in institutions.
 3. [Quickly identifying, managing and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$30 million** to build on its efforts to rapidly identify and contain any COVID-19 outbreaks.
 4. [Accelerating efforts to reduce health service backlogs](#)
 - Ontario is investing **\$283.7 million** to assist the health system's ongoing efforts to reduce surgery backlogs by supporting extend hours for additional priority surgeries and diagnostic imaging.
 - The government is also **adding 139 critical care beds and 1,349 hospital beds** in hospitals and alternate health facilities across the province to support more surgical procedures.
 5. [Preparing for surges in COVID-19 cases](#)

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- Ontario is investing **\$457.49 million** to ensure that the health system is prepared to respond to any waves or surges of COVID-19 without interrupting routine health services.
 - This includes helping up to **850 alternate levels of care patients** access the proper care in a home or community setting to help add more capacity in hospitals; expanding digital health and virtual services; improving access to mental health and addictions services and supports with a **\$26.75 million** investment; and increasing home and community care service by **adding 484,000 nursing and therapy visits** and **1.4 million personal support worker hours**.
 - 6. [Recruiting, retaining, training and supporting health care workers, while also continuing to engage families and caregivers](#)
 - Ontario is investing a total of **\$52.5 million** to recruit, retain and support over **3,700 more frontline health care workers and caregivers** to ensure the health care system can meet any surge in demand, while continuing to provide safe and high-quality care to patients and long-term care residents.
 - 7. [Supporting Long-Term Care Homes](#)
 - To support the six key areas of focus of Ontario's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, the province also released [COVID-19: Long-term care preparedness](#), a plan that includes nearly **\$540 million** in long-term care investments to prepare long-term care homes for future waves of COVID-19.
 - 8. [Supporting Schools and Child Care Centres](#)
 - Earlier this month, Ontario released a **\$1.3 billion plan** to [reopen schools safely](#) and provided **\$234.6 million** through the federal Safe Restart Agreement for [child care and early years settings](#), which complements existing provincial and federal investments to help keep children and families safe.
 - For schools, this includes funding to hire **more teachers to keep class sizes small, funding to hire additional nurses to facilitate public health and preventative measures**, including screening, testing, tracing and mitigation strategies, and **funding to hire 1,300 custodians** to enhance cleaning in schools and buses.
- For more details, please visit:

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[Fall Preparedness Plan for Health, Long-Term Care and Education](#)

3. Ontario Releases 2020-21 First Quarter Finances

- The Ontario government is continuing to support the province's recovery from COVID-19 over the long-term while delivering on its commitment to transparency and accountability with the release of **2020-21 First Quarter Finances** and an update to **Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19**.
- To protect the health and economic well-being of the people of Ontario, the **government continues to invest and budget for further contingencies in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak**, including providing support to families, businesses, workers, municipalities, long-term care homes and those on the front-lines of the pandemic.
- These investments bring the government's **COVID-19 response action plan to a projected \$30 billion**, up from \$17 billion announced in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 on March 25, 2020.
- Since announcing the first steps in the government's response to the global pandemic, the government is making additional investments in the fight against COVID-19, including:
 - i. An **increase of \$4.4 billion** for a total of **\$7.7 billion** to provide **ongoing support for health care** to build hospital capacity, prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, ramp up testing and purchase personal protective equipment and critical medical supplies.
 - ii. An **increase of \$7.3 billion** for a total of **\$11.0 billion** to **support people and jobs**, which supports investments in a temporary pandemic pay for more than 375,000 eligible frontline workers totaling over \$1.5 billion, \$4 billion in targeted funding to help municipal partners and transit agencies to continue to deliver critical services, and temporary immediate relief for residential, farm, small business, industrial and commercial electricity consumers.
- The government is now projecting a **deficit of \$38.5 billion in 2020-21**, which incorporates the most up to date economic information and additional supports for the pandemic recovery period and the safe restart framework.
- Private-sector forecasts, on average, **project that Ontario's real GDP will decline by 6.6 per cent in 2020**, down significantly from when the March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update was finalized.
- Total revenue is projected to be \$150.6 billion in 2020-21, \$5.7 billion lower and program expenses are projected to be \$13.1 billion higher than forecast in the March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update.

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- As Ontario gradually reopens, following the plan outlined in *A Framework to Reopen Our Province*, there have been **recent signs of economic recovery**.
 - i. In June and July, **Ontario's employment increased by 528,600 net jobs and the unemployment rate decreased to 11.3 per cent**.
 - ii. **Home resales in the province rose 56.6 per cent in May and 67.0 per cent in June**, after declining for two consecutive months.
 - iii. **Ontario manufacturing sales increased 17.5 per cent in May**, while **retail sales rose 14.2 per cent**, after both declined for two consecutive months.
 - The Province's next fiscal update will be a multi-year provincial Budget, to be delivered no later than **November 15, 2020**.
 - Ontario was the first in Canada to release a fiscal outlook that reflected the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
4. August 12th - Ontario Provides Update to Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19
- Since announcing the first steps in the government's response to the global pandemic on March 25, 2020, the government has made additional investments and budgeted for further contingencies in the fight against COVID-19.
 - This includes allocating more support for people, jobs, a safe reopening, and the prevention of - or response to - a second wave.
 - With these investments, the government's COVID-19 response action plan is now a projected **\$30.0 billion**, up from \$17 billion announced in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 on March 25, 2020.
 - Supporting Health Care
 - Since releasing the Action Plan, the government has committed even more resources to bolster health care and support frontline workers. Key investments and initiatives include:
 - i. Funding of **\$610 million** for the purchase of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies;
 - ii. **\$53 million** to ensure vulnerable people continue to have access to prescription medication during the pandemic;
 - iii. **\$50 million** to the Ontario Together Fund to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment to help stop the spread of COVID-19;
 - iv. **\$15 million** to support the design and implementation of the new Ontario Health Data Platform. This data platform provides

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- recognized researchers and health system partners with access to anonymized health data that will allow them to better detect, plan and respond to COVID-19;
- v. **\$15 million** in provincial support for 110 municipalities across the province towards the enhanced cleaning of transit systems;
- vi. **\$14 million** in funding to provide additional community-based mental health and addictions services for people in Ontario with mental health needs;
- vii. **\$12 million** to provide virtual mental health supports, including services to support frontline health care workers; and
- viii. To ensure that the resources are in place to support the health of the people of Ontario, the COVID-19 Health Contingency Fund has been increased by **\$4.3 billion**.

Supporting People and Jobs

- o Since releasing the Action Plan, the government has committed even more resources to support people and protect jobs through the crisis and in the long term. Key new investments and initiatives include:
 - i. **Up to \$4 billion** for municipalities and transit systems to provide one-time assistance, in partnership with the federal government, to help local governments address budget shortfalls related to COVID-19 and maintain the critical services people rely on every day;
 - ii. An investment of over **\$1.5 billion**, together with the federal government, providing a temporary pay increase of \$4 per hour for more than 375,000 eligible workers for work performed from April 24, 2020 to August 13, 2020.
 - iii. **\$340 million** to provide temporary immediate relief for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan by deferring a portion of Global Adjustment charges, which is expected to be recovered over a 12-month period beginning in January 2021;
 - iv. **\$241 million** in funding committed by Ontario to partner with the federal government in order to provide over \$900 million in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through a new program, Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance;
 - v. An increase of \$56 million for a total of **\$176 million**, to provide to May 31, 2020 the off-peak price of electricity for 24 hours a day for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers;
 - vi. **\$50 million** to increase the government's contribution to the Risk Management Program for a total contribution of \$150 million annually. This funding supports farmers with unforeseen challenges such as fluctuations in market prices or production costs;

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- vii. **\$25 million** to ensure Ontario's food supply chain remains strong and ready to recover, including up to \$15 million to enhance health and safety measures on farms and in food processing facilities, and up to \$10 million in emergency assistance for beef and hog farmers;
 - viii. **\$10 million** to provide financial support for Indigenous small- and medium-sized enterprises experiencing reduced or no revenue due to COVID-19;
 - ix. **\$10 million** for the Connecting Links program, for a total investment of **\$40 million** in 2020-21, to support municipalities by helping them build, repair or replace municipal roads and bridges that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a community or to a border crossing;
 - o **\$8 million** for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB) to provide support to businesses struggling with bill payments as a result of the outbreak;
 - o **\$8 million** to help small businesses reach more customers through the Digital Main Street platform. This program, in partnership with the federal government, will help up to 22,900 Ontario businesses create and enhance their online presence and generate jobs for more than 1,400 students;
 - o **\$5 million** to support food rescue organizations to purchase critical infrastructure to ensure food is safely redistributed to those in need and help prevent nutritious food from ending up in landfills;
 - o The Support for People and Jobs Fund has been increased by **\$3 billion** to ensure that Ontario has the resources to continue responding to the needs of the people of Ontario through the economic reopening and recovery phases; and
 - o The standard Contingency Fund has been increased by **\$2.2 billion** to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak.
5. October 15th, 2021 - Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR Code and Verify Ontario App Available for Download Starting October 15
- In **advance of October 22**, the Ontario government is making the enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and the free, made-in Ontario verification app, Verify Ontario, available for download.
 - To ensure a smooth user experience, the province is initially making the enhanced vaccine certificates available for download in cohorts. Enhanced vaccine certificates with official QR codes will be made available for download from the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) over three days based on birth month:

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- **October 15, 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.:** All individuals born between January and April
- **October 16, 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.:** All individuals born between May and August
- **October 17, 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.:** All individuals born between September to December
- **Starting October 18 at 6:00 a.m.,** the portal will open for any individual to download their enhanced vaccine certificate, regardless of their birth month. Individuals can also call the **Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900** to have their enhanced vaccine certificate emailed or mailed to them.
- Ontario's enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code is built to the SMART Health Card standard adopted by the federal government in collaboration with provinces and territories. To support Ontarians who are travelling internationally, Ontario is also including the Government of Canada logo on the enhanced vaccine certificate.

COVID-19 – Provincial Government – Support for Businesses

- The Provincial government is reaching out on a daily basis to leaders at businesses big and small, including at our financial institutions, as well as unions, to ensure we have the latest information, and that there is an open line of communication as the government works to address COVID-19's impact on the economy.
- Please visit the following page for additional resources:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-businesses>

6. January 7th, 2022 - Ontario Providing Supports for Small Businesses, Workers and Families – Currently Active

- The Ontario government is providing targeted relief for businesses and people impacted by the current public health measures aimed at blunting the spread of the Omicron variant. **As part of this plan, the government is introducing a \$10,000 grant for eligible businesses that are subject to closures under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen and is providing additional electricity-rate relief for businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home.**
- Eligible small businesses include:
 - Restaurants and bars;

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- Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities (including fitness centres and gyms);
 - Performing arts and cinemas;
 - Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;
 - Meeting or event spaces;
 - Tour and guide services;
 - Conference centres and convention centres;
 - Driving instruction for individuals; and
 - Before- and after- school programs.
 - The Ontario government is also providing electricity-rate relief to support small businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home while the province is in Modified Step Two.
 - For 21 days starting at 12:01 am on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, electricity prices will be set 24 hours a day at the current off-peak rate of 8.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is less than half the cost of the current on-peak rate.
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
- 7. January 13th, 2022 - Ontario Invests in COVID-19 Test Kits Made in Thorold
 - The Ontario government is supporting a more than \$13 million investment by Norgen Biotek to scale up production of its COVID-19 saliva-based test kit, with \$1 million in support through the Ontario Together Fund.
 - [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#) brings total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy. Ontario's COVID-19 action plan support now totals \$51 billion.
- 8. April 15th - Ontario Supporting Business Investment and Prosperity during COVID-19
 - The Ontario government is proposing new **red tape and burden reduction measures intended to minimize existing barriers on businesses and support a long-term recovery plan**. Today, Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, announced Ontario's Spring Red Tape Reduction Package and introduced the Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act.
 - The proposed legislative changes in the act, along with other measures in the package, include:
 - Helping consumers save money on electricity by making it easier for them to track their energy usage
 - Helping to ensure Ontario remains a global leader in the connected and automated vehicle industry by supporting innovative pilot programs - like consulting on adding new vehicle types such as

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- automated farm vehicles, and removing certain restrictions around modified automated vehicles
 - Modernizing Ontario by bringing more processes and services online, including developing new applications that will allow online sticker renewal for heavy commercial vehicle licence plates in mid-2022
 - Enhancing protections for workers by strengthening policies that keep them safe - like reviewing the working at heights training program to improve standards for training content and delivery
 - Supporting the not-for-profit sector and other corporations by allowing them to continue to hold virtual meetings during the pandemic.
- 9. April 15th - Ontario Supporting the Non-Profit Sector during COVID-19
 - The Ontario government is providing more than **\$42 million to help 559 non-profit organizations** across the province to support staff and volunteers, reimagine programming and renovate facilities as they deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Resilient Communities Fund provides grants of up to **\$150,000 to eligible non-profit organizations** to cover a broad and flexible range of needs, such as:
 - Mental and physical health and wellbeing supports for staff or volunteers.
 - Support to adapt or reimagine program delivery and services to meet the needs of communities, employees and volunteers, incorporate new health and safety processes, or purchase new technology and personal protective equipment.
 - Renovations and facility updates to meet the changing needs of the communities they serve.
- 10. April 8th - Ontario Helps Farmers and Agri-food Operators Keep Workers Safe During COVID-19
 - The Ontario government is providing **\$10 million to allow more farmers and agri-food operators to purchase personal protective equipment, enhance cleaning and disinfection and redesign workstations to better protect workers**. This announcement is part of the [2021 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#).
 - The funding will **help farmers who experience unexpected costs for short-term or temporary housing and transportation as a result of a COVID-19** outbreak among on-farm employees.
 - Detailed program information and application forms will be available when the intake opens on **April 22, 2021 and cover costs retroactive to March 13, 2021**. Applications will be accepted while funding is available or until

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November 30, 2021. The approval process has been simplified and will be expedited to help support workplace health and safety in the agri-food sector.

11. April 1st - Ontario Supporting Resource-Based Tourism Jobs

- The Ontario government is providing **\$1.3 million in financial relief for the resource-based tourism industry by waiving certain licences and crown land use fees.** Licensing fees have been waived for **bear hunting and baitfish harvesters and dealers.** Additionally, Land Use Fees for Commercial Outpost Camps, Bear Management Area fees and Baitfish Harvest Area fees have been waived. This initiative is part of the *2021 Budget, [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#).* Total support from the Ontario government for the tourism, culture, sports, recreation, and heritage industries specifically since the start of COVID-19 now totals \$625 million.

12. March 29th - Ontario Supports the Tourism and Hospitality Sectors during COVID-19

- The Ontario government is providing an estimated **\$100 million** for a new one-time **Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant** and **\$100 million for a new one-time recovery program.**
- The Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant will provide an estimated \$100 million in **one-time payments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to eligible small businesses** including hotels, motels, travel agencies, amusement and water parks, hunting and fishing camps, and recreational and vacation camps including children's overnight summer camps. Businesses must demonstrate they have **experienced a minimum 20 per cent revenue decline and have less than 100 employees** to qualify. Any small businesses that received the Ontario Small Business Support Grant will not be eligible for this new grant.
- Please visit [here](#) for more details.

13. March 22nd - Ontario Supporting Hospitals with Additional Funding During COVID-19

- The Ontario government is providing over **\$1.2 billion to help Ontario's public hospitals recover from financial pressures created and worsened by COVID-19.** This investment will ensure hospitals can continue to provide the high-quality patient care Ontarians need and deserve.
- To ensure Ontario's hospitals remain on stable financial footing at a critical time, **\$696.6 million in funding will be allocated to help cover historic working funds deficits for qualifying public hospitals,** with a focus on small, medium as well as specialty and rehabilitation hospitals that carry a large fiscal strain due to their unique situations and historical funding challenges.

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- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all **hospitals have felt financial challenges not only through direct costs, but also through the loss of other forms of revenue** such as co-payments for private rooms and the reduction of retail services, all of which contribute to patient care and support clinical services. In order to help address these fiscal challenges the province is setting aside **\$572.3 million to reimburse qualifying portions of these losses**.
- Please visit [here](#) for more details.
- 14. March 3rd - Ontario Supporting Tourism and Culture in the GTA
 - The Ontario government is providing a **one-time investment of up to \$27 million** to support the continued operation, maintenance and capital needs of **six major tourism and cultural institutions in the Greater Toronto Area**. This funding will protect jobs while ensuring their financial stability during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The government will be providing financial support to the following ministry agencies and attractions:
 - **The Metro Toronto Convention Centre**
 - **The Royal Ontario Museum**
 - **The Ontario Science Centre**
 - **The McMichael Canadian Art Collection**
 - **The Art Gallery of Ontario**
 - **The Royal Botanical Gardens**
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
- 15. March 2nd - Ontario Provides Significant Financial Support to the Arts Sector
 - The Ontario government is **supporting the arts sector with a one-time investment of \$25 million** to help artists and arts organizations survive the COVID-19 pandemic, remain solvent and prepare for a time when they can fully re-open their facilities, resume full programming and welcome back their visitors and audiences.
 - Through the funding, **\$24 million will be provided to 140 arts organizations**. Additionally, **\$1 million will provide much-needed support directly to artists and creators from across the province**. More information on this, including eligibility requirements and application deadlines, will be available soon on the [Ontario Arts Council website](#).
- 16. February 19th - Ontario Launches Education Campaign to Help Workplaces Reopen Safely
 - The Ontario government is launching **new health and safety education campaigns**, with a particular **focus on helping small businesses across the province reopen safely**. The on-the-ground assistance includes a **comprehensive suite of resources** business owners can access **at no cost** to ensure they are helping prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

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- The full suite of government educational supports available includes:
 - [Free webinars on how to operate a business safely](#), and comply with health and safety requirements, during COVID-19.
 - A [free 30-minute online course on infection prevention and control](#) provided by the Public Services Health and Safety Association.
 - Provincial Employment Standards Call Centre (webes@ontario.ca) and Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre (webohs@ontario.ca) to answer small business health and safety questions.
 - For more information, visit [COVID-19: Help for Businesses Ontario](#).
- 17. January 26th - Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE**
- The Ontario government is providing more than **\$2.3 million** to **McMaster University** and the **University of Toronto** through the **Ontario Together Fund** to carry out research, development and testing of the next generation of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**. These projects will help improve the technology and better protect frontline workers.
 - Ontario is investing **\$1,122,000 in the University of Toronto** to support its **Dalla Lana School of Public Health's** testing facility as it ramps up filtration efficiency testing of N95, surgical and procedure masks to ensure that they meet Health Canada Personal Protective Equipment requirements. The project will increase U of T's capability to assist with the rapid development and validation of new masks and decontamination technologies, while providing evidence for decision making on issues related to mask performance, decontamination and reuse.
 - The province is also investing **\$1,212,000 in McMaster University** to accelerate the work at its newly created Centre of Excellence in Protective Equipment and Materials (CEPEM) to work with Canadian manufacturers with their R&D needs in designing, manufacturing and testing of PPE.
 - a. The investment will support the centre's collaboration with its industry partners in developing and optimizing their products, getting them to market faster, and thereby protecting the community and frontline workers. The centre's new testing and manufacturing facility will also help generate new technology that will increase the competitive edge of made-in-Ontario PPE over products from other jurisdictions.

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18. December 18th - Ontario Supports Employers and Employees Impacted by COVID-19 - Proactive measures to protect jobs by helping businesses avoid costly payouts and potential closures
- The Ontario government is taking action to protect jobs by **helping businesses avoid costly payouts and potential closures** and continues **offering protection to workers that are laid off** due to COVID-19.
 - These measures are being adopted through the **extension of regulatory amendments** that were put in place at the outset of the pandemic and through the introduction of a new regulation.
 - **For employers with non-unionized employees**, the government is extending regulatory changes brought forward under the [Employment Standards Act](#) to July 3, 2021.
 - The regulation's changes include **putting non-unionized employees on job-protected leave during the COVID-19 outbreak** any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to the pandemic to prevent temporary layoffs from becoming permanent.
 - Under the Act, temporary layoffs become terminations when they exceed the permitted period.
 - Previously set to expire on January 2, 2021, the extension of this amendment ensures that workers remain employed while providing relief to employers.
 - To support the **hospitality industry and other hard-hit industries**, the government is creating a **special industry regulation** allowing employers to **negotiate alternative arrangements with unions** for putting termination and severance pay into trust for laid-off employees.
 - Employers with laid-off unionized workers need to put all potential termination and severance payments in a trust after 35 weeks while employees wait to be recalled to their jobs.
 - Given the unique challenges that many employers in the tourism and hospitality industries are facing as a result of COVID-19, the government **is providing employers and unions the option to use those funds to help keep business doors open**.
 - The provision is only available if unions and employers both agree to create alternative arrangements.
 - For further details, please visit [here](#).

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19. November 10th - Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover Promotes Job Creation by Reducing Taxes on Employers

- The Ontario government is proposing to **give municipalities the flexibility to target property tax relief to small businesses.**
- The province is also considering matching these reductions, which would provide small businesses with as much as **\$385 million** in municipal and provincial **property tax relief.**
 - This initiative is part of the 2020 Budget, *Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover.*
- Through the 2020 Budget, the government also announced that it will level the playing field **by lowering high Business Education Tax (BET)** rates for over 200,000 employers, or 94 per cent of all business properties in Ontario, **starting January 1, 2021.**
 - This will create **\$450 million** in immediate annual savings and represents a reduction of **30 per cent** for many businesses currently subject to the highest BET rate in the province.
- Taken together, these property tax measures could mean a business like a bakery shop in Toronto could receive \$5,000 in municipal tax relief and \$4,000 in provincial property tax relief if the local government applies a 30 per cent discount with the proposed new small business property subclass. Combined with a \$1,500 BET reduction, this bakery shop owner would receive a total of \$10,500 in property tax savings in 2021.
- Back in March, the government more than doubled the Employer Health Tax exemption to \$1 million for 2020.
 - Employers across Ontario have indicated that this measure helped them keep workers on the job during COVID-19.
 - Ontario's 2020 Budget proposes to make this exemption increase permanent.
 - That means an additional 30,000 employers would no longer pay this tax.
- The Ontario government is also helping main street businesses stay open and stay safe by offering a **grant of up to \$1,000** for the costs **of personal protective equipment (PPE)**, with applications for the \$60-million **Main Street Relief Grant** becoming available online on **November 16, 2020.**
 - Small businesses with two to nine employees in the retail, accommodations and food services, repair and maintenance, and personal and laundry services sectors can apply for this one-time grant.

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- Eligible businesses, whether applying for the Main Street Relief Grant for PPE or for property tax or energy rebates in affected regions, will be able to do it all through one application on a new online portal.
 - For more information, please visit ontario.ca/smallbusiness.
- 20. October 29th - Province Proudly Promoting Ontario-Made Products to Spur Economic Recovery
 - **Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME)**, with the support of the **Ontario government**, is launching a **new Ontario Made Consumer Directory**.
 - This guide will make it easier for shoppers to find **made-in-Ontario products**, while supporting local businesses and manufacturers.
 - Ontario's manufacturing sector is the economic engine of Canada, directly accounting for over **12 per cent of the province's economy**, with nearly **\$300 billion in annual shipments and \$200 billion in exports**.
 - At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, manufacturers across the province stepped up to innovate by ramping up or shifting their production lines to produce more food, personal protective equipment, and other essential supplies.
 - In **September alone**, an **increase of 51,700 jobs** pushed Ontario's manufacturing employment **17,000 jobs above pre-COVID levels**.
 - Since launching in July 2020, CME's SupportOntarioMade.ca website has registered **over 4,600 products from over 1,200 local manufacturers**.
 - Over **150 retailers** are also participating in the program. Products with the Ontario Made logo range from baby wipes to barbecues, and cosmetics to cars.
 - Consumers can easily find these made-in-Ontario goods in the new online, searchable directory at SupportOntarioMade.ca.
 - The Ontario Made program is helping the province's manufacturing base regain and recover revenues lost due to COVID-19.
 - Manufacturers and producers are encouraged to register and promote their products on the SupportOntarioMade.ca website and use the Ontario Made logo.
 - For more details, please visit: [Proudly Connecting Consumers to Ontario Made Products](#)
- 21. October 13th - Ontario Helps Keep Energy Costs Low for Families, Small Businesses and Farmers

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- The Ontario government is helping to **keep the cost of energy low for families, small businesses and farmers** by **keeping electricity rates stable** and providing customers with more choice and energy assistance programs.
- Customers eligible for the [Ontario Electricity Rebate \(OER\)](#) will automatically receive a **33.2% reduction off their energy bill** when [new electricity rates](#) for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) customers come into effect **November 1, 2020**.
- At the same time, customers paying Time-of-Use (TOU) rates under the RPP will also have the option to switch to tiered rate pricing.
 - Time-of-use electricity rates vary by time of day and are comprised of three different rate periods of off-peak, mid-peak and on-peak pricing.
 - Tiered electricity rates provide customers with a set rate for electricity up to a certain level of consumption.
- The province has also revised the eligibility requirements for the **COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB)**.
 - Households, small businesses and charitable organizations who made partial payments on amounts owing before the COVID-19 emergency period are now eligible for the CEAP and CEAP-SB one-time on-bill credit to help pay down electricity bill debt.
- Ontario is also introducing a new streamlined **Energy Affordability Program (EAP)** for households struggling to pay their electricity bills. Beginning the week of **January 4, 2021**, EAP will:
 - Provide free electricity saving measures to help participating households manage their electricity-use and lower their electricity costs by up to \$1,000 per year;
 - Tailor energy-efficiency upgrades based on household income, home heating system, location, and an energy needs assessment; and,
 - Simplify access to new and updated electricity saving measures through a single program that replaces the Affordability Fund Trust and Home Assistance Program, which are ending in 2020.
- The **Energy Affordability Program** is part of Ontario's new **2021-2024 electricity Conservation Demand Management (CDM)** Framework, which also offers energy-efficiency programs for on-reserve First Nations consumers and Ontario business and industrial consumers to increase competitiveness and lower electricity costs.

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- The new Framework will come into force **January 1, 2021**, immediately following the end of the current Interim Framework on December 31, 2020.
- For more details, please visit [here](#).

22. April 30th - Ontario Providing Employers with Workplace Safety Guidelines – Currently Active

- The Ontario government is ensuring employers have the **safety guidelines** they need to protect workers, customers, and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a **gradual reopening of the provincial economy**.
- The Government safety guidelines released today will provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector.
- Find the new Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development Guidelines [here](#).
- The Ontario government works closely **with four provincial health and safety associations (HSAs)** to help set, communicate and enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, the HSAs have released a series of more than **90 technical sector guidance documents** to further support employers and employees in remaining safe in the workplace during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The government will work with **Ontario's health and safety associations** to bring forward **additional workplace safety guidelines** for more sectors in the coming days and weeks.

Resources

- i. **Infrastructure Health and Safety Association** (IHSA) serves the construction, electrical and utilities, aggregates, natural gas, ready-mix concrete and transportation sectors.
IHSA guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- ii. **Public Service Health and Safety Association** (PSHSA) serves hospitals, nursing and retirement homes, residential and community care, universities and colleges, school boards, libraries and museums, municipalities, provincial government and agencies, police, fire and paramedics and First Nations.
PSHSA guidance documents can be found [here](#).
- iii. **Workplace Safety North** (WSN) serves the forestry, mining, smelters, refineries, paper, printing and converting sectors.
WSN guidance documents can be found [here](#).

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- iv. [Workplace Safety and Prevention Services](#) (WSPS) serves the agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors. WSPS guidance documents can be found [here](#).
 - v. Additional resources organized by sector can be found [here](#).
 - o Starting this week, **58 new inspectors** will join the hundreds of existing provincial labour inspectors on the ground.
 - o The inspectors will be tasked with communicating **COVID-19 safety guidelines** to essential workplaces or enforcing emergency measures, including physical distancing and the closure of non-essential businesses.
 - o The Government is committed to a careful, stage-by-stage approach to loosening emergency measures and **reopening Ontario's economy**.
 - o Ontario also recently **doubled** the capacity of Ontario's Health and Safety Call Centre to deal with a large increase in calls.
- Additional Resources
- i. The government is also issuing posters to promote a variety of useful **safety tips**.
 - ii. The posters offer helpful advice on physical distancing and sanitation. They are [downloadable from the Ontario.ca website](#) so employers can print and post them in their workplaces.

23. April 28th – Launch of the *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers* website - New Website Accepting Proposals for Temporarily Changing Rules and Regulations – **Currently Active**

- o The Ontario Government has launched the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website to help businesses **overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic**.
- o Businesses working to retool their operations to produce health-related products, or those that want to continue their operations in this new environment of physical distancing, can submit any potential roadblocks to the website.
- o The province is prepared to allow **temporary changes** to provincial rules and regulations in order to **remove any barriers** that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain.
- o In order to help Ontario businesses focus on overcoming today's challenges, the province is also **pausing or extending** any existing public consultations, delaying non-urgent related consultations while the emergency situation remains in place, and considering extending deadlines for reports and audits.
- o *The website builds on steps the government has already taken to help businesses respond to COVID-19, including:*

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- i. Providing **\$10 billion** in provincial tax deferrals, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board premium deferrals, and other business supports;
 - ii. Providing more than **\$900 million** in urgent relief to small businesses and their landlords through a new program, the **Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA)**;
 - iii. Providing **\$50 million** to help businesses such as manufacturers and distilleries retool so they can produce health-related products and supplies, such as ventilators, gowns, face masks and hand sanitizer;
 - iv. Permitting **24-hour construction** for critical infrastructure;
 - v. Permitting **24-hour deliveries** in every municipality across the province to help grocery stores and pharmacies keep their shelves stocked; and
 - vi. Allowing **restaurants and bars** to sell alcohol with food takeout or delivery orders.
- Visit the [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#) website.

24. April 1st - \$50 million Ontario Together Fund: Currently Active

- The Ontario government is launching a new **\$50 million Ontario Together Fund** to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment, including:
 - i. Gowns
 - ii. Coveralls
 - iii. Masks& face shields
 - iv. testing equipment
 - v. ventilators
- This new Fund will support the development of proposals **submitted by businesses through the [Ontario Together web portal](#)**.
- The government will be looking for the most viable, innovative proposals that can quickly provide critical goods and services and the greatest benefit to the people of Ontario.
- The fund is time-limited and will be available to companies and organizations across the province.

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25. March 25th - Stop the Spread Business Information Line Now Open at 1-888-444-3659 – Currently Active

- The province has launched a toll-free line **1-888-444-3659** to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about the province's recent **emergency order** to close at-risk workplaces.
- Help is available from Monday to Sunday, from 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- Businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment can call the **Stop the Spread Business Information Line**.

26. March 19th - Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 - Supply Chain - Temporary Changes to Municipal Noise By-Laws: Currently Active

- The new legislation ensures that for the near future, the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise by-laws that may unintentionally be impeding such deliveries when they are most urgently needed.
- The new legislation will waive local noise by-laws allowing delivery trucks to operate overnight.
- These temporary changes will allow businesses to transfer goods between their warehouses and retail stores 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

27. May 25th - Ontario Investing in Domestic Medical Technology Manufacturing To Ensure Future Preparedness

- The Ontario government is investing **\$2.5 million** in Siemens Healthineers through the Ontario Together Fund.
- The project is expected to create **93 jobs over five years**.
- To scale up their production capacity, Siemens Healthineers is investing **over \$20 million** into their Ottawa facilities to increase their manufacturing output.
- Innovative projects like this are why Ontario is investing an additional \$50 million in the renewed Ontario Together Fund in 2021–22.
- This investment will help Siemens Healthineers to increase their domestic manufacturing capacity of the epoc Test Card used in the Blood Analysis System.
 - The company will add two manufacturing lines and packaging automation and make **2.4 million cards per month**. This is a **125 per cent increase** in production capacity.

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28. June 10 – Ontario Working Toward Economic Recovery, Job Creation Through Planned Major Infrastructure Projects

- The Ontario government released the latest P3 Market Update on June 10 which highlights **38 major infrastructure projects** currently taking place across the province.
 - These projects are using the public-private partnerships (P3) model and are valued at **an estimated \$60 billion**.
- Highlights from this P3 update include:
 - The addition of the Hamilton LRT to Projects in Planning
 - The addition of the MECP Science Complex to Projects in Planning
 - Brampton Courthouse Addition Phase 2 & Toronto Regional Bail Centre is now in the construction stage, following financial close earlier this month.
 - Advance Tunnel for Scarborough Subway Extension and Advance Tunnel for Eglinton Crosstown West Extension are now in the construction stage, following financial close earlier in June.

29. June 23 – Ontario Releases Tourism Economic Recovery Report

- The Government of Ontario has released a report prepared by the Tourism Economic Recovery Ministerial Task Force, which makes recommendations on how to support the recovery of Ontario's \$36-billion tourism industry from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The report provides 10 key recommendations about how to rebuild and reshape the future of Ontario's tourism industry, including reducing red tape for tourism businesses and restoring consumer confidence in visitors through collaboration between public health officials and the tourism industry and encouraging Ontarians to experience the province through industry co-ordinated travel days.
 - The report also suggests new opportunities to showcase the best Ontario has to offer through itineraries, packages and trails that will make it easier to find local Ontario products and experiences.

30. June 23 – Ontario Launching New \$30 Million Surgical Innovation Fund

- The Ontario Government is launching a **new \$30 million Surgical Innovation Fund** that will directly support Ontario's hospitals and provide them with the flexibility they need to perform more surgeries and procedures in their communities.
- The funding comes from the government's **\$300 million** investment to help the hospital sector recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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31. July 7 – Ontario Investing in Toronto’s Tourism Sector

- The Ontario government is investing **\$16.3 million in Destination Toronto and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC)** to support tourism sector recovery.
- Destination Toronto will receive **\$9 million to help with workforce development, drive demand to the region, and to create new niche tourism products and activities.**
 - Funding will also be used to help alleviate losses, aid in recovery and ensure Toronto’s tourism businesses are ready to bring more international businesses to Ontario.
- The MTCC will receive **up to \$7.3 million in stabilization funding to support its continued operation and maintenance.**
 - Funding will also be used for covering core operating costs to enable the MTCC to sustain operations, prevent insolvency and prepare for re-opening.

32. July 15 – Ontario Keeping Workers Safe As Province Reopens

- The Ontario government is investing **\$10.5 million to provide up to 60,000 small businesses with free health and safety training over the next three years.**
- The new [Small Business Health and Safety Training Program](#) will help improve health and safety awareness to prevent illness and injuries by training health and safety representatives of small businesses on how to keep workers safe in the retail, construction, health care, accommodation and food services, and other sectors.
 - The Program will cover the course registration costs for employees appointed by their colleagues as a health and safety representative for their workplace. Small businesses will also be **reimbursed \$150 towards the representatives training time.**
- All small businesses with **six to 19 employees are required to have a health and safety representative.**
- The training takes about six to eight hours and is offered through Workplace Safety and Prevention Services. Topics covered include:
 - Occupational health and safety laws
 - Rights, duties and responsibilities of workplace parties
 - Duties and responsibilities of the health and safety representative under the Occupational Health and Safety Act
 - Recognition, assessment, control and evaluation of common workplace hazards.

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33. July 19 – Ontario Helping Small Businesses Establish Online Presence

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$10 million towards the Digital Main Street program for 2021-22 to help over 13,000 small businesses expand their digital presence and market their services online.**
- Small businesses will be provided with **\$2,500 grants** as well as technical training and digital resources to help them reach more customers in person and online to help aid in a strong recovery.
- The grants will be available to small businesses across Ontario with a brick-and-mortar location and one to 50 employees.
- The government is also working to gather information on how to best continue supporting small businesses through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help small businesses and entrepreneurs to identify weaknesses and gaps that government programs can address to help more small businesses recover and grow.

34. July 22 – Governments Supporting Economic Recovery of Ontario Farmers

- The Governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **\$7.3 million through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership** to support farmers and agri-businesses by funding projects in areas which increase food safety, accelerate sector innovation and help farmers bring new products to market to grow their businesses.
- More than **600 cost-shared projects in over 270 communities** will be supported to ensure the continued production of safe, high quality food in the province.
- Expected positive outcomes include:
 - Improvement of food safety systems on farms to meet or exceed national and international certification standards;
 - Development of products that will open new sales markets for farm businesses;
 - Planting cover crops to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion losses over winter;
 - Increasing preventative measures to help reduce pest damage at greenhouse operations; and
 - Upgrades to animal-handling equipment to improve animal welfare and reduce disease transmission on livestock farms.

35. July 22 – Ontario Supports Businesses in Kiiwetinoong and Mushkegowuk-James Bay Regions

- The Ontario government is providing over **\$1.7 million to help 85 businesses** adapt to COVID-19 public health guidelines in the Kiiwetinoong and Mushkegowuk-James Bay regions. The investment will support renovations, the

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installation of safety equipment and the purchase of personal protective equipment.

- Funding will be delivered through the Northern Ontario Recovery Program. Key investments include:
 - **\$22,400** to Sioux Lookout Floating Lodges to build an outdoor deck so customers can practise social distancing while waiting for their houseboats to be cleaned and serviced.
 - **\$25,000** for Pakwash Lake Camp to purchase new docking systems, a gas pump hose, a UV sanitation light, cleaning equipment, and outdoor picnic tables to accommodate social distancing.
 - **\$24,500** for Wild Eyes Wilderness Escape to build additions on two cabins and construct a 10 x 20 foot dock to accommodate social distancing.
 - **\$22,637** for Vegan Delights Inc. to restructure its business from a catering-focused business to a manufacturing-focused retailer.

36. July 22 – Ontario Supports Businesses in Timmins

- The Ontario Government is providing over **\$1 million to help 57 businesses adapt to COVID-19 public health guidelines in Timmins.**
- The investment will support renovations, the installation of safety equipment and the purchase of personal protective equipment.
- The funding will be delivered through the Northern Ontario Recovery Program and includes:
 - **\$25,390** for Chernier Motors to allow the business to install glass barriers and create a contactless pick-up and delivery department.
 - **\$25,000** to Total Martial Arts Center to purchase safety equipment, personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies.
 - **\$10,127** for Dr. S. Coutts Medicine Professional Corporation to purchase personal protective equipment and computer equipment to improve virtual care.

37. July 23 – Province Investing in Local Businesses to Boost Growth in Barrie Area

- The Ontario government is investing more than **\$2.8 million in three Barrie-area businesses** to strengthen domestic manufacturing and commercialization, attract investment, create 72 jobs, and help retain over 280 jobs in the Barrie area.
- Tempo Plastics Limited will receive **\$2.2 million** to create 26 jobs and retain 144. The investment will also allow Tempo to increase production capacity and replace manual, repetitive tasks.
- Matsu Manufacturing Inc. will receive **\$266,000** to create 24 jobs and retain 137. The company will also use funding to purchase new equipment to give them the capacity to undertake larger and more complex contracts.

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- Volatus Flight Systems Inc. will receive **\$375,000** to create 22 jobs and fit their facility with new equipment. The company will also undertake research and development activities.

38. July 26 – Ontario Increasing Funding for Hospital Care in Ottawa

- The Ontario government is providing The Ottawa Hospital with **\$16.9 million in additional operating funding**. The funding will begin in 2021/22 and represents a **2.2 per cent increase** to the base and one-time funding of over \$766 million that the hospital received in 2020/21.

39. July 27 – Government Providing Emergency Support for Northwestern Ontario Farmers

- The Government of Ontario is supporting farmers in northwestern Ontario by providing **up to \$2 million to assist with emergency measures** for feed, water and basic livestock needs because of ongoing drought conditions in the region.
- Funding will be provided as follows:
 - **\$800,000** to Beef Farmers of Ontario to help address immediate feed shortages on behalf of all impacted farmers in the region.
 - **\$1.2 million** to area farmers for emergency measures to source water for livestock and to purchase and install new fencing to allow safe grazing in alternative locations for livestock.
- Financial assistance will be available to livestock farmers for eligible costs incurred as a result of dry weather from June 14, 2021 onwards.

40. July 27 – Ontario Building and Improving Long-Term Care in Kingston and Across Ontario

- The Extendicare Kingston long-term care home is being redeveloped and expanded as part of Ontario’s ongoing plan to create a modernized long-term care sector. The facility is expected to be ready to accept its first residents in spring 2023.

41. July 28 – Ontario Ramping Up Efforts to Reduce Surgical Wait Times

- Up to **\$234 million will be invested in Ontario’s hospitals and community health sector**. The investment will allow the sector to perform more surgeries, MRI and CT scans and procedures, including on evenings and weekends.
 - Specifically, the plan will enable Ontario’s health care system to perform up to **67,000 additional surgeries and procedures and up to 135,000 more diagnostic imaging hours**.

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- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased pressure on hospital and health care resources and it is anticipated that as public health measures are lifted, referrals for surgeries, procedures and diagnostic imaging will increase.

42. August 3 – Ontario Invests in Made-in-Ontario Innovators

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$330,000 to support the delivery of the Ontario Centre of Innovation’s (OCI) Ontario Innovation Showcase**. The showcase will provide **up to 18 companies** that made submissions to the Ontario Together portal with the opportunity to participate in a competition for **six \$50,000 grants**.

43. August 4 – Province Investing in Local Businesses to Boost Economic Growth in Ottawa Region

- The Government of Ontario is supporting an investment of **\$25.5 million** by local businesses to help strengthen domestic manufacturing and attract investment in the Ottawa region. The province will be contributing **over \$3.8 million that will help create 63 jobs and retain 141 others**. The investments are as follows:
 - Beau-Roc Inc. will be receiving **\$1.8 million** to build a second facility to manufacture dump bodies for dump trucks which will create 30 jobs and retain 84 existing ones.
 - Lumibird Ltd. Will receive **\$1.09 million** to help create nine jobs and retain 16 positions.
 - LTR Industries (Ottawa) Ltd. Is receiving **\$780,000** to help create 17 jobs and retain 31 positions.
 - KB Media Corp will receive **\$134,700**

44. August 4 – Ontario Makes Historic Investment in Safe, Innovative Festivals and Events

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$50 million to help festical and event organizers** adapt to deliver innovative and safe experiences to encourage people to safely reconnect with their communities. The funding boost will ensure long-term success of the festival and event sector.
- **\$43 million** will support 439 festicals and events through the Reconnect Festical and Event Program. **\$6 million** will go towards the Celebrate Ontario Blockbuster program.

45. August 5 – Helping Ontario Food and Beverage Processors During COVID-19

- The Governments of Canada and Ontario are unvesting up to **\$6 million in projects to help Ontario food and beverage processors**. The investments will

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help processors improve their operations, increase their competitive edge and adapt to challenges as Ontario moves beyond the pandemic.

- Processors can apply to the program in two phases:
 - Beginning August 5, applications will be accepted under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support projects that will **enhance economic development and food safety in the sector**.
 - The second phase will begin in September with projects focused on **ways to improve labour productivity, efficiency and reduce waste**.
- Examples of projects include:
 - Implementing new technology to improve food safety.
 - Developing new products to increase sales.
 - Improving animal health through preventing the introduction and spread of disease throughout an operation.

46. August 9 – Province Invests in Local Business to Boost Economic Growth in Barry’s Bay

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$1 million** to St. Francis Herb Farm to create 12 new jobs and retain 34 positions. St. Francis Herb Farm is investing **\$12.7 million** to strengthen local manufacturing, create good jobs, and attract investment to Barry’s Bay and the surrounding region.

47. August 9 – Ontario Invests in Advanced PPE Material Made in London

- BIOSA Technologies is investing over **\$1.23 million** in the development, manufacturing and distribution of non-woven filtration material for N95 and N99 mask production and other PPE products.
- More than **\$615,000** will be provided through the Ontario Together Fund to support scaling up production of an anti-viral and anti-bacterial textile material for use in PPE products.

48. August 10 – Ontario Providing Additional Drought Support to Farmers

- As an addition to the **\$2 million** already announced for feed, water and fencing, the Government of Ontario is delivering immediate assistance to livestock farmers impacted by drought conditions.
- Financial support is available through the federal-provincial AgriRecovery program. The Government of Ontario is committing up to **\$5 million in funding** for the 40 per cent provincial cost share.

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49. August 12 – Ontario Launches New Program to Recruit and Retain Staff in Retirement Homes

- The Government of Ontario is investing **more than \$2 million over two years** to provide new and recently hired personal support workers and nurses with financial incentives to encourage them to work in retirement homes.
- The program, called the Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program, will be delivered by the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario and will help to recruit and retain skilled PSWs and nurses while aligning with Ontario's plan to modernize the provincial retirement homes sector.
- PSWs will receive an incentive payment of **\$5,000 for a six-month commitment** and nurses will receive **\$10,000 for a one-year commitment to work in a retirement home.**
- The first call for applications from retirement homes will launch on **August 12, 2021 with a deadline of September 17, 2021.** There will be a second call for applications in December 2021.

50. August 27 – Ontario Invests in Protective Equipment Made in Mississauga

- Guide Woodworking is investing **\$300,000 in a new machine learning centre at its Mississauga facilities. \$75,000 of this investment is from the Ontario Together Fund.**

51. August 30 – Ontario Invests in PPE Testing Services in Toronto

- Kinetrics Inc. is investing over \$841,000 to expand and implement industry-standard testing techniques for PPE. **Over \$252,000 of this investment will be provided by the Ontario Together Fund.**

52. September 2 – Ontario Invests in Made in Hamilton Surgical Masks

- With the support of the Ontario Together Fund, Niko Apparel Systems is investing more than **\$250,000. \$125,000** will be from the Ontario Together Fund.
- The investment will help automate the production of surgical masks by leveraging existing production processes, materials, supply chain networks, sales, and distribution networks to strengthen Ontario's supply of PPE.

53. September 8, 2021 - Ontario Invests in Medical Diagnostic Solutions in Kanata

- Evik Diagnostic Innovations Inc. is investing **nearly \$1.5 million** to ramp up the production of laboratory test mixture that is used in diagnostic devices to meet the increased demand from the medical device manufacturers due to COVID-19, with support of **\$513,200** from the Ontario Together Fund.
- Supporting innovative projects like Evik Diagnostic is why Ontario has invested an **additional \$50 million** in the renewed Ontario Together Fund in 2021–22.

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The fund will continue to support local innovators and businesses to further enhance Ontario's domestic supply chain capacity, promote Ontario's MedTech ecosystem and build up our manufacturing sector to ensure the province is well-prepared for future challenges.

54. September 27th, 2021 - Ontario Investing \$100 Million to Help Tourism Sector Rebound From COVID-19

- The Ontario government is investing **\$100 million** through the new **Tourism Recovery Program** to help stabilize the province's tourism industry as it recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.
- The program will help for-profit tourism businesses in the attraction, accommodation, and leisure travel sectors protect critical jobs in communities across the province and help them prepare to reopen and safely welcome back visitors.
- Businesses that help drive employment and visitors to their regions are eligible to apply for the Ontario Tourism Recovery Program. These organizations are key employers and tourism generators in all regions of the province.
 - Eligible tourism businesses include inns and lodges, boat tours, ski centres, live performance venues, cinemas, drive-in theatres, and amusement and water parks.
- The [Ontario Tourism Recovery Program](#) will support tourism businesses that have experienced a loss of at least 50 per cent of eligible revenue in 2020-21 compared to 2019.
- Applications for this program will open on **October 13, 2021**.

55. October 5th, 2021 - Ontario Supporting Non-Profits through the Community Building Fund

- The Ontario government is providing **more than \$46 million** to support **648 non-profit tourism, culture, sport and recreation organizations** experiencing significant financial pressures due to COVID-19.
- Funding is being delivered through the Community Building Fund's Operating stream to help these non-profits operate their facilities so they can provide much-needed programs and services in their communities.

56. October 6th, 2021 - Ontario Providing Financial Relief to Employers

- Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is **cutting premium rates in 2022 by \$168 million**, bringing the total reduction in premiums since 2018 to **\$2.4 billion**.
- In addition, the government is intending to introduce legislation that, if passed, would allow for a significant portion of the WSIB's current reserve, currently

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valued at **\$6.1 billion**, to be **distributed to safe employers**. This proposed change would help employers cope with the impacts of COVID-19.

- The Ontario government is also proposing to enable the WSIB to work with the Canada Revenue Agency to streamline remittances for businesses. This change would reduce administrative costs and burdens by giving businesses an efficient one-stop-shop for submitting payroll deductions.
- The ceiling for worker benefits will be increasing by 9.45 per cent as a result of closures in low-wage sectors spiking Ontario’s Average Industrial Wage. To prevent some businesses from having to pay thousands of dollars a year in additional premiums, Ontario is capping the growth of premiums to an increase of 3.2 per cent (close to the normal range) through a regulation under the Workplace Safety and Amendment Act.

COVID-19 – Provincial Government – Support for Individuals

- The Province is working with partners across the healthcare system, from public health to hospitals and community care, to do everything possible to contain the virus and ensure that the system is prepared to respond to any scenario.
- Please visit the following pages for additional information:
 - https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-workers?_ga=2.140418355.1292956891.1588614181-1305037528.1580157468
 - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

57. January 12th, 2022 – Ontario Government Increasing Resources and Investments to Support Return to In-person Learning

- The Ontario government is increasing resources and investments to support students’ return to in-person learning, including the following:
- Investment in Schools
 - More than \$1.6 billion in resources for the 2021-22 school year in response to COVID-19
 - \$1.4 billion to renew and maintain existing schools and \$14 billion over 10 years for new schools, additions, and major renovations.
- Ventilation Investments
 - Supported by over \$600 million in net new investments to improve ventilation in schools
- Bolstered Staffing Capacity
- Quality Masking

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- Enhanced Testing
 - Ontario will now be deploying more rapid antigen tests to public schools and child care. This will include two rapid antigen tests for every elementary and secondary student, child in child care and staff members in both settings to support reopening, for use when symptomatic.

58. April 30th - Ontario Extends Freeze on College and University Tuitions

- The Ontario government is **extending the current one-year tuition freeze for colleges and universities by an additional year**, providing more financial relief and predictability for families and students seeking access to affordable postsecondary education.
- The one-year tuition freeze for Ontario residents builds on Ontario's historic 10 per cent reduction in tuition in 2019-20, and one-year tuition freeze in 2020-21, making postsecondary education more affordable for Ontario students and their families. These reductions represent the first of their kind in Ontario's history. The government's action to reduce and freeze tuition has provided students with tuition relief of approximately **\$450 million** annually when compared to tuition costs in 2018-19.
- announced today will support upgrades to community centres, recreation facilities, cultural buildings, trails and parks, and a library; improving accessibility and providing modern spaces for friends and families to share experiences safely.

59. April 28th - Ontario Maximizing Critical Care Capacity to Support Hospitals

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is **taking further action to ensure hospital beds are available for COVID-19 patients in need of urgent care**. To do so, the province is amending O. Reg. 272/21 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) to ensure patients receive quality care in the most appropriate setting during the third wave of the pandemic, driven by variants of concern.
- This temporary emergency order will **provide hospitals with the flexibility to transfer patients whose doctors have determined no longer require hospital care** to long-term care or retirement homes without obtaining the consent of the patient or, where the patient is incapable, their substitute decision maker. The amended order can only be used during major surge events where the demand for critical care threatens to overwhelm a hospital and compromise care. Hundreds of individuals in hospital are waiting to be discharged to a long-term care home or another more appropriate care setting and first priority will be given to patients with less complex care needs and those who are able to be moved close to their preferred choice.
- Please visit [here](#) for more details.

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60. April 27th - Ontario Introduces Legislation to Strengthen Health Workforce Accountability and Enhance Data-Driven COVID-19 Response
- Today, the **Ontario government introduced legislation** that, if passed, will help **strengthen Ontario's health care workforce and support the delivery of high-quality care by regulating personal support workers, physician assistants and behaviour analysts**. This legislation would also enhance the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting the timely reporting of COVID-19 vaccine data to the Ministry of Health. The proposed legislation is part of the government's commitment to build a more connected, patient-centred health care system.
 - The *Advancing Oversight and Planning in Ontario's Health System Act, 2021*, would, if passed, **further recognize the important role of select health and supportive care staff** in delivering high-quality care to patients across the province.
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
61. April 14th - Canada and Ontario Invest in School Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19
- The governments of Canada and Ontario announced **\$656.5 million** in funding to provide critical infrastructure upgrades to protect students and staff from COVID-19 in the province's **schools**.
 - The majority of funding will support **ventilation projects that improve air quality** in classrooms across the province. Projects include **HVAC renovations** to improve air quality, installing **water bottle refilling stations to improve access to safe drinking water**, investing in **network and broadband infrastructure** to support remote learning, and **space reconfigurations** such as new walls and doors to enhance physical distancing.
62. March 10th – Ontario Takes Further Action to Protect Homeless Shelters during COVID-19
- The Ontario government is providing **\$255 million to help municipalities and Indigenous program partners** respond to an increase in COVID-19 cases in some emergency shelters and help keep vulnerable people safe. **The new funding will protect homeless shelter staff and residents, and help prevent more people from becoming homeless.**
 - Municipal service managers and Indigenous program partners can use the social services relief funding to **acquire motel and hotel spaces** to support physical distancing of shelter residents, hire more shelter staff, **purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies**, and **add to rent and utility banks** to help prevent more people from becoming homeless.

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63. March 1st - Ontario Keeping Seniors Safe and Socially Connected during COVID-19

- The Ontario government is **investing \$14.3 million in 2020-21 to support nearly 300 Seniors Active Living Centres**. These programs will deliver new virtual initiatives to help keep seniors safe and socially connected as they continue to self-isolate due to COVID-19.
- **This year's investment will focus on virtual programs such as teleconferences, online videos, one-on-one phone calls** to help seniors stay connected from home, and support projects such as:
 - Seniors' Centre Without Walls to create interactive telephone-based group programming for socially isolated seniors and people with disabilities
 - Virtual physical fitness programming
 - Online craft programs and delivery of pre-made craft kits to seniors
 - Meal programs ranging from curbside pick up to door-to-door deliveries
 - Online educational programs such as tax clinics, technology assistance, health and wellness, and COVID-19 information

64. February 26th - Ontario Takes Action to Support Working Families and Improve Child Care

- The Ontario government announced **regulatory amendments that support working families and improve the child care and early years sector** and advance the province's dual priorities of accessibility and affordability for parents.
- The regulatory amendments, **which take effect on March 8, 2021**, will:
 - **Exempt certain authorized recreational providers from their three-hour operating limit**, improving access to select before and after school programs for families with school-age children.
 - **Enhance health and safety protections in licenced child care settings**, such as requirements to support contact tracing by local public health, new requirements for home-based child care and updates to the safe storage of potentially poisonous and hazardous items.
 - **Reduce regulatory/administrative burden on child care operators by removing redundant and unnecessary requirements for all providers**. These include the removal of duplicate requirements related to the collection of children's emergency contact information, allowing records and documents required by the regulation to be kept in digital format, and no longer requiring licensees to seek ministry approval for children 44 months and up to bring their own meals from home.

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65. February 24th - Ontario Invests in Historic Campaign to Accelerate Training for Personal Support Workers

- The Ontario government is investing over **\$115 million to train up to 8,200 new personal support workers (PSWs) for high-demand jobs in Ontario's health and long-term care sectors**. In collaboration with Colleges Ontario, all **24 publicly assisted colleges** will offer this innovative, fully funded program starting in **April 2021**.
- **The Accelerated PSW Training Program is a tuition-free opportunity for 6,000 new students and is expected to take only six months to complete**, rather than the typical eight months. After three months of coursework, and experiential learning in a clinical setting, students will complete the final three months in paid onsite training in a long-term care home or in a home and community care environment. **Registration for the program will be available through the [Ontario College Application Service](#) and is expected to open in early March**.
- The province is also offering tuition assistance to students who are close to finishing an existing PSW program at one of Ontario's publicly-assisted colleges. **Nearly 2,200 students will be eligible to receive a \$2,000 tuition grant to help them complete their studies**, as well as a stipend to complete the clinical placement part of their training.

66. February 1st - Ontario Community Support Program Extended until 2022

- The Ontario government is extending the **Ontario Community Support Program (OCSP) until 2022** to ensure that **low-income seniors and people with disabilities** have access to **food, medicine and other essentials** during COVID-19. The program was established in April 2020, and involves an innovative partnership with the [Ontario Community Support Association](#) (OCSA) and its large volunteer base in communities across the province. During that period nearly **800,000 deliveries** have been made.
- The OCSP operates in communities across the province by matching volunteer services with seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable Ontarians through an online registration system. Volunteers are stepping up in significant numbers to give their time and efforts to fellow Ontarians who need support to meet the challenges of COVID-19.
- During the Fall Economic Update, the government announced plans to extend the program until **March, 2022**, in recognition of its positive impact on vulnerable Ontarians.

67. January 25th - Ontario Expanding Eligibility for Emergency Child Care During Extended Remote Learning Period

- The Ontario government will be **further expanding eligibility for the targeted emergency child care program** to additional workers who are performing critical roles in their communities. This expansion is intended

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to support workers and their families with child care options at no cost in regions where students continue to learn remotely. This benefit will take effect on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021** and builds on the [existing list](#) of eligible workers.

- **New Additions** to the List of Those Eligible for Emergency Child Care:
 - Individuals working in fuel distribution and oil refineries;
 - Education staff who are required to report to work in person while their children continue with remote learning;
 - Grocery store and pharmacy workers;
 - Truck drivers;
 - Farmers and those who support food or agricultural product supply chains;
 - Individuals involved in the collecting, transporting, storing, processing, disposing or recycling of any type of waste; and
 - Individuals working in the manufacturing and distribution of disinfectants and sanitizers.

68. December 18th - Ontario Supporting Workers Impacted by COVID-19 - Redesigned training program will help more people get back to work faster

- The Ontario government is providing **\$77 million** to **help people who were laid off due to the impact of COVID-19** find in-demand jobs in their local communities.
- This funding is being provided through the redesigned [Second Career](#) grant program and will help more than **2,750 job seekers with up to \$28,000 for tuition, training materials and living expenses**
- The updated initiative will help job seekers train for careers in sectors including:
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Life sciences
 - Information and communications and;
 - Supportive health services.
- Enhancements will focus on training initiatives with a duration of 52 weeks or less, helping more people get trained quicker and get back to work faster. These changes will also remove existing caps on the funding amount available to cover tuition at a wider range of institutions.

69. December 17th - Ontario Launches Historic Long-Term Care Staffing Plan

- The Ontario government is launching one of the **largest recruitment and training drives** in the province's history to deliver on its commitment to **improve care for seniors in long-term care homes**.
- Acting on expert recommendations, and building on the government's [2020 Ontario budget commitment](#) to increase hours of daily direct care to an

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average of four hours per day for each long-term care resident, the new staffing plan focuses on six key areas of action to be delivered over four years:

- Investing up to **\$1.9 billion annually** by 2024-25 to create more than **27,000 new positions for personal support workers, registered nurses and registered practical nurses in long-term care** to meet the direct care commitment; in addition, providing a **20 per cent increase in direct care time administered by other health care professionals** such as physiotherapists and social workers.
- Accelerating and **expanding education and training pathways** in order to prepare and train the tens of thousands of new staff that will be required.
- Supporting continued **professional development** and growth of long-term care staff to improve retention.
- **Improving working conditions for staff** by coordinating with long-term care employers to **increase full-time employment** and promote innovative approaches to work and technology.
- Driving effective and **accountable leadership** in homes across the province to improve oversight, guidance and medical outcomes in long-term care homes.
- **Measuring progress** against key performance indicators
- The province will also engage with residents and families to develop a quality framework based on what quality of life and quality of care means to them.
- [A Better Place to Live; A Better Place to Work: Ontario's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan](#) is part of the government's modernization agenda to create a long-term care sector that is resident-centred and provides the highest quality of care for our loved ones, when and where they need it.
- In addition to launching this multi-year plan to ensure staffing Ontario's long-term care sector is sustainable for years to come, the government has invested nearly [\\$540 million, announced earlier this fall](#), to ramp up surveillance, increase infection prevention and control personnel, increase PPE supplies, and build a strong health care workforce at long-term care homes across the province.
- For more details, please visit [here](#).
- 70. December 14th - Ontario Supports the Training of Early Childhood Educators
 - The Ontario government is investing **\$1.2 million** in a **skills training project** through SkillsAdvance Ontario, in partnership with Carrefour communautaire francophone de London, to prepare 130 job seekers for careers in the **French and English-language early childhood education sector**.
 - Recruitment, intake and planning activities will begin in **January 2021** for the early childhood educator project.

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- Training for the first cohort will begin in June 2021 and last for two years.
 - The training program will be 10 weeks in duration and include job matching, job placement and retention services.
 - Job seekers interested in applying for this local SkillsAdvance Ontario project should contact [Employment Ontario](#).
 - The project at Carrefour is one of 46 active SkillsAdvance Ontario projects across the province dedicated to sector-specific training for jobs in steel and aluminum, manufacturing, logistics, tourism and hospitality, forestry and other sectors.
71. December 2nd - Ontario Expanding Innovative Home and Community Care Services
- The Ontario government is investing more than **\$115 million** to support 850 patients across the province with **high, complex care needs access services in the comfort of their own homes**, while also **expanding virtual care options for patients** across the province.
 - This funding is part of the province's COVID-19 fall preparedness plan, [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#), which will enable the province to respond to future surges and waves of the virus, while preserving hospital capacity.
 - The new **High Intensity Supports at Home program** helps patients with high care needs transition from a hospital back to their home or community setting with the right supports, also known as alternate level of care patients.
 - This program provides integrated, team-based care where multiple types of services are wrapped around the patient.
 - This can include up to 11 hours a day of personal support services and nursing services per patient.
 - Other community services may include Meals on Wheels, homemaking and transportation to medical appointments.
 - With this investment, the province will add more capacity in hospitals, provide approximately **484,000 nursing and therapy visits**, and approximately **1.4 million personal support worker hours**.
 - As part of Ontario's continued response to the COVID-19 outbreak and in alignment with the **Digital First for Health Strategy**, Ontario is investing **\$14.5 million** to support the **expansion of virtual care** for Ontario Health Teams and frontline home and community care service providers.

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- This investment will equip health care providers with the support needed to sustain current capacity and improve the quality of care delivered virtually.
 - Virtual care in home and community care settings will also benefit rural and remote area regions where access to care is more challenging.
 - An investment of **\$9.5 million** will go towards remote patient monitoring programs delivered by various health care organizations, including Ontario Health Team member organizations like hospitals.
 - As part of this funding, \$5 million will be invested in virtual home and community care capacity by providing funding directly to frontline home and community care service providers.
 - For more details, please visit [here](#).
72. November 27th - Ontario Expanding Existing Community Paramedicine Programs to Long-Term Care
- The Ontario government is investing up to **\$15 million** to expand the **Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program**. This initiative will **help more seniors on long-term care waitlists stay safe while living in the comfort of their own homes** for a longer period of time.
 - The long-term care focused Community Paramedicine program leverages the skills of community paramedic providers to help end hallway health care and provide additional care for seniors.
 - The first phase of this program was [announced in October 2020](#), in partnership with five communities.
 - As a first step, the government is inviting communities to express their interest in expanding their existing provincially funded community paramedicine programs to include long-term care.
 - Communities that meet the eligibility requirements will be invited to submit an implementation plan and proposed budget, outlining how they will administer a larger Community Paramedicine program this fiscal year.
 - For more details, please visit [here](#).
73. Emergency Assistance – Support for individuals and families in financial crisis – Currently Active
- As part of *Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*, a **\$17 billion** package with funding targeted to help families and a variety of sectors across the province, the Ontario government is providing **\$52 million** to better support individuals and families in financial crisis.

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- This funding will support those who are not able to access federal assistance to cover needs such as food costs, rent, medicine and other essential services during this time.
 - Individuals can easily [apply online](#) for assistance.
 - *Eligibility*
 - i. Applicants may qualify if they live in Ontario (not a visitor or tourist), are in a crisis or emergency situation, and do not have enough money for things like food and housing. For example, a crisis or emergency includes situations where applicants:
 1. Have been affected by COVID-19
 2. Are being evicted from their home
 3. Are in or are leaving an abusive relationship
 4. Are worried about their safety
 - Those receiving assistance from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program are not eligible for this program.
74. May 4th - Ontario Unveils \$2 Billion Plan to Keep Schools Safe and Support Learning Recovery and Renewal
- The Ontario government is providing more than \$2 billion in new supports to advance and protect public education for the 2021-22 school year.
 - The support includes more than \$1.6 billion in resources to respond to COVID-19 and an \$85.5 million commitment to support learning recovery and renewal in response to the ongoing pandemic. Highlights include:
 - \$59 million in continued special education, mental health, well-being and equity supports, the highest ever investment (including an annual \$10 million investment as part of the GSN);
 - \$35 million in additional technology funding (including an annual \$15 million to support technology such as devices for students in the GSN and \$20 million in connectivity supports for remote learning technology);
 - \$20 million in new funding to support learning recovery and renewal;
 - \$29 million for increased costs related to school operations;
 - \$66 million for enhanced cleaning protocols and other health and safety measures in student transportation;
 - \$86 million for school-focused nurses in public health units and testing;
 - \$384 million in temporary COVID-19 staffing supports;
 - Up to \$450 million in personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical supplies and equipment, e.g. cleaning supplies provided through the

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Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and the pandemic stockpile; and

- Up to \$508 million for school boards to access up to 2 per cent of reserves to support COVID-related expenses.
- It also includes a \$561 million increase to this year's Grants for Student Needs, bringing the 2021-22 total GSN investment to \$25.6 billion.

75. May 6th - Ontario Funding Program To Help Seniors Struggling with COVID-related Cognitive Impairment

- The Ontario government is investing over \$432,000 in [Baycrest](#) to help people struggling with cognitive impairment as a result of COVID-19. The province is making the investment through the Ontario Together Fund.
- This support from the Ontario Together Fund will help Baycrest train **500 therapists** to provide post-acute care and rehabilitation to as many as **5,000 Ontarians** living with COVID-19-based cognitive impairment. The expansion of the program will create **17 new jobs**.
- Key features of the project, which will be announced at a May 27, 2021 workshop for clinicians and researchers, include:
 - Virtual training on a newly developed training platform, plus a live training workshop, to equip therapists with the knowledge and resources required for running GMT through telemedicine.
 - A new website to serve as a central hub for therapists, which includes user outreach membership onboarding, GMT training, resource hosting, access and community engagement.
 - Online patient-focused resources, including interactive complex tasks and activities, as well as a digital GMT workbook. Parallel resources will be available in hard copy, recognizing that comfort with and access to computers may vary.

76. May 10th - Canada and Ontario Invest \$11.2M in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in the City of Ottawa

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **more than \$11.2 million** to improve municipal and community infrastructure in the City of Ottawa.
- Today, the Government of Canada is investing over **\$8.9 million through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream** of the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure* plan. The Government of Ontario is contributing **more than \$2.2 million**.
- The majority of funding will support the rehabilitation of community and municipal buildings across the city, and improve active transportation options.

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- Facilities like the Carling Family Shelter will benefit from improved air ventilation and digital connectivity.
- The Cornerstone Women’s Shelter will undergo building renovations and repairs to the electrical, mechanical and security systems, as well as upgraded flooring. These projects will provide clients with improved air quality, and a more comfortable and safe environment.
- Additional investments will improve sidewalks and multi-use pathways, create new pedestrian crossovers, and add new picnic facilities and wayfinding signage in public areas, facilitating active lifestyles, increased connectivity, and expanded active transportation.

77. May 11th - Ontario Expanding Access to Dental Care and Affordable Prescription Drugs for Vulnerable Seniors

- The Ontario government is updating the income eligibility thresholds for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program and the Seniors Co-Payment Program to allow more of Ontario’s most vulnerable seniors to have access to dental care and affordable prescription medications.
- Starting **August 1st, 2021**, eligibility thresholds for both programs will be updated to reflect cost of living increases in Ontario and align with income support programs for seniors.
 - Income thresholds will be updated for single Ontarians aged 65 and over, from **\$19,300** to **\$22,200**, and for couples with a combined annual income, from **\$32,300** to **\$37,100**.
 - This will allow approximately **7,000** more seniors to access the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program and **17,000** more seniors to access the Seniors Co-Payment Program in 2021-2022.
- By ensuring seniors can access effective dental care and continue to afford the medications they need, the Ontario Seniors Dental Care and Seniors Co-Payment programs help to reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital and improve seniors’ quality of life
- For the Seniors Co-Payment Program, seniors who are eligible under the new income thresholds are encouraged to apply now in advance of the start of the upcoming benefit year on **August 1st, 2021**.

78. May 11th - Ontario Advances Economic Growth and Prosperity for Indigenous Communities

- The Ontario government is supporting the creation of a First Nations Economic Growth and Prosperity Table (Prosperity Table) to help support economic advancement and well-being of Indigenous communities.

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- Over the next two years, the province will partner with the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to establish the Prosperity Table.
- The Table will enable relationships with surrounding economies, industries and business partners and contribute to a greater understanding and cooperation between First Nation leaders and the government.
- The COO will use the Prosperity Table to identify opportunities and initiatives that will support post-pandemic economic recovery and create lasting economic prosperity within Indigenous communities.
- The recommendations from the Prosperity Table will help inform discussions and establish partnerships between First Nation communities and local industry, businesses and municipalities.

79. May 12th - Ontario Acting to Combat Anti-Asian Racism in Schools

- The Ontario government is taking action to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination by **providing \$340,000 to support equity programs and initiatives** with community partners.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a **concerning rise in instances of discrimination** and hate crimes directed towards Canadians of Asian descent.
- Between March 2020 and February 2021, a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, there were **1,150 cases of racist attacks** from across Canada.
- In many instances, these racially motivated **attacks have targeted the vulnerable**, including children and the elderly.
- Support is being provided as part of the Safe Return to Class fund, and Ontario is directing **\$140,000 to Hong Fook Mental Health Association** for mental health supports for Asian students, families and teachers.
- As part of the [Safe Restart](#) agreement, Ontario has partnered with community groups to combat anti-Asian racism, support advocacy for educational issues and concerns related to Asian Canadians in the education system and address pandemic-induced issues and risks for East Asian Ontario families. This includes providing:
 - **\$50,000 to the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice** to develop online resources and tools to help Chinese Canadian households engage their children, from Grades 3 to 5, in discussions about racism.
 - **\$10,000 to the Asian Canadian Educators Network (ACENET)** to develop a series of professional learning and workshops about anti-Asian racism for schools and boards in Ontario.

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- **\$140,000 to Community Family Services of Ontario** to deliver resources and supports relevant to pandemic-induced issues and risks faced by newcomers and East Asian Ontario families.
 - In all, as part of the Safe Return to Class Fund, the Ontario government is directing **\$6.4 million toward equity-related projects**, including funding to community organizations to **address anti-Asian hate, antisemitism, and Islamophobia**; support for newcomer parents and families to enhance access to school and community resources, and culturally appropriate mental health supports for youth, families and teachers.
80. May 13th - Ontario Strengthening Educational Supports for Children and Youth in Care
- The Ontario government is setting children and youth in care up for success by investing an **additional \$1.5 million in the Education Liaison program**.
 - The program helps connect students to supports such as tutoring, academic enrichment, career mentoring and skills development and improves collaboration between children's aid societies and school boards.
 - With this investment, the **total annual funding** for this program has **increased to \$5 million**.
 - The expanded program will now support a full-time Education Liaison in every children's aid society.
 - The Education Liaisons will focus on improving the educational outcomes of children and youth in care by coordinating educational services and building capacity within children's aid societies and school boards. This work includes:
 - Connecting students to educational supports with school boards and community resources, like mental health services and specialized assessments
 - Generating plans to help students at risk of suspension and help students transition between grades and schools and to postsecondary learning
 - Helping increase student enrolments for students who move schools or who attend specialized care, custody and corrections programs
 - Facilitating applications for the Ministry of Education's Transportation and Stability Supports Program funding, that seeks to improve the educational experience and outcomes of students in care by ensuring positive and stable connections to school and learning during times of instability and transition
 - Supporting students, societies and caregivers in responding to educational needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, including shifting to online learning and providing tutoring.

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81. May 14th - Ontario adding 2,000 nurses to the health care system

- The Ontario government is investing **\$35 million** to increase enrollment in nursing education programs in publicly-assisted colleges and universities across the province. The new spaces will be **available for Fall 2021 and Winter 2022** cohorts and will introduce **approximately 1,130 new practical nurses and 870 registered nurses** into the health care system.
- In addition to expanding enrollment to support the increase in nursing supply for all sectors of our health system, including home and community care and acute care, this investment will also support the **expansion of clinical education placements for nursing students and personal support worker students** in the long-term care sector.
 - Clinical education placements will be supported in the following ways:
 - Increasing training for clinical experts who oversee students in long-term care placements; and
 - Providing additional funding to ensure dedicated supervision time from clinical experts to support student learning in long-term care.
- This investment will help long-term care homes ensure quality clinical placements in long-term care at a time when homes are facing severe staffing challenges.
- It will also provide registered nurses already in the long-term-care sector an opportunity to grow their careers by working as clinical experts and supervising new students.

82. May 20th - Ontario Supporting Skills And Safety Training for Electrical Workers

- The Ontario government is **investing \$5.3 million** to support new and enhanced state-of-the-art training to upskill **500 electrical workers**, giving them a competitive edge and boosting homegrown talent.
- This initiative, offered in partnership with electrical contractor Spark Power, will provide free training for those individuals and upgrade their existing online, on-the-job and in-classroom education programming. Spark Power will also create scholarships to encourage youth to pursue rewarding careers in electrical professions.
- Spark Power's free training is expected to **start in August 2021**, and will include electrical maintenance, power generation systems and health and safety regulations for their workers and potential new employees.
- In addition to creating scholarships, Spark Power will **provide paid placements for co-op students and apprentices** to help them start their careers.
- Funding for the project comes from Ontario's **\$115 million Skills Development Fund**.

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83. May 20th - Canada and Ontario invest in new Indigenous Cultural Centre at Algoma University

- The Government of Canada is **investing over \$7.1 million** in this project through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan.
- The Government of Ontario is providing **more than \$5.9 million**, while Algoma University is contributing **over \$4.7 million**.
- The project includes renovations to the University's East Wing building to construct *Mukqua Waakaa'igan*, the Anishinaabemowin name endowed to the new cultural facility.
- The new facility will provide better access to culturally appropriate spaces for the local urban Indigenous population and surrounding rural First Nations communities.
- The cultural facility is intended to serve as a Centre of Excellence, promote Anishinaabe culture, and help to advance the Calls to Action put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

84. May 20th - Canada and Ontario Invest Over \$78,000 for Improvements to a Youth Community Facility in Windsor

- The Government of Canada invested **over \$42,000** in this project through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan.
- The Government of Ontario provided **more than \$35,000**, while STAG contributed to the remainder of project funding, with **over \$28,000**.
- This project involved replacing the roof over the east wing and gymnasium of the STAG community centre.
- The completion of this project means that STAG can create a more comfortable and safe environment to host a wide range of after-school programming, recreational events, homework clubs, peer group meetings, and crisis intervention services for youth and marginalized populations in Windsor-Essex County.

85. May 20th - Ontario Releases Three-Step Roadmap to Safely Reopen the Province

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has released its [Roadmap to Reopen](#), a **three-step plan** to safely and cautiously reopen the province and gradually lift public health measures based on the provincewide vaccination rate and improvements in key public health and health care indicators.

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- Roadmap to Reopen outlines three steps to easing public health measures, guided by the following principles:
 - **Step One** An initial focus on resuming outdoor activities with smaller crowds where the risk of transmission is lower, and permitting retail with restrictions. This includes allowing **outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people, outdoor dining with up to four people** per table and **non-essential retail at 15 per cent** capacity.
 - **Step Two** Further expanding outdoor activities and resuming limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn. This includes **outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people**, outdoor sports and leagues, overnight camps, **personal care services where face coverings can be worn** and with capacity limits, as well as **indoor religious services, rites or ceremony gatherings at 15 per cent** capacity.
 - **Step Three** Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings can't always be worn. This includes **indoor sports and recreational fitness**; indoor dining, museums, art galleries and libraries, and casinos and bingo halls, with capacity limits.
- The province will remain in **each step for at least 21 days** to evaluate any impacts on key public health and health system indicators. If at the end of the 21 days, the following vaccination thresholds have been met, along with positive trends in other key public health and health system indicators, then the province will move to the next step:
 - **Step 1: 60 per cent** of adults **vaccinated** with one dose.
 - **Step 2: 70 per cent** of adults **vaccinated** with one dose and **20 per cent vaccinated with two doses.**
 - **Step 3: 70 to 80 per cent** of adults **vaccinated** with one dose and **25 per cent vaccinated with two doses.**

86. May 21st - Canada and Ontario Invest in New \$53 million Recreational Complex for the Township of King

- The Government of Canada is **investing over \$21.1 million** in this project through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan. The Government of Ontario is providing **over \$17.6 million** while the Township of King is contributing **more than \$14.1 million**.
- The project will see the construction of a **new recreation centre** for the Township of King and will include twin ice pad surfaces, an indoor year-round pool and track,

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gym equipment and multipurpose fitness studio space for yoga, aerobics, and spin classes.

- The recreation centre will also house a multiuse field house with operable doors to surrounding amenities, including baseball and soccer fields.
- This new complex will provide residents in the Township of King and surrounding communities access to modern and reliable recreational infrastructure where they can enjoy sports, maintain healthy lifestyles and take part in recreational programs and services for years to come

87. May 26th - Canada and Ontario Invest in Improvements for the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto

- The Government of Canada is investing **more than \$2.8 million** in this project through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan.
- The Government of Ontario is providing **more than \$2.3 million**, while the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto is contributing **more than \$1.8 million**.
- The project includes increasing the existing service space and expanding accessibility to the Centre's outdoor and indoor program and activity areas.
- Additional work includes expanding and remodeling the open yard into a new outdoor garden and an indoor multipurpose space, upgrading the audio-visual, sound, and lighting systems in the front foyer, remodelling the current library space into a multipurpose resource centre, and improving the 626-seat theatre and multipurpose hall with new audio-visual and lighting systems.
- This new complex will provide the Chinese community in Greater Toronto with a modern, reliable, and more accessible community centre where people can connect and enjoy the cultural and recreational programs they value for years to come.

88. May 27th - Ontario Improving Access to Mental Health and Addiction Services in Sault Ste. Marie

- The Ontario government is supporting the relocation of the Residential Withdrawal Management program from its current location within Sault Area Hospital to a modern, dedicated site that better meets the needs of individuals and families in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding region.
- The relocated Centre will help to address the community's growing need for mental health and addiction supports.
- Once finished, the new location will provide a modern, community-based facility and access to 20 community residential withdrawal management/safe beds, as

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well as key services including close observation, monitoring medical support and education about substance use.

- The province will be providing Sault Area Hospital with **up to \$343,000 per year** in operational funding to support the future site and improve access to addiction treatment services in the community.
- This funding is part of the government's additional \$175 million investment in annualized mental health and addictions funding through the [Roadmap to Wellness](#), the government's action-oriented plan to build a fully connected mental health and addictions system that meets the needs of all Ontarians.

89. May 27th - Ontario Providing Training for Tourism Jobs

- The Ontario government is **investing \$1.25 million** through Destination Northern Ontario to **provide 300 people with free training** to work in Northern Ontario's tourism industry.
- The project will benefit people who have lost their jobs because of COVID-19 and benefit businesses and employers by ensuring they have the resources they need to attract and retain workers.
- Participants in this program will get training for positions like customer service, front desk reception, guest services and housekeeping, as well as training in COVID-19-safe operating protocols, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, and service excellence.
- At least **150 employers**, mostly rural tourism operators, will be involved in hiring new workers to meet the expected demand.
- Employers will be **reimbursed 30 per cent of wages up to \$3,000** per worker hired.
- The program will **start in June** with online, self-directed **training to take place over the next few months**.
- Participants will be placed in positions for the summer months until September throughout Northern Ontario.

90. May 28th - Ontario Supports Innovative Mental Health Projects at Postsecondary Institutions

- The Ontario government is **providing \$2.39 million** to help improve mental health supports and services for postsecondary students. The funding is part of Ontario's [Roadmap to Wellness](#) and will **support eight innovative projects** at select colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes.
- The following projects include initiatives that will address the mental health impacts of COVID-19 and increase the availability of mental health supports for underserved black, Indigenous and Francophone students:

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- **Confederation College is receiving \$263,920** to provide culturally informed mental health supports for Indigenous students that are reflective of the values and cultural practices of the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe people.
- **Western University is receiving \$365,000** to provide supports for black and Indigenous students struggling with mental health and wellbeing challenges, both pre-existing and those exacerbated by COVID-19.
- **Centre Labelle is receiving \$170,040** to increase availability of mental health services for underserved Francophone students with a focus on international and racialized students at Hearst University.
- **Durham College is receiving \$184,000** to provide a series of workshops, volunteer opportunities and information sessions to address social isolation and grief due to COVID-19.
- **University of Ottawa is receiving \$557,200** to support a physical-virtual peer support wellness lounge; a case management model for at-risk students; and a health and well-being literacy campaign aimed at vulnerable populations.
- **St. Lawrence College is receiving \$168,640** to provide mental health supports in on-campus residences, including after-hours and on weekends.
- **Canadore College is receiving \$375,621** to provide virtual and in-person counselling services and ensure mental health supports address the unique needs of their students.
- **Get-A-Head, a private company, is receiving \$300,000** to employ artificial intelligence to support the delivery of virtual mental health services at Humber College, Six Nations Polytechnic and University of Waterloo.

91. June 1 – Ontario Training Students for Medical Technology Careers

- Ontario is investing more than **\$900,000 in free virtual training and work experience for 50 students to begin their careers in science or engineering.** Specifically, the program aims to help underrepresented groups who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including women, persons with disabilities, racialized individuals, and Indigenous peoples.
- Funding will come from the **\$115-million Skills Development Fund.**
- Ontario's first Virtual Clinical Immersion Training Program will **provide students aged 18 to 29 with 22 weeks of remote training and work experience.**
- The training program, produced by Medical Technology Association of Canada (Medtech) will also include hands on simulated medical scenarios, which will allow

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students to observe health care teams and prepare them to work in the medical field and understand medical software and instruments.

- Training will take place from **November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022**, with applications opening **October 1, 2021**.

92. June 1 – Ontario Expanding Mental Health Services for Children and Youth

- The Ontario government is providing **over \$31 million to help improve access to specialized mental health treatment services, reduce waitlists and wait times, and support the mental health and wellbeing of children and youth.**
- **The funding will come from the government’s commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over 10 years** to build a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions system and aims to address the increased demand on mental health services as a result of COVID-19.
- Specific investments will include:
 - **\$20 million** for an across-the-board 5% funding increase for all government funded children and youth mental health agencies that provide core mental health addictions services, as well as select Indigenous and other specialized services;
 - **\$3.5 million** for the Step Up Step Down live-in treatment program for children and youth with complex mental health needs;
 - **\$2.7 million** at four new Youth Wellness Hubs across Ontario for people between 12 and 25;
 - **\$2.1 million** in annualized funding to support a new Virtual Walk-in Counselling Program to provide children, youth, and families across the province with virtual counselling; and
 - **\$1 million** to maintain Child and Youth Tele-Mental Health service levels to continue providing psychiatric consultations through videoconferencing.

93. June 7 – Canada and Ontario Invest Over \$26 Million to Support Regional Community Centres in Partnership with Parry Sound and Huron East

- The Governments of Ontario and Canada have announced joint funding to improve access to regional recreational facilities that will promote an active and healthy lifestyle.
- In the Town of Parry Sound:
 - **The Government of Canada will be investing over \$12.7 million** to construct a new recreation facility. Funding will come from the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan.

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- **The Government of Ontario will be investing over \$10.6 million** and the seven municipalities which make up the area of West Parry sound will be jointly contributing **more than \$8.5 million**.
- In the Municipality of Huron East:
 - **The Government of Canada will be investing over \$1.9 million** for the expansion and renovation of the Brussels, Morris and Grey Community Center. Funding will come from the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan.
 - The existing facility will be updated to align with requirements outlined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.
 - **The Government of Ontario will be investing over \$1.5 million**.
 - **Huron East will be investing more than \$1.2 million**.

94. June 7 – Canada and Ontario Invest \$15M in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Northern Ontario

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **more than \$15 million to protect the health and well-being of residents in 99 municipalities across Northern Ontario**.
- The investment will be used to ensure public infrastructure is safe and reliable.
- **The Government of Canada is investing over \$12 million** through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the *Investing in Canada* plan. **The Government of Ontario is investing more than \$3 million**.
- The majority of funding will support the rehabilitation of water and wastewater infrastructure, repairs to municipal public works buildings and fire halls. Investments will also support upgrades to parks, recreational facilities, and transportation networks of multi-use paths and trails across Northern Ontario.
- In the City of Thunder Bay, multi-use trails will be widened and rehabilitated to make them safer and more enjoyable for residents. New rest areas will also be added.

95. June 9 – Canada and Ontario to Invest in More Than \$115.1 Million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **more than \$115.1 million** to protect the health and well-being of residents in 30 municipalities across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA)
- The Government of Canada is investing **over \$92.1 million** and the Government of Ontario is investing **more than \$23 million**.

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- The majority of funding will support the rehabilitation of active transit infrastructure, the development of modern and accessible recreational options, and upgrades and replacement of equipment in health and emergency facilities in communities across the GTHA.

96. June 10 – Ontario Introduces Streamlined Employment Supports

- The Government of Ontario has developed a new **integrated and seamless employment system** to combine employment programs from social assistance into Employment Ontario.
- This approach will ensure clients have access to services they rely on while helping them succeed in their search for long-term and sustainable employment.
- Jobseekers will be offered services that are tailored to connecting them with jobs in their communities. These services include job searching, job matching, and job coaching support.
- Services will also be available for employers to help them find workers and coordinate training.
- The initiative builds on the success of prototype projects hosted in Peel, Hamilton-Niagara and Muskoka-Kawarths in 2020. **In 2022, it will be available in 9 additional areas.**

97. June 11 – Ontario Helps Build Affordable Housing in Brantford

- The Ontario government is providing **\$1.25 million** to help build **25 affordable housing units for people over the age of 55 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Brantford.**
- These housing units will be located at 177 Colborne Street West as part of a five-story apartment complex situated on a transit corridor.
- The funding comes from the province's Social Services Relief Fund.
- Construction is expected to be completed **by December 2021.**

98. June 12 – Ontario Releases Plan for Safe Return to Sport

- A small number of professional and elite-amateur sport leagues and events **will be able to return to play** under stringent public health and safety protocols in advance of the broader return to play which is part of the Roadmap to Reopen.
- Events hosted by the National Sport Organization (NSO) that is funded by Sport Canada or recognized by the Canadian Olympic Committee or the Canadian Paralympic Committee may also return to play if:
 - The event exclusively includes athletes, coaches, and officials competing to be part of Team Canada at the next Summer or Winter Olympic or Paralympic Games

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- The event is an International Single Sport Event (ISSE) authorized by Sport Canada
- Key elements of the framework to return to sport include: private COVID-19 screening and testing, assigned cohorts with limited or no interaction between cohorts; protocols for practice, training and competition; protocols with accommodation and travel/transportation services; individual control measures when not training or competing, for example physical distancing and the use of face coverings.

99. June 15 – Ontario Helping Youth Explore Careers in the Skilled Trades

- The Ontario government is investing almost **\$4 million through Support Ontario Youth to help up to 2,100 young people access training and networking opportunities** to become future electricians, plumbers, millwrights, automotive service technicians and horticulture technicians.
- From **September 2021 to March 2022**, Support Youth Ontario will run “**Tools in the Trades Boot Camps**” to target three groups of participants:
 - **Grade 12 students** who have an interest in the skilled trades;
 - People who **lost their job during COVID-19**;
 - People **looking to start a new career** in a growing sector or industry with a special focus on **Indigenous youth, racialized groups, women and newcomers**.
- Participants will come from **more than 25 Ontario communities** to gain experience working with tools, writing resumes, and interviewing.
- Each participant will be given a **\$250** basic set of tools to use during training and keep.
- It is expected that **500 employers and industry associations and 300 education and training providers** will be involved.

100. June 15 – Ontario Supporting the Identification and Commemoration of Indian Residential School Burial Sites

- The Ontario government is providing **\$10 million to help support the identification, investigation, protection and commemoration of Indian Residential School burial sites across the province**.
 - Funding will also ensure that culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed mental health supports are available for Indian Residential School survivors, their families and Indigenous communities.
 - Ontario will be working with Indigenous leaders to conduct the above work.
- Identification work will be conducted by technical experts, including archaeologists, forensic specialists and historians. Indigenous communities will have the option to work in conjunction with Ontario specialists.

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101. June 17 – Ontario Helping Indigenous People Start Careers in the Skilled Trades

- The Ontario government is investing **\$3.6 million to help 150 Indigenous people receive training to start careers building and running the new Greenstone Gold Mine in Geraldton.**
- Participants will learn the skills they need to become construction craft workers, heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, crane operators, welder and millwrights.
- Participants will receive financial supports to offset the costs of accommodation, transportation, and child care while they train. Participating employers who offer work placements will be able to receive **up to \$3000.**
- Training will be available to Indigenous job seekers from Animbiigoo Zaagi'ian Anishnaabek, Aroland and Gingoogaming First Nations and the Municipality of Greenstone.

102. June 21 – Ontario Investing in Construction Workers

- The Ontario government is investing **over \$4 million in six projects** to support current and future construction workers across the province.
- These projects, part of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario, will promote the trades, train future workers and ensure that current workers have the right tools and mental health supports.
- The six projects are:
 - **A pre-apprenticeship program for 460 workers** to learn about rodworking typically used in transit and light rail bridge construction. The Ontario Ironworkers District Council will provide two weeks of in-class training and an eight-week placement in **Ottawa, Toronto, Sudbury, Hamilton and Windsor.** Successful participants will be registered and employed as apprentices.
 - **The Tomorrow's Trades project to introduce 96 unerrepresented youth to the skilled trades** in Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Sudbury. This project includes 12 weeks of hands-on training and a 12-week work placement to learn about carpentry, electrical work, pipe trades, sheet metal work and ironwork. Upon completion, participants can enter a union-sponsored apprenticeship.
 - **A new Building and Construction Tradeswomen** project to attract more women to the trades through marketing and free training.
 - **Support for Ironworkers Local 759** in Thunder Bay to purchase equipment necessary for training, testing and certifying **140 apprentices and journeypersons** to avoid travel to upgrade or maintain certifications.

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- The development of a **one-stop online learning system for those interested in the construction trades** to explore and build essential skills for applying to apprenticeships.
 - A **research project** at the De Novo Treatment Centre in Huntsville to study and provide support for **addiction and suicide issues in the construction industry**.
103. June 23 – Ontario Expanding Mental Health and Addictions Support for Children and Youth in Northwestern Ontario

- The Ontario government is providing **more than \$1 million** in additional annual funding targeted at improving access to core and specialized mental health and addictions services for children and youth in Northwestern Ontario.
- Funding will help Northwestern Ontario reduce waitlists and address extensive wait times for services across the region, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supports will be expanded and enhanced, including the improvement of **culturally appropriate** services for Indigenous children and youth.
- Investments include:
 - **\$200,900** in annualized funding for Firefly to support a range of core services including brief services, counselling and therapy and specialized consultation.
 - **\$427,100** for community-based child, youth and family service agencies that provide core mental health and addictions services, including live-in treatment programs, as well as organizations that provide Indigenous core-like services.
 - **\$320,600** for Children’s Centre Thunder Bay to enhance services to support and strengthen parent/child relationships and improve the mental health of children and youth in need.
 - **\$61,600** to increase access to community-led services and expand the psychiatry program for children and youth at Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

104. June 24 – In-Person Summer Learning to Support Student Success and a Strong Start to 2021-22 School Year

- The Government of Ontario has allocated **over \$62 million** in funding for summer learning programming and expand offerings to prepare students with the knowledge and skills for success in the next grade, course, or postsecondary destination.
- School boards will offer **virtual programming in July**, with permission to offer **in-person summer school in August** with strict health and safety measures in place.

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- For the new school year, the Government of Ontario is providing **more than \$1.6 billion to protect against COVID-19.**

105. June 25 – Ontario Supporting Auto Manufacturing Workers

- The Ontario government is investing **\$7 million to deliver training and paid job placements in the automotive sector for up to 800 people** from underrepresented groups.
- The project will be led by the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association (APMA) and will help develop a new talent pipeline to reinvigorate the aging sector population and help marginalized groups train for, access, and retain good jobs.
- This month, APMA will begin working with community agencies and employment service providers to place up to **100 trainees per month** with hundreds of auto parts manufacturers across Ontario.
- Trainees will participate in paid job placement sessions that last **a minimum of three months**. Employers will receive **up to \$8,000 in supports per trainee**.
- Job placements and training will happen concurrently, starting **between June 2021 and March 2022**, with training tailored to each participant and their employer.

106. June 29 – Ontario Helping Immigrants Prepare for Good Jobs

- The Ontario government is **investing \$7.7 million in language and skills training supports to help 2,700 newcomers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to start new jobs.**
- Included in this investment, is **\$250,000 to YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford** to provide free job-focused language training to 80 newcomers interested in, or currently employed in the food manufacturing sector.
- The project will start in **Fall 2021** and will include a mix of in-person and online training where participants will learn sector-specific language skills, workplace health and safety and gain an awareness of Canadian workplace culture to start careers and succeed in the industry.

107. June 29 – Canada and Ontario Invest More Than \$51.2 Million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in Southwestern, Midwestern and Central Ontario

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are **investing more than \$51.2 million to protect the health, and well-being of residents in 129 municipalities across Southwestern, Midwestern and Central Ontario.**
- The Government of Canada will be investing **more than \$40.9 million** and the Government of Ontario will be contributing **over \$10.2 million.**

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- Funding will support the development of modern and accessible recreational spaces, and the replacement of equipment in health and emergency facilities.

108. July 2 – Province Launches Online Renewals for Ontario Photo Card Holders

- The Ontario government is providing the option for card renewals online for those with Ontario Photo Cards. The Ontario Photo Card serves as a substitute for a driver's licence and can be used as government-issued identification.
- Those who cannot or do not wish to renew their card online will still be able to do so at ServiceOntario locations.
- The Ontario Photo Card has also **been extended from five-years to 10-years validity**, allowing for the same photo ID image to be used the first time you renew your card.

109. July 2 – Youth Aged 12-17 Across Ontario Eligible for Accelerated Second Dose

- Ontario is **accelerating second dose eligibility to all children and youth aged 12 to 17**.
- Starting **Monday, July 5, 2021 at 8:00am, youth aged 12 to 17 will be eligible to book an accelerated second dose appointment** through the provincial booking system, local public health units, and pharmacies that are offering the **Pfizer vaccine**.
- Targeted supports to Delta hot spots will continue.

110. July 5 – Ontario Building New and Improved Long-Term Care in North Bay and Across Ontario

- The Ontario government is redeveloping and expanding the Water's Edge Care Community in North Bay. This development will provide 12 new and 148 redeveloped, safe, modern long-term care spaces in North Bay.
- This investment is part of the province's ongoing project to improve the long-term care sector.

111. July 5 – Canada and Ontario Invest Over \$29 Million in 19 Green Infrastructure Projects

- On July 5, 2021 joint funding for **19 green infrastructure projects across Ontario** was announced. The Government of Canada is investing **over \$16 million**, the Government of Ontario is providing **over \$13 million** and involved municipalities are contributing **over \$14 million** to their respective projects.
- Examples of planned projects include:

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- The rehabilitation and upgrade of the Forsythe West Stormwater Management Facility in Uxbridge, in which existing stormwater pond will be modified to increase stormwater management capacity.
- Funding in Larder Lake to support Phase 2 of the Larder Lake Road reconstruction project, including replacing damaged watermains, sections of sanitary sewer, repairing maintenance holes, and completing rehabilitation of degraded infrastructure along the road.
- Upgrades to the Laurentian Hills wastewater treatment facility, including replacement of the sewage, clarifier and aeration equipment, and the relining of the grit channel.
- More information on planned projects can be found [here](#).

112. July 6 – Ontario Helping People with Disabilities Find Jobs

- The Ontario government is investing **over \$380,000 in a free, virtual program led by Career Services Brockville to prepare up to 160 people with disabilities for careers in food and hospitality.**
 - This program will allow participants to develop sector-specific and transferable skills to safely prepare them for work.
- The program will provide **160 people** at local schools, job fairs and employment centres an opportunity to learn more about various careers in the food and hospitality sector. Those who are likely to succeed will then move forward to **5 to 20 hours of guided virtual reality learning** to develop skills such as taking customer orders, food preparation or dealing with clients at point of sale.
 - These training sessions will be provided in person through partner agencies in Kingston, Ottawa, Niagara and Brockville between **September 27, 2021 and March 15, 2022.**
- Applications can be submitted through Career Services Brockville, their local school board, the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), or their local employment service provider.

113. July 6 – Canada and Ontario Invest Over \$35 Million in 35 Recreational and Community Infrastructure Projects

- The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and a number of municipalities have announced joint funding for **35 recreational and community infrastructure projects across Ontario.**
- The Government of Canada is investing **over \$19.1 million** through the Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada plan.
- The Government of Ontario is providing **over \$15.9 million.**
- Recipients will be investing **over \$13 million in their respective projects.**
- Examples of projects include:

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- The Centennial Grounds Sports and Culture revitalization project in the Township of St. Joseph, including the construction of a new screened room for cultural events, washroom and shower facilities, and shade structures to support multiday cultural and sporting events. Funding will also go towards landscaping activities.
- Rehabilitation of the Tillsonburg Community Centre including replacing pool area tile floors, upgrading the pool roof, lighting, health club, and sauna. In addition, the pool change rooms will expand to allow for family and gender-neutral accessibility, the installation of a new ramp entry into the pool, and the construction of a new splashpad.
- The Hornepayne community arena will be transformed into a community centre and hub including upgrades to the existing hockey arena, curling club and youth space. The community centre will be expanded to add a seniors' socialization space, a community kitchen, a public library, fitness facility and a multiuse gym and meeting space.
- More information can be found [here](#).

114. July 9 – Canada and Ontario Invest More Than \$3.8 Million in Municipal Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19 in the City of Ottawa

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing **more than \$3.8 million to improve municipal and community infrastructure and ensure public infrastructure is safe and reliable following the COVID-19 pandemic** in the City of Ottawa.
- The Government of Canada is investing **over \$3.1 million** and the Government of Ontario is **investing over \$779,000**.
- Proposed projects include the expansion of the Beacon Hill North Community Centre to include a new multi-purpose room, a full-sized kitchen, universal washrooms, and new windows.

115. July 9 – Ontario Moving to Step Three of Roadmap to Reopen on July 16

- The province of Ontario is moving into **Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021**.
- To move into Step Three, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 70 to 80 per cent of individuals aged 18 and over with one dose and 25 per cent with two doses for at least two weeks. At the time of the announcement on July 9, 2021, over 77 per cent of the population of Ontario aged 12 and over have received one dose and over 50% have received their second dose.
- Changes brought by Step Three include:
 - Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with **up to 100 people** with limited exceptions;

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- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with **up to 25 people**;
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services with physical distancing;
- Indoor dining permitted with **no limits on the number of patrons per table** with physical distancing and other restrictions;
- Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities to open subject to a **maximum 50 per cent capacity of the indoor space**. Capacity for indoor spectators is **50 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is less**;
 - In outdoor settings, capacity is **75 per cent of the usual seating or 15,000 people, whichever is less**.
- Indoor meeting and event spaces may operate with physical distancing and other restrictions at a capacity of **50 per cent or 1,000 people, whichever is less**;
- Essential and non-essential retail with capacity limited to **the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres**;
- Personal care services, including services requiring the removal of a face covering, with capacity limited to the **number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres**;
- Museums, galleries, historic sites, aquariums, zoos, landmarks, botanical gardens, science centres, casino/bino halls, amusement parks, fairs and rural exhibitions, festivals, with capacity **limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity indoors and 75 per cent capacity outdoors**;
- Concert venues, cinemas, and theatres permitted to operate at:
 - **Up to 50 per cent capacity indoors or a maximum limit of 1,000 people** for seated events, whichever is less
 - **Up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum limit of 5,000 people** for unseated events and up to **75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum of 15,000 people** for events with fixed seating
- Real estate open houses with capacity **limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres**;
- Indoor food or drink establishments where dance facilities are provided, including nightclubs and restobars, permitted up to **35 per cent capacity or up to maximum limit of 250 people, whichever is less**.
- Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements **remain in place, in alignment with advice provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada**.
- Ontario will remain in Step Three for at least **21 days and until 80 per cent of the eligible population aged 12 and over has received one dose of a COVID-19**

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vaccine, with every public health unit having fully vaccinated at least 70 per cent of their eligible population.

116. July 13 – Canada and Ontario Invest Over \$6.6 Million in Six Recreation Infrastructure Projects in the Province’s Northwest Region

- The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario will be providing joint funding for six recreational and community infrastructure projects across Northwestern Ontario.
- The Government of Canada is investing over **\$3.6 million**, the Government of Ontario is investing over **\$3 million** and recipients are investing over **\$2.4 million** in their respective projects. Examples of projects include:
 - Upgrades to Prince Arthur’s Landing Festival Area along the waterfront in the City of Thunder Bay; and
 - The rehabilitation of the Red Rock Recreation Centre in Red Rock.

117. July 14 – Ontario Updates Testing Requirements at Long-Term Care Homes

- As of **July 16, 2021**, fully immunized and asymptomatic staff, caregivers and visitors to long-term care homes will no longer be required to be tested prior to entering. This change coincides with the introduction of Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen.
- Other changes to long-term care as part of Step Three include:
 - Removing limits on the number of visitors to homes;
 - Permitting buffet and family style dining;
 - Providing all residents the ability to go on absences;
 - Resumption of off-site excursions for residents; and
 - Resumption of activities such as singing and dancing.

118. July 15 – Ontario Easing Restrictions in Congregate Care Settings

- As part of Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen, COVID-19 restrictions on congregate care settings will be eased. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services congregate care guidance document and website have been updated with the following changes:
 - Scheduled indoor and outdoor visits for non-essential visitors will be permitted so long as they align with social gathering limits outlined in the Roadmap to Reopen.
 - All residents will be permitted to have overnight absences. Fully immunized residents will no longer be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test.

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- Individuals wishing to visit a resident of a congregate care setting are advised to contact the residence to schedule a time slot and confirm COVID-related requirements.

119. July 20 – Ontario Helping 100,000 Workers Train for In-Demand Jobs

- The Ontario government is investing **\$5.8 million in free online training to help 100,000 workers gain skills they need to find good jobs and restart their careers.**
- The over 17,000 courses will focus on building skills which are most in-demand by employers in fields such as information technology, finance and business administration.
- Employment service organizations will have access to local labour market data to ensure workers are building skills reflected in job postings. These organizations will also be able to use the platform's employer outreach tools to build relationships with local employers to connect workers and job placements quickly.

120. July 20 – Ontario Helps Train More Personal Support Workers in Windsor

- The Ontario government is providing financial support for **65 Westervelt College students** who are training for careers as personal support workers. An additional 40 students are expected to enrol by the end of July.
- Eligible students may receive up to **\$13,467.50** to cover the costs of tuition, books, and other mandatory fees. The funding may also cover a stipend for clinical placement.
- Students must begin their training in a PSW program at a participating private career college between May 1 and July 31 and apply through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to receive financial assistance.

121. July 22 – Ontario Boosting Funding to Long-Term Care Resident and Family Councils

- The Ontario government is increasing funding to the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils (OARC) and Family Councils Ontario (FCO) by nearly **53 per cent, or \$481,238, this year.**
- A total funding **\$1,393,621** will help OARC and FCO increase staffing and maintain critical education and support services to Resident and Family Councils across the province.

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122. July 23 – Canada and Ontario providing Additional Funding to Support Essential Air Access to Remote First Nation Communities in Ontario

- The Government of Canada is investing over **\$5.1 million** and the Government of Ontario is investing over **\$14.5 million** to support remote airports serving First Nation communities.
- The funding will allow communities to maintain essential air services and operate airports.

123. July 26 – Ontario Helping Underprivileged Youth Start Careers in Construction

- The Government of Ontario is investing over **\$600,000 to help 390 young people from underrepresented backgrounds train for and secure apprenticeships in the construction sector**. Funding will open doors to careers in plumbing, steam fitting, electrical, elevator mechanics, and refrigeration trades.
- Training will be provided through three Hammer Heads pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs:
 - **\$350,569** for a free pre-apprenticeship program to enable 18 youths to participate in a 10-week program to prepare them for careers in construction. The program will cover health and safety training, help participants with academic upgrading and provides soft skills job preparation. The program will operate in two cohorts of nine. The first cohort began **June 21, 2021** and the second cohort will begin on **January 17, 2022**.
 - **\$218,200** for the Pinball Clemons Foundation to mentor 300 graduates of the Hammer Heads pre-apprenticeship program in years two through six of their apprenticeships.
 - **\$34,314** for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 353 to create and deliver the Hammer Heads Virtual Reality Safety Training project to 72 participants.

124. July 26 – Ontario Expanding Access to High-Speed Internet Across the Province

- Ontario is announcing an investment of up to **\$14.7 million for 13 new projects under the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program**. These projects will bring reliable, high-speed internet to 42 communities across the province.

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- The ICON investment will expand high-speed internet to more areas, including Belleville, Bancroft, Muskoka Lakes, Puslinch, Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls and Moose Cree First Nation.
125. July 29 – Ontario Investing in New Resources for Construction Sector
- The Government of Ontario is investing over **\$3 million to create a virtual training hub that will help construction supervisors learn necessary skills to train and mentor their team.** The investment will also go toward the creation of an online job bank to help up to **200 laid-off and unemployed workers find work in construction.**
 - The investment will support Merit Ontario in developing the training and resource hub to help 25 small, medium and large construction companies bring their training programs online.
126. July 30 – Ontario Supporting Four Community-Based Infrastructure Projects with Over \$4.9 Million in Loans
- The Infrastructure Ontario Loan program has entered into new commitments to provide financing to four eligible communities:
 - **\$559,350** to the Township of South Stormont for a pumper truck
 - **\$172,000** to the Township of McKellar for a pumper truck
 - **\$3,249,181** to the Township of Nairn and Hyman for road reconstruction
 - **\$985,000** to the Town of The Blue Mountains for a landfill and mining expansion
127. August 3 – COVID-19: Health and Safety Measures at Schools
- The Government of Ontario has announced that all public and private schools will return to full-time in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. Remote learning will continue to be an option.
 - As part of the health and safety measures to ensure a safe return to classrooms, schools will have:
 - Signs to reinforce self-screening for symptoms of illness, hand hygiene, physical distancing and one-way foot traffic in hallways and bathrooms.
 - Hand sanitizer at key locations throughout the school.
 - Rules about how people enter and exit the school.
 - Currently, the plan for elementary schools is as follows:
 - Students will attend school in-person five days per week.
 - Students will be in cohorts, spending their days with the same group of children and one teacher.
 - Physical education and French classes will continue in cohorts.
 - Currently, the plan for secondary schools is as follows:

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- Students will attend school in-person five days per week.
- Student schedules will have only two in-person classes.
 - Exceptions may be made on this rule in instances where student contact can be limited by cohorting grades or overall size of the school is small.
- Regarding mask wearing:
 - Students in grades 1 to 12 must wear non-medical or cloth masks in classrooms, hallways and on school vehicles.
 - Students in kindergarten are encouraged to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoor in school and on school vehicles, however it is not mandatory.
 - Staff must wear masks and eye protection is also encouraged. Those in regular close contact with students will be provided with PPE.
- Regarding academic and extra-curricular activities:
 - Health and physical education classes may continue at all levels, with high-contact activities being permitted outdoors only.
 - Students may socialize with other cohorts outdoors. Indoor socializing is approved with physical distancing.
 - Music programs are permitted indoors, with singing and wind instrument activities taking place indoors with adequate ventilation and with physical distancing.
 - Students may eat lunch together with physical distance between students from different cohorts when indoors.
- Assemblies may resume aligning with public health measures.
- Materials may be shared during recess and within shared spaces and indoors so long as appropriate distancing and hygiene measures are applied.
- Visitors may enter schools wearing medical masks and must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry.
- Enhanced cleaning practices will continue.
- For ongoing summer school programs:
 - As of **August 3, 2021**, in-person learning may be offered.
 - If a student or staff members becomes ill at school, they will be immediately separated from others and supplied with a medical mask. The individual will not be permitted to take school or public transportation. If the individual is a student, parents or guardians will be contacted for transportation home to be organized.
 - If an ill individual receives a **negative** COVID-19 test, they will be permitted to return to school when they have been free of fever for over 24 hours and other symptoms are improving. A doctor's note or proof of negative result are **not required**.

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- A positive test will result in isolation for **10 days** and no return to school until the local public health unit advises that it is safe. In this instance, the local public health unit will also determine next steps for a summer school which experiences a positive test result, including assessment of risk of exposure.
- School boards and schools will post notices on their websites in the case of a positive COVID-19 test.

128. August 4 – Ontario Opening Temporary Road Test Centres

- Beginning **Monday, August 9 2021, the Ontario government will begin opening temporary road test centres to increase the number of G2 and G licence road tests available.**
- The expansion will begin with one centre in Guelph and one in Oshawa, with four more scheduled to open in September across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
 - The two temporary centres will exclusively offer G2 and G road tests from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Oshawa site will operate seven days a week and the Guelph site will operate five days a week in August, expanding to seven days a week in November 2021.

129. August 4 – Ontario Further Improving School Ventilation

- An additional **\$25 million** has been pledged by the Government of Ontario to further improve ventilation in schools as students return for in-person learning this fall.
- The investment will ensure that all occupied classrooms, gyms, libraries and other instructional spaces without mechanical ventilation have standalone high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter units.

130. August 6 – Canada and Ontario Invest More Than \$2.1 Million in Active Transportation Infrastructure to Respond to the Impacts of COVID-19

- The Governments of Canada and Ontario are investing more than **\$2.1 million to improve access to active transportation options.** This includes trails, pathways, bike paths, and sidewalks across the province.
- The Government of Canada is investing **over \$1.7 million** and the Government of Ontario is investing **over \$427,000.**
- The majority of funding will go towards the rehabilitation of active transportation infrastructure to improve the quality and amount of active transportation options for residents and visitors, including those with limited mobility.

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131. August 9 – Ontario Training Young People for Careers in Creative Industries

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$1 million to expand on-the-job training for 350 young people in creative industries**. The project will be led by Stratagem Group, Magnet, and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and will be delivered by the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and Ontario colleges.
- The training will focus on youth over 16 with disabilities, those who are newcomers to Ontario and Indigenous or Black individuals.
- At the end of training, participants will be better prepared for careers in creative industries.

132. August 10 – Ontario Expanding Support for Children and Youth with Special Needs

- The Government of Ontario is investing **\$240 million over four years to increase access to critical rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs**.
- **\$160 million** in new funding will be provided to Children’s Treatment Centres and Preschool Speech and Language programs annually to enable more children to have access to critical services. The funding will begin this year.
- The investment will build additional service capacity and reduce wait times in the children’s services sector, which will allow providers to serve up to **10,000 more preschool-aged children** and up to **47,000 more children and youth**. It will also support access to services in northern, remote and rural communities.

133. August 12 – Governments Supporting Mental Health for Farming and Rural Communities

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing over **\$430,000** to support and promote mental health in Ontario’s farming and rural communities. The projects will also provide more data on farmer and rural mental health in Ontario to ensure supports meet community needs. The funding will go towards three initiatives:
 - Survey on farmer mental health and agricultural literacy of mental health professionals, which will help the province to better understand the current state of farmer mental health in Ontario. The results will help mental health professionals develop an agriculture literacy program and information for a mental health care audience.
 - Community and workplace supports for the mental health of international agricultural workers in Ontario to examine existing mental health services

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and supports for international agricultural workers employed in the province and to recommend strategies to improve mental health and well-being services.

- Survey on mental health impacts of disruptive events in rural Ontario to collect data on challenges and experiences faced by vulnerable populations and to highlight successful initiatives in rural communities to make recommendations on ways to support the development of appropriate response plans for COVID-19 and future disruptive events.

134. August 16 – Ontario Providing More Support to Communities During COVID-19

- The Ontario government is providing **\$307 million to help municipalities and Indigenous community partners** deliver critical services, create longer-term housing solutions and keep people safe.
- Funding can be used to protect homeless shelter staff and residents, add to rent banks, build affordable housing and support plans to prepare for potential future outbreaks and/or emergencies.

135. August 16 – Ontario Working with Public Health Units to Run COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Schools

- The Government of Ontario is working with public health units and publicly funded school boards to plan and host COVID-19 vaccination clinics in or nearby schools.
- Clinics are expected to run before school starts and during the first few weeks of schools. Vaccines will only be provided if informed consent is given by the individual and they have the capability to make the decision. Eligible students may also receive receive the vaccine at these clinics.

136. August 17 – Ontario Makes COVID-19 Vaccination Policies Mandatory for High-Risk Settings

- The Government of Ontario is taking action to develop COVID-19 vaccination policies for high-risk settings.
- In settings where risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 and the Delta variant is increased, the Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a directive to mandate hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for all employees and other individuals receiving a salary from the organization.
- The vaccination policy must come into effect on or before **September 7, 2021**, and will at minimum require one of the following:
 - Full vaccination against COVID-19;

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- A medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19;
- Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session.
- Individuals who do not provide proof of vaccination will be required to undertake regular antigen testing.
- Settings where policy is applicable will be required to track and report on the implementation of their policies to the provincial government.
- Vaccination policies will also be implemented in other higher-risk settings, including:
 - Post-secondary institutions;
 - Licensed retirement homes;
 - Womens shelters; and
 - Congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children’s treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children’s residential settings.

137. August 24 – Ontario Deploying Last Mile Strategy to Further Increase Vaccination Rates

- Ontario is continuing its last mile strategy to continue to reach eligible individuals who have not yet received a first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- To support the strategy, **the province and public health units are focusing on smaller, community-based and easy-to-access settings for vaccinations.** These measures include mobile clinics and community-based pop-ups, dedicated clinic days for families with people with disabilities, and townhall meetings in multiple languages.
- The province is working with public health units to target areas with low vaccination rates, as identified by postal codes, to support localized vaccination strategies and targeted marketing by the province in these areas.
- The provincial call centre is calling Ontarians to remind them to rebook their accelerated second dose appointments.
- Public health units are partnering with elementary and secondary school boards, colleges and universities to make vaccines readily available for all students returning to school, including youth **born in 2009 who will turn 12 this year.**

138. August 30 – Ontario Opening More Temporary Road Test Centres

- The Government of Ontario will be opening additional **temporary road test centres in Burlington, Markham and East Gwillimbury** to increase the number of G2 and G passenger road tests available in areas with high demand.
- On **September 7, 2021** DriveTest will begin to offer G2 and G testing **seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at temporary locations at **Burlington GO Station and Mount Joy GO Station in Markham.**

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- On **September 20, 2021** DriveTest will open a temporary road test centre at **East Gwillimbury GO Station, seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
- Four additional road test centres in Mississauga, Southwestern Ontario, Niagara Region and Ottawa area are expected to open in the coming weeks.

139. September 1 – Ontario to Require Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings

- Beginning **September 22, 2021**, certain businesses and settings will require **proof of full vaccination**. Proof of vaccination must be shown **alongside a piece of photo identification**.
- These settings include:
 - Restaurants and bars, excluding outdoor patios, delivery and takeout;
 - Nightclubs, including outdoor areas;
 - Meeting and event spaces, for example banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
 - Sport and fitness facilities, for example gyms, fitness and recreational facilities (excluding youth recreation sport);
 - Sporting events;
 - Casinos, bingo halls and gambling establishments;
 - Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
 - Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
 - Racing venues, for example horse racing.
- Requirements will not apply to outdoor settings unless otherwise indicated, medical care centres, grocery stores, etc.
- Children under 11 years of age are exempt.
- Those with medical exemptions must provide a doctor's note in lieu of proof of vaccination.
- Between September 22, 2021 and October 12, 2021 those attending wedding or funeral receptions at meeting and event spaces will be permitted to provide a negative rapid test from no more than 48 hours before the event. **Rapid tests must be privately purchased.**

140. September 1 – Ontario Reinstating Renewal Requirements for Driver's Licences, Licence Plate Stickers and Health Cards

- The Government of Ontario is **reinstating renewal requirements** for driver's licences, licence plate stickers, Ontario Photo Cards, Ontario health cards, and other products that would have expired on or after March 1, 2020, but were extended to provide immediate relief to Ontarians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- Ontario has **extended the renewal for most products until February 28, 2022** to allow for individuals to renew them, except for:
 - Heavy commercial vehicle owners will need to renew their validations by **December 31, 2021**.
 - Novice licence holders (G1, G2, M1, or M2) will have until **December 31, 2022** to requalify or upgrade their licence.

141. September 17, 2021 – Ontario Announces Eight New Ontario Health Teams

- As part of its plan to end hallway health care and build an integrated health care system centred on the needs of patients, the Ontario government in partnership with Ontario Health is announcing eight new Ontario Health Teams located across the province.
- The province will provide **up to \$9 million** in funding over the **2021-2022 and 2022-2023 fiscal years** to support these teams in their efforts to seamlessly coordinate health care services for patients and ensure the province’s health care system can respond to any scenario as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.
- The eight new Ontario Health Teams are:
 - Hastings Prince Edward OHT in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties;
 - Upper Canada, Cornwall and Area OHT in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, City of Cornwall, Akwesasne, parts of Russell Township and rural Southeast Ottawa;
 - Four Rivers OHT in North Grenville, West Ottawa, Northern Lanark County, and Arnprior, McNab and Braeside;
 - Network 24 OHT in the majority of Renfrew County and the Township of South Algonquin in Nipissing District;
 - Grey-Bruce OHT in Grey and Bruce Counties;
 - Barrie and Area OHT in Barrie and surrounding areas;
 - Elgin OHT in Elgin County; and
 - North Simcoe OHT in Midland, Penetanguishene, Tiny and Tay Townships, and Christian Island.
- To support the eight new teams, the government is providing each team with **up to \$1.1 million** in one-time funding over the **2021-2022 and 2022-2023 fiscal years**

142. September 23, 2021 – Ontario Investing in Health Care Infrastructure Upgrades and Repairs

- The Ontario government is **investing \$182.6 million** this year to support critical upgrades, repairs and maintenance in **133 hospitals and 63 community health**

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service providers across the province, including **\$50 million for COVID-19** related and other urgent projects at hospitals.

- The government is providing **\$175 million** to hospitals through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund and **\$7.6 million** to community health service providers through the Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund.

143. September 27th, 2021 - Ontario Adding New Resources To Protect Workers

- **More than 100** new health and safety inspectors are graduating today and will be visiting workplaces in construction, industrial and health care settings. With the support of provincial offences officers, the inspectors will be deployed to **help educate workers and businesses about the newly-launched vaccine certificate.**
- The addition of these graduates means Ontario **now has a total of 507 labour inspectors, the largest ever number in provincial history.** Over the coming weeks, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development inspectors and other provincial offences officers will continue conducting inspection and education campaigns to ensure businesses are following COVID-19 safety requirements.

144. October 1st, 2021 - Ontario Taking Additional Steps to Protect Long-Term Care Home Residents

- Ontario is making **COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for all in-home staff, support workers, students, and volunteers by November 15, 2021**, unless a staff member has a valid medical exemption, as well as expanded inspections of homes and redirecting provincial resources to enhance and audit existing testing in homes.
- Vaccination rates of staff in many homes are not high enough in the face of the risk posed by the Delta variant, and this is putting vulnerable residents at risk.
- To ensure the health and safety of staff and residents, mandating vaccination for in-home staff has now become essential, and homes are now required to meet the following requirements:
 - Staff, support workers, students, and volunteers will have until **November 15, 2021** to show proof that they have received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, or to show proof of a valid medical exemption.
 - Staff who do not have all required doses or a valid medical exemption by the deadline **will not be able to enter a long-term care home to work.**

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- **Newly hired staff will be required to be fully vaccinated** before they begin working in a home unless they have a valid medical exemption.
 - Homes will begin **randomly testing fully vaccinated individuals**, including staff, caregivers and visitors, to help detect possible breakthrough cases of COVID-19 as early as possible.
145. October 5th, 2021 - Targeted COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening to Keep Students Safe
- Ontario is **improving access to local targeted COVID-19 rapid antigen screening** by making it available for students through participating public health units where risk of transmission is high.
 - The program will support access to **voluntary, rapid asymptomatic screening for unvaccinated children and students**. This will help identify and **prevent transmission in schools and licensed child care settings**, as identified by local medical officers of health based on local epidemiological circumstances.
 - The Ministry of Education will continue to work with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health units to assess key indicators, such as vaccination rates and community transmission, to inform and update provincial guidance for schools and child care as needed
146. October 18th, 2021 - GO-VAXX Mobile Vaccine Clinics Achieve Major Milestone
- Ontario's GO-VAXX mobile vaccine clinics have proven to be a highly effective component of the province's [last mile strategy](#) to get COVID-19 vaccines to Ontarians.
 - Since they first hit the road in mid-August, the GO-VAXX clinics have **now administered more than 10,000 first and second doses** through smaller, community-based and easy-to-access settings across Southern Ontario and beyond.
 - [The original two GO-VAXX buses](#) were joined by a third bus in early September due to demand.
 - The GO-VAXX mobile vaccine clinics, which are fully accessible and heated will continue to operate in the months ahead. [The schedule](#) is updated weekly and no appointment is necessary. Both first and second doses of the Pfizer vaccine are available.

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147. October 28, 2021 – Ontario Extending Temporary Wage Enhancement for Personal Support Workers

- The Ontario government is investing **an additional \$373 million** to extend the temporary wage enhancement for personal support workers and direct support workers.
- This increase will continue until **March 31, 2022** and will help attract and retain workers in these critical sectors to protect Ontario’s progress while continuing to take a cautious and careful approach to reopening.
- The government is extending the wage enhancement for **over 158,000 personal support workers and direct support workers** who deliver publicly funded personal support services or direct support services in home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services. This temporary wage enhancement includes:
 - **\$3 per hour for approximately 38,000 eligible workers** in home and community care;
 - **\$3 per hour for approximately 50,000 eligible workers** in long-term care;
 - **\$2 per hour for approximately 10,000 eligible workers** in public hospitals; and
 - **\$3 per hour for approximately 60,000 eligible workers** in children, community and social services providing personal direct support services to those who need assistance with the activities of daily living.

148. October 28, 2021 – Government Takes Further Action to Protect Schools

- To support safer schools and reduce barriers to testing for all school-aged children, Ontario announced increased access to low-barrier testing options to support in-person student attendance at school and reduce disruptions to families.
- With the support of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, the government announced new measures, to build upon this work and to ensure schools remain open and safe, including:
 - offering **take-home polymerase chain reaction (PCR) self-collection kits** to all publicly funded schools across the province, with a phased rollout starting in mid-November.
 - the launch of a new **“test-to-stay” approach for asymptomatic, unvaccinated students** using the deployment of rapid antigen screening tests at the direction of public health units to support in-person learning and avoid whole school dismissals.

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- elevating the requirement for unvaccinated staff to undergo rapid antigen screening from two to three times per week.
- In addition, the newly introduced “test-to-stay” approach, intended to support continued in-person school attendance in schools with multiple cases of COVID-19, involves frequent rapid antigen screening over a 10- day period for asymptomatic, unvaccinated students in a school that might otherwise require whole school dismissal.

149. October 29, 2021 – Ontario Building New and Improved Long-Term Care in the Ottawa area

- The Ontario government is **redeveloping and upgrading Extencicare Stittsville**, a long-term care home in the Ottawa area, as part of the province’s transformative vision to fix the long-term care sector and protect Ontario’s progress against COVID-19 by building the beds we need to provide safe, quality care to residents.
- This project is a direct result of the Ontario government’s historic **\$2.68 billion investment** in long-term care development to deliver **30,000 new beds over ten years** and redevelop existing, older homes, to increase access to long-term care, reduce waitlists, and ease hospital capacity pressures.
- Today’s ground-breaking marks the start of construction of a brand new building for Extencicare Stittsville. This home will provide **256 upgraded, modern long-term care beds** in the Ottawa area and is expected to **welcome residents in Fall 2023**.
- As part of this plan, the province is also providing **up to \$270 million this year** to long-term care homes to **increase staffing levels by 4,050 new long-term care staff** across the province, leading to more direct care for residents.
- This is part of the province’s **\$4.9 billion commitment** to hire **more than 27,000 long-term care staff over four years** and ensure that residents receive on average four hours of direct care per day by **2024-25**.

150. November 3, 2021 – Ontario Expanding Booster Eligibility to More Ontarians

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is **expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine** to additional groups of high-risk individuals **starting November 6, 2021**, providing them with an extra layer of protection against the Delta variant.
- Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization’s (NACI) recent recommendation, the province will begin offering booster doses of the

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COVID-19 vaccine to the following vulnerable populations **if at least six months have passed since their last dose:**

- Individuals aged **70 and over** (born in 1951 or earlier);
 - Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
 - Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
 - First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.
- Starting on **Saturday, November 6 at 8:00 a.m.**, eligible individuals will be able to book their booster dose appointment through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, directly through public health units that use their own booking systems, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [select pharmacies](#), and primary care settings.
 - Hospital-based health care workers are encouraged to reach out to their hospital employer to get vaccinated directly through their hospital's vaccination program.

151. November 9, 2021 – Ontario Expanding Mental Health and Addictions Supports for Frontline Health Care Workers

- As part of the [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#), the Ontario government is investing **\$12.4 million over two years** to provide existing and expanded mental health and addictions supports for all frontline health care workers across the province.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on frontline health care workers' mental health. This funding will provide continued rapid access to the following expanded or new treatment options and supports specifically for this workforce:
 - **\$5.9 million for a suite of mental health and addictions services** for frontline health care workers through a number of hospitals, including self-referral and intake services, weekly online peer discussion groups, and access to confidential support from a clinician.
 - **\$1.9 million for increased access to clinical psychologists** specializing in trauma, mood, and anxiety disorders and other psychological conditions through the COVID-19 Psychological Support program.

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- **\$4.6 million for workplace mental health training** to provide frontline health care workers and workplaces with the tools to foster mental wellness, including training for management and leadership, frontline health care workers and non-clinical staff.
152. November 18, 2021 – Ontario Supporting Women in Post-COVID Economy
- The Ontario government is providing an **additional \$500,000** in the Investing in Women’s Futures Program, bringing the **total funding to \$2.7 million** this year.
 - The additional funding will help improve the delivery of online services to increase access for women who are not able to attend in-person due to dependent care responsibilities, mobility and/or living in a rural or remote community and provide greater access to counselling and other wrap-around supports to bolster their physical and mental health and safety.
153. November 22, 2021 - COVID-19 Vaccine Bookings to Open For All Children Aged Five to 11
- Following Health Canada’s approval of the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, **children aged five to 11 will be eligible to book** their appointment to receive the vaccine **beginning Tuesday, November 23, 2021**.
 - As of **8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021**, children aged five to 11 across Ontario will be eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment through a variety of channels including the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#) and contact centre, directly through public health units using their own booking system, participating pharmacies which individuals can find on Ontario’s website using the [pharmacy locator](#), and select primary care providers.
 - To book an appointment online, **children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021 (born in 2016)**.
 - In addition, the province, in conjunction with Health Canada’s First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, has launched Operation Remote Immunity 3.0 (ORI 3.0) to support the administration of COVID-19 vaccines for children aged five to 11 in Northern and Remote First Nation communities, as well as booster doses to eligible populations. **ORI 3.0 will run until March 2022**.
154. December 1, 2021 - Ontario Investing Billions to Modernize and Expand Trillium Health Hospitals
- The Ontario government is making the largest single hospital infrastructure investment in Ontario history by making a multi-billion-dollar investment to

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build a new, state-of-the-art Mississauga Hospital and expanding Queensway Health Centre, both of which are part of Trillium Health Partners.

- The Ontario government's investment will **add over 600 more hospital beds** and expand services to improve access to care and reduce wait times for patients in Peel Region, Etobicoke and surrounding communities.
- The new, fully redeveloped Mississauga Hospital is anticipated to include one of the largest emergency departments in Ontario, **increase the number of operating rooms and add over 350 additional new beds.**
- The redevelopment plans also include a new inpatient care tower at the Queensway Health Centre to centralize complex continuing care and rehabilitation services for patients, while also **adding over 150 new beds.**

155. December 2, 2021 - Ontario Accelerating Booster Eligibility to Adults Aged 50+

- Starting on **Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**, individuals aged 50 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [select pharmacies](#) and primary care settings. Appointments will be booked for **approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose.**
- In addition, due to a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, effective immediately **individuals receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been 56 days since their second dose.** Also effective immediately, the province is recommending **re-vaccination with a new COVID-19 vaccine primary series post-transplantation for individuals who receive hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT), hematopoietic cell transplants (HCT) (autologous or allogeneic), and recipients of CAR-T-cell therapy,** due to the loss of immunity following therapy or transplant.
- A limited supply of the single dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine will also be available starting today. **The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available to individuals aged 18 and over who have an allergy or contraindication to mRNA vaccines** or at the request of an individual who has not yet been vaccinated by contacting their public health unit.
- In addition to vaccines, **clinical trials for molnupiravir, an investigational oral therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 began on October 19, 2020** and is currently in progress at the University Health Network in Toronto and Juravinski Hospital in Hamilton. If approved, molnupiravir will be a five-day oral treatment for high-risk unvaccinated patients with mild to moderate COVID-19

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and could be the first such treatment that can be taken outside of a health care facility.

156. December 7th, 2021 - Ontario Extending Pause on Lifting Capacity Limits in Remaining Settings Where Proof of Vaccination is Required

- The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is extending its [pause](#) on the [lifting of capacity limits](#) in remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required. These settings include:
 - **food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as night clubs and wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing;**
 - **strip clubs; and**
 - **sex clubs and bathhouses.**
- The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table rightly points out that the current public health measures are effective against COVID-19 and variants, including Omicron, and that the COVID-19 vaccine remains highly effective against severe illness or hospitalization against the virus.
- In addition, every eligible Ontarian is strongly recommended to get vaccinated or receive their booster if they are eligible as soon as possible.

157. December 7th, 2021 - Ontario Extending COVID-19 Paid Sick Days

- The Ontario government is extending its Worker Income Protection Benefit program, which provides paid sick days, until **July 31, 2022**
- In addition, the province is taking action to protect jobs and businesses by extending temporary changes to the Employment Standards Act that [prevent temporary layoffs of non-unionized employees from becoming unwanted terminations](#), which can trigger payments and force businesses to close. This measure will now be extended until **July 30, 2022**.

158. December 10th, 2021 - Ontario Taking Action to Protect Against Omicron Variant

- In line with Ontario’s cautious approach throughout the pandemic and in light of evolving global evidence around the Omicron variant, the province is adjusting its COVID-19 response that will strengthen the province’s proof of vaccination requirements and enhance public health measures. This includes the [following measures](#):

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- Delaying the [lifting of proof of vaccination requirements](#) beyond **January 17, 2022**, aligned with the reopening plan that stipulated that doing so was contingent on the absence of concerning trends.
- **Effective January 4, 2022**, requiring the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app in settings where proof of vaccination is required. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. Individuals can download their enhanced certificate with QR code by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.
- Strengthening the verification process for medical exemptions and clinical trial exemptions by requiring a certificate with a QR code. Organizations and businesses that are under the provincial proof-of-vaccination system will be advised to no longer accept physician notes as of **January 10, 2022**.
- Effective **December 20, 2021**, requiring proof of vaccination for **youth aged 12 to 17** years participating in organized sports at recreational facilities.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontarians are strongly advised to limit their social gatherings and the number of gatherings they attend over the holiday season. Additional precautions should be taken if all individuals are not fully vaccinated or where vaccination status is unknown. Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

159. December 15th, 2021 - All Ontarians 18+ Eligible for COVID-19 Booster Appointments at Three-Month Interval

- Starting **Monday, December 20, 2021**, individuals aged **18 and over** will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointment through the [Ontario's booking portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, [participating pharmacies](#) and primary care settings.
 - Appointments will be booked **three months (84 days) after a second dose** as the province urgently expands booster eligibility to millions more individuals. Additionally, pharmacies and other channels may provide boosters for 18 and over at the three-month interval starting **Friday, December 17, 2021** for walk-ins.
- In addition, **starting today, individuals aged 50 and over** as well as all those currently eligible who have already booked their appointment at an interval of six months (168 days) can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre to re-

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book for an earlier date at the three-month interval and can change their appointment through [Ontario's booking portal](#) starting on Monday.

- To further strengthen its [response](#) to Omicron, effective **December 18, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.** Ontario intends to introduce **a 50 per cent capacity limit** to the following **indoor areas of venues with a usual capacity of 1,000 or more**: facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities; entertainment facilities such as concert venues, theatres and cinemas; racing venues; meeting and event spaces; studio audiences in commercial film and television production; museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and fair, rural exhibitions, and festivals.

160. December 16th, 2021 - Ontario Launching Holiday Pop-Up Testing Blitz

- Throughout December to mid-January, **two million rapid tests will be provided free of charge at pop-up testing sites in high-traffic settings** such as malls, retail settings, holiday markets, public libraries and transit hubs, as well as providing vaccine education. Pop-up teams will be deployed at locations across the province, some co-located with GO-VAXX mobile vaccine buses. Most sites will distribute free take-home rapid antigen test kits, subject to supply, and some will offer asymptomatic rapid antigen screening on-site.
- The government will also make take-home rapid tests available at LCBO stores across Ontario.

161. December 17th, 2021 - Ontario Further Strengthening Response to Omicron

- To further strengthen its [response](#) to Omicron and reduce opportunities for close contact as the province gets as many vaccines into arms as possible, **Ontario is introducing a 50 per cent capacity limit in the following indoor public settings**:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments and strip clubs;
 - Personal care services;
 - Personal physical fitness trainers;
 - Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies);
 - Shopping malls;
 - Non-spectator areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g. gyms);
 - Indoor recreational amenities;
 - Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities;
 - Tour and guide services; and

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- Photography studios and services; and
- Marinas and boating clubs.
- These limits **do not apply** to any portion of a business or place that is **being used for a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite, or ceremony**. Businesses or facilities will also need to post a sign stating the capacity limits that are permitted in the establishment.
- To further reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, additional protective measures are also being applied:
 - The number of **patrons** permitted to sit at a table will be **limited to 10 people** and patrons will be required to remain seated in restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments, meeting and event spaces and strip clubs.
 - Bars and restaurants, meeting and event spaces and strip clubs will be required to **close by 11 p.m. Take out and delivery will be permitted beyond 11 p.m.**
 - Dancing will not be allowed except for workers or performers.
 - Food and/or drink services will be prohibited at sporting events; concert venues, theatres and cinemas; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues.
 - The **sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m.** and **consumption of alcohol in businesses or settings after 11 p.m.**
- In addition, to mitigate COVID-19 transmission that can occur at informal social gatherings, the province is also reducing **social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors**.
- These restrictions will come **into effect on 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, December 19, 2021**.

COVID-19 – Federal Government – Support for Businesses

As the pandemic situation is still evolving, new programs and supports may be announced in the future.

Websites highlighting useful resources for businesses:

<https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/ressources-entreprises-COVID-19-business-resources.aspx?lang=eng>

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

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162. April 27th - Government of Canada assists Ontario with COVID-19 response
- The Government of Canada will be **providing more help to Ontario in response to the province's request for assistance to support the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.**
 - The CAF is preparing to deploy up to **three multi-purpose medical assistance teams (MMATs)**, which are scalable healthcare provider teams primarily composed of Nursing Officers and Medical Technicians as well as additional CAF members for general duty support as applicable. The MMATs will be rotated in and out of the province rather than deployed simultaneously to ensure that CAF support is sustainable. Work is currently underway to complete on the ground assessments, which will determine the exact number of CAF personnel who will be dedicated to this request.
163. April 8th - Federal Government Extends Support for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes in Ontario
- The Government of Canada is **extending the support of the Canadian Red Cross in select long-term care and retirement homes in Ontario.** This support was originally scheduled to conclude in March 2021, but will now **continue until September 30, 2021.**
 - The Canadian Red Cross assists each home with their individual needs. **In addition to supporting the improvement of infection prevention and control measures, they help with daily living activities such as the delivery of meals, housekeeping and light cleaning duties.** Resident Support Aides also continue to socialize and engage with residents so that the home's frontline workers can focus on providing direct quality clinical care to residents.
 - In addition to this extension, the **federal funding will support Canadian Red Cross teams in providing support as needs are identified in long-term care and retirement homes across the province.**
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
164. March 25th - Government Announces Additional Pandemic Support For Vaccines, Health Care, and Municipalities
- Today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, introduced **Bill C-25.** This legislation would provide an additional **\$7.2 billion in support for urgent health care needs across the country, the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, and for local infrastructure projects in our cities and communities.**
 - The proposed funding includes:
 - **\$4 billion through the Canada Health Transfer to help provinces and territories address immediate health care system**

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like a chain of hotels or restaurants with multiple locations under one related entity, could be eligible for up to **\$6.25 million**. HASCAP will help businesses with their day-to-day operating costs during the COVID-19 crisis and enable them to invest in their longer-term prosperity.

- To be eligible for HASCAP, businesses need to show a year-over-year **revenue decline of at least 50% in three months**, within the eight months prior to their application. They must also be able to show their financial institutions that they have previously applied for either the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy or the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy.
 - Eligible businesses can start applying as early as **February 1** at principal financial institutions and more widely by **February 15**. Interested businesses should contact their primary lender to get more information and to apply.
 - More information is available at www.bdc.ca/hascap.
167. November 23rd (Update) - New, targeted support to help businesses through pandemic receives Royal Assent
November 23rd Update - Canada Revenue Agency opens applications for the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy
- Today, the Federal government opened the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) to **receive applications from qualifying organizations**.
 - These organizations can now apply directly for the subsidy for the period from **September 27 to October 24, 2020** through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) [My Business Account](#), or [Represent a Client](#) portals.
 - Applications for the second CERS period (October 25 to November 21, 2020) will open on **November 30**.
 - For more details, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html>
 - The CRA has launched a [CERS online calculator](#) and application form that are designed almost identically to those of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).
 - i. The calculator guides applicants through a step-by-step process that allows them to determine the subsidy amount they can claim, based on the information they enter.
 - ii. The CERS web pages include detailed information about eligibility requirements, how payment periods are structured, and how the subsidy is calculated.
 - In response to concerns raised by stakeholders about the program, the Government is proposing to amend the CERS in order to allow

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applicants to include eligible expenses in their CERS application before the expense has been paid.

- This means that organizations can include rent and other eligible amounts already paid in respect of a claim period as well as amounts that are payable for the claim period when submitting their CERS applications.
- Amounts that are not paid at the time of the application will have to be paid no later than 60 days after payment of the subsidy.

Previous Update

- Bill C-9, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy)* has received Royal Assent, **implementing new, targeted support to help hard-hit businesses.**
- These measures will help businesses get through the second wave of the virus so they can protect jobs, continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery.
- The government has also reaffirmed its intention to introduce legislation to formalize rent payable as an eligible expense, for purposes of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, as of September 27, 2020.
- The measures adopted as part of Bill C-9 are:
 - The new **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy**, which will provide direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage interest support to tenants and property owners until **June 2021** for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19.
 - The new rent subsidy will support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop by providing **support up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020.**
 - Claims can be made retroactively to September 27, 2020.
 - The new **Lockdown Support**, which will provide **an additional 25 per cent through the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy** for qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly restrict their activities under a public health order issued under the laws of Canada, a province or territory (including orders made by a municipality or regional health authority under one of those laws).
 - Combined, this will mean that hard-hit businesses subject to a lockdown could receive rent support of up to 90 per cent.

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- The **extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** until **June 2021**, which will continue to protect jobs by helping employers keep employees on the payroll and re-hire workers.
 - The wage subsidy will remain at the current rate of up to 65 per cent of eligible wages until December 19, 2020.
 - For more details, please visit [here](#).
- 168. November 3rd - New measures to help Canadian small businesses access global markets amid COVID-19
 - The Federal government has announced new actions **to help Canadian businesses grow** while navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in the **global marketplace**.
 - The Government of Canada launched the **CanExport SMEs program**—delivered through the Trade Commissioner Service—in 2016. As an investment totalling **\$190 million**, this program has helped thousands of **small business owners and entrepreneurs break into new international markets** with funding of up to **\$75,000** to cover travel costs and other expenses.
 - With international travel restricted due to COVID-19, the CanExport SMEs program is pivoting to now help small businesses:
 - develop and expand their e-commerce presence by covering partial costs associated with online sales platforms and digital strategy consulting, as well as advertising and search engine optimization
 - attend virtual trade shows and other business-to-business events
 - navigate new COVID-19-related trade barriers by helping pay for new international market certifications and requirements
 - Small business owners and entrepreneurs are encouraged to [apply for CanExport SMEs program funding](#).
- 169. October 2nd (UPDATE) - Small Business and Community Support Measures - Now accepting applications for the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)

October 2nd Update

Southern Ontario

 - The Federal government has announced an additional **\$184 million** for **FedDev Ontario** to help more businesses across **southern Ontario** through the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**.
 - Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) will provide \$30 million of FedDev Ontario’s additional funding to businesses in rural communities across southern Ontario.

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- For more information on the RRRF, including how to apply, please visit [FedDev Ontario](#)'s website.

Northern Ontario

- The Federal government has also announced an additional **\$22.3 million** for **FedNor** to help **businesses and organizations in Northern Ontario** recover from the impacts of COVID-19.
- Out of the additional funds for Northern Ontario, \$6 million will be provided to the region's Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) to target businesses in rural communities.
- Businesses and organizations in Northern Ontario that have applied for, but were unable to get access to sufficient relief from other federal COVID-19 programs, are encouraged to review RRRF eligibility requirements or to contact FedNor for more information.
- [To find out more about our programs and services, please visit: fednor.gc.ca](#)

Previous Update

- **\$675 million** will provide financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are not eligible for the measures already announced or that have specific needs, through Canada's **Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)**.
- Ontario Specific Funding:
 - i. **\$252.4 million for Southern Ontario** – [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario)
 - ii. **\$49.5 million for Northern Ontario** – [Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario](#) (FedNor)

➤ **Programs for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)**

- The **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** provides financial contributions (interest-free loans) to help support fixed operating costs of SMEs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- SMEs are encouraged to visit the [FedDev Ontario website](#) to determine which stream is right for them.

SMEs facing financial pressure

- The RRRF provides \$213 million in support to southern Ontario SMEs that do not qualify for, or have been declined for, current Government of Canada COVID-19 relief measures.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be Canadian or provincially incorporated businesses, co-operatives or Indigenous-owned businesses located in southern Ontario with 1 to 499 full-time equivalent employees;

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- Be facing funding pressures with fixed operating costs as a result of COVID-19;
 - Have been a viable business before the COVID-19 pandemic and plan to continue to operate their business or resume operations.
 - Have already applied to other Government of Canada emergency credit relief measures for which they are eligible, as outlined in the [program guidelines](#).
- Priority may be given to SMEs in the manufacturing, technology, tourism and other sectors key to the region, that are major employers in small communities or that support the government's commitment to underrepresented groups.
 - Please see the [Program Guidelines](#) for more information.
 - Applications can be submitted for support for fixed operating costs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - For more information, including how to apply, please visit the [FedDev Ontario website](#).

Support for rural businesses with access to capital delivered by southern Ontario's Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs)

- In order to provide targeted assistance to the small towns and communities they serve, CFDCs will focus on assisting "main street" businesses, such as retail shops, restaurants corner stores, etc., and businesses of strategic importance to their communities, with loans up to \$40,000.
- Eligible CFDC applicants must also meet the following criteria:
 - established prior to March 1, 2020
 - impacted adversely by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - viable and not experiencing liquidity or other financial difficulties prior to March 1, 2020
 - have attempted to access other federal relief supports and were ineligible, rejected, or require funding for expenses in excess of support already received, with priority given to applicants who were ineligible or rejected from other federal relief supports.
- Next steps:
 - Follow the application process provided by [your local CFDC](#).
 - Contact your local CFDC by telephone or email.
 - Complete [the application directly through your local CFDC](#).
- Applicants cannot receive RRRF assistance from both their local CFDC and FedDev Ontario.

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➤ **Programs for Northern Ontario (FedNor)**

I. Regional economy stream in Northern Ontario

- FedNor is delivering \$24 million of this RRRF investment through its Regional Economic Growth Innovation program.
- Eligible applicants include businesses such as incorporated companies, corporations or co-operatives, or Indigenous organizations such as Indigenous/First Nation/Métis Settlement-owned businesses, as well as various not-for-profit entities. The RRRF will support a variety of costs or activities to help SMEs and not-for-profit organizations stay solvent over a period of six months.

II. Community Futures stream in Northern Ontario

- FedNor is partnering with Northern Ontario's 24 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) to deliver \$25.5 million in RRRF support directly to small businesses and entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- This includes sole proprietorships or partnerships not covered under the Regional Economy stream. Each CFDC is managing its own application and selection process in accordance with the parameters set out in the RRRF, and will determine ultimate funding recipients in accordance with its own policies and procedures.
- [Get the full details now](#)
- To find out more about RRRF funding available through this stream, contact your local CFDC or consult this [CFDC directory](#).
- **Community Futures** operates 267 non-profit offices across Canada that provide small business services to people living in **rural communities**.
- Each office delivers small business loans, tools, training and events for people wanting to start, expand, franchise or sell a business.
- For more information regarding Canada's Regional Development Agencies, please visit:
https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/h_07662.html
- For more information regarding Community Futures, please visit:
<https://www.cfontario.ca/>

170. **August 31st (Update) - Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) – Various Enterprise Loans – Currently Active**

August 31st Update

- The Federal government has announced that the **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** is **extended to June 2021**.

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- Through BCAP, the government is supporting the flow of additional credit that businesses need to maintain operations and keep employees on the payroll.
- Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will continue to work with lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses of all sizes in all sectors and regions.
Original Announcement
- Will enable up to **\$40 billion** in lending, supported through **Export Development Canada** and **Business Development Bank**.
- As per the announcement on **May 11th**, the *Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)* has been expanded to include mid-sized companies with larger financing needs.
- Through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with private sector lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses in **all sectors and regions**.
- Intended for companies that require greater help to meet their operational cash flow requirements.

I. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html>

The new Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program will operate as follows:

➤ **EDC Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program**

- Brings liquidity to companies who tend to have **revenues of between \$50 million to \$300 million**, to sustain operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- EDC will continue to work with **Canadian financial institutions** to guarantee **75 per cent of new operating credit and cash-flow loans** – ranging in size from **\$16.75 million to a maximum of \$80 million**.
- These expanded guarantees are available to exporters, international investors and businesses that sell their products or services within Canada.
- **Additional details** regarding this expanded BCAP Program are being finalized and will be **made available in early June**.
- EDC has also launched a [new tool](#) to help businesses explore the resources developed by the government and Crown corporations to help Canadian businesses navigate COVID-19.

➤ **BDC Mid-Market Financing Program**

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- Junior loans ranging **between \$12.5 million and \$60 million** for **medium-sized businesses** particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, co-managed by BDC and their primary financial institution, to cover operational liquidity needs and business continuity.
- The Bank anticipates that qualifying companies will have **annual revenues in excess of approximately \$100 million**.
- The implementation strategy will be finalized shortly. Please **complete the following form** to get an update once more information is available.
<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/mid-market-form.aspx>
- **Export Development Canada (EDC) Loan Guarantee for Enterprises – Currently Active**
 - Export Development Canada will provide guarantees to financial institutions so that they can issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans to businesses.
 - This program provides credit and cash flow term loans to enterprises. Canadian businesses in all sectors that were otherwise financially viable and revenue generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak are eligible to apply.
 - A new domestic mandate has enhanced EDC's role in supporting **all domestic-oriented businesses** during the COVID-19 crisis.
 - It allows **financial institutions** to issue operating credit and cash flow term loans, with 80 per cent guaranteed by EDC.
 - **This program is now available at various financial institutions and credit unions.**
 - EDC BCAP Guarantee
 - a) Additional details available on [EDC website](#)
 - b) Up to **\$6.25 million** to cover rent, payroll and other operating costs caused by the current crisis
 - c) Online application (final steps to be completed by the primary financial institution of the business)
<https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/bcap-guarantee.html>

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d) Available through primary financial institutions

e) For additional details please visit:

- i. <https://www.edc.ca/en/campaign/coronavirus-covid-19.html>

➤ **BDC Co-Lending Program for Enterprises –**

Financial institutions will progressively roll out program details as of April 24, 2020. Please contact your primary financial institution to find out more.

- Businesses can also get support through a new Co-Lending Program that will bring the Business Development Bank of Canada together with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to these businesses for their operational cash flow requirements.
- This program provides **term loans for operational and liquidity needs of businesses**, which could include interest payments on existing debt.
- Up to **\$12.5 million** for operational cash flow requirements.
- Similar to the EDC program, this program is available to businesses that were financially viable and revenue-generating prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Available until or before **September 30, 2020**.
- **Available through your primary financial institution**
 - i. <https://www.bdc.ca/en/documents/special-support/BCAP-program-overview-external.pdf>

171. August 24th (Update) - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - 75% Wage Subsidy - (Currently Accepting Applications– Direct deposits will begin to appear in employers' accounts as of May 7th)

- The government is proposing to **further extend the wage subsidy program until June 2021** and implement other enhancements to the program to better respond to the evolving economic and health situation.
- These proposed changes will make the program more flexible and more generous, and ensure that the program provides continued support to employers.
- Details of the program until December 19, 2020 are provided [here](#).

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- The government will provide details for the upcoming periods in advance of the current terms' expiry and will ensure the wage subsidy program continues to be responsive to the economic situation.
- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) has supported more than **3 million Canadians** since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing support to businesses so they can keep their workers, including furloughed workers, on the payroll.

August 17th Update

- To ensure that Canadian workers and businesses are in a better position as our economy safely re-opens, the Government of Canada has recently implemented **changes to the CEWS** that broaden the reach of the program and provide more targeted support.
- The Canada Revenue Agency has **opened applications for Period 5** – the first period of the enhanced CEWS program (as of August 17th).
- The Canada Revenue Agency's updated [CEWS calculator](#) can help small and large employers alike, by guiding them through a step-by-step process to prepare their applications and giving them a preview of the subsidy they may qualify for, based on the information they enter.
- Eligible employers can apply for period 5 of the CEWS through [My Business Account](#) or through the [CRA's web form application](#).
- The CEWS has provided **\$26.58B** in subsidies to more than **275,000 employers**, supporting millions of workers.

Program changes for Periods 5-9 include:

- The extension of the CEWS, including redesigned program details, until November 21, 2020.
- Increased eligibility, meaning that all eligible employers who've experienced a revenue drop can now qualify for a base subsidy. The subsidy amount is based on the revenue drop.
- Employers who are especially hard-hit can qualify for a top-up of up to 25%.
- Provide certainty for employers that have already made business decisions for July and August, by ensuring they will not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have under the previous rules.

July 17th Update

- The Federal government has **announced changes** to the CEWS that would broaden the reach of the program and provide better targeted support so that more workers can return to their jobs quickly as the economy restarts.

The changes include:

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- Allow the extension of the CEWS until **December 19, 2020**, including redesigned program details until November 21, 2020.
- Make the subsidy accessible to a **broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30 per cent** and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers.
 - This would help many struggling employers with less than a 30-per-cent revenue loss get support to keep and bring back workers, while also ensuring those who have previously benefited could still qualify, even if their revenues recover and no longer meet the 30 per cent revenue decline threshold.
- Introduce a **top-up subsidy** of up to an additional 25 per cent for employers that have been most adversely affected by the pandemic.
 - This would be particularly helpful to employers in industries that are recovering more slowly.
- Provide certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for July and August by ensuring they would not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have had under the previous rules.
- Address certain technical issues identified by stakeholders.

Original Announcement

- To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible employers a temporary wage subsidy.
- The program was originally set to end June 6th. **The program will now be extended to December 2020.**
- The Government will consult with key business and labour representatives over the next month on **potential adjustments to the program** to incent jobs and growth, including the **30 per cent revenue decline threshold**.
- **May 15th Update** - The approval of regulations to extend eligibility for the CEWS to ensure that it continues to support those employers and workers hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic have been announced.
- These regulations **extend eligibility** for the CEWS to the following groups:
 - Partnerships that are up to 50-per-cent owned by non-eligible members;
 - Indigenous government-owned corporations that are carrying on a business, as well as partnerships where the partners are Indigenous governments and eligible employers;

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- Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Associations;
 - Registered Journalism Organizations; and
 - Non-public colleges and schools, including institutions that offer specialized services, such as arts schools, driving schools, language schools or flight schools.
- The Government also intends to **propose legislative amendments** to ensure that the CEWS continues to meet its objectives. These proposed amendments would:
 - Provide flexibility for employers of existing employees who were not regularly employed in early 2020, such as seasonal employees;
 - Ensure that the CEWS applies appropriately to corporations formed on the amalgamation of two predecessor corporations and
 - Better align the treatment of trusts and corporations for the purpose of determining CEWS eligibility.
- For more detailed information on the May 15th updates please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/05/extending-eligibility-for-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>
- Helpful Infographics:
 - 1) [Are you eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy?](#)
 - 2) [How is the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\) calculated?](#)
- *Details:*
 - i. **75% wage subsidy** for qualifying businesses retroactive to **March 15, 2020**.
 - ii. **Eligible employers would include** individuals, taxable corporations, partnerships consisting of eligible employers, non-profit organizations and registered charities.
 - iii. **Eligible remuneration** may include salary, wages, and other remuneration like taxable benefits.
 - iv. This subsidy would be available to eligible employers that see a **drop of at least 15 per cent of their revenue in March 2020 and 30 per cent for the following months**.
 - v. An employer's revenue for this purpose is its revenue in Canada earned from arm's-length sources.
 - vi. Would apply at a rate of **75%** of the first **\$58,700** normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to **\$847** per week.
 - vii. The easiest way to apply for the CEWS is through [My Business Account](#) or [Represent a Client](#).

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- viii. CEWS claims will be subject to verification by the CRA. **Funds for approved applications will begin to be released on May 5th appearing in employers' accounts starting May 7th.**
- ix. The pre-crisis remuneration for a given employee would be based on the average weekly remuneration paid between **January 1 and March 15** inclusively.
- x. There would be no overall limit on the subsidy amount that an eligible employer may claim.
- xi. Eligible employers would include **employers of all sizes** and across all sectors of the economy, with the exception of public sector entities.
- xii. Beginning **April 27, 2020**, certain financial institutions will offer **CRA direct deposit online enrolment for business payroll accounts** through their websites, helping businesses get their payments quickly and securely.
- xiii. Employers can sign up for direct deposit with their financial institutions even after applying for the CEWS.
- xiv. Visit Canada.ca/cra-direct-deposit or your financial institution's website for more information.
- xv. If employers are not registered for direct deposit, they should allow additional time for their cheque to be delivered by mail to the address on their payroll account (RP).
- xvi. Canadians can receive the CEWS wage subsidy or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) — not both.
- xvii. **100% refund** for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.
- xviii. This refund covers 100% of employer-paid contributions for eligible employees for each week throughout which those employees are on leave with pay and for which the employer is eligible to claim the CEWS for those employees.
- xix. Employers would be allowed to calculate their revenues under the accrual method or the cash method, but not a combination of both. Employers would select an accounting method when first applying for the CEWS and would be required to use that method for the entire duration of the program.
- xx. For **registered charities and non-profit organizations**, the calculation will include most forms of revenue, excluding revenues from non-arm's length persons. These organizations would be allowed to choose whether or not to include revenue from

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- government sources as part of the calculation. Once chosen, the same approach would have to apply throughout the program period.
- In order to address the realities faced by the **not-for-profit sector, high growth companies and new businesses**, the Government has allowed for additional flexibility:
 - To measure their revenue loss, employers have the flexibility to compare their 2020 revenue to that of the same month of 2019, or to an average of their revenue earned in applicable months.
 - In recognition that the time between when revenue is earned and when it is paid could be highly variable in certain sectors of the economy, employers be allowed to measure revenues either on the basis of accrual accounting (as they are earned) or cash accounting (as they are received).
 - All employers would be expected to at least make best efforts to top up salaries to 100% of the maximum wages covered.
 - Those organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration paid from March 18 to before June 20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer (see April 27th (Update) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately for more details).
 - For employers that are eligible for both the CEWS and the 10 per cent wage subsidy, any benefit from the 10 per cent wage subsidy for remuneration paid in a specific period would generally reduce the amount available to be claimed under the CEWS in that same period.
 - For further information please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>
172. August 11th - Government of Canada launches updated Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Calculator to support employers
- To ensure that Canadian workers and businesses are in a better position as our economy safely re-opens, the Government has recently implemented changes to the CEWS that broaden the reach of the program and provide better targeted support.
 - An updated and improved **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy online calculator** has been launched today
 - i. It will help small and large employers alike prepare to apply for the next period of the CEWS program, which will open for applications on **August 17, 2020**.

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- ii. The CEWS calculator can be found on the CRA's [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy web page](#), which includes detailed information to help employers understand how the CEWS can support their employees and operations, **who is eligible to apply**, and **how claim periods are structured**.
 - iii. The calculator uses a step-by-step approach to get employers to enter information about their business situation to provide an **estimate of the subsidy they can expect to receive**.
 - iv. The calculator also includes **printable spreadsheet and statement** features that employers can use to view their claim at a glance and enter required information into the CEWS application form quickly and easily.
 - v. By providing employers with detailed information about their subsidy claim, the CEWS calculator can assist them in making informed decisions about **retaining or re-hiring workers**.
 - The CRA will conduct a series of **information sessions** in the **coming weeks** for eligible employers and stakeholder organizations.
 - The CRA will open applications for **CEWS Period 5 on August 17, 2020**.
 - Enhancements to the program, which are being introduced in Period 5, will include **expanding eligibility criteria**, introducing a **sliding revenue-decline test** to determine the subsidy amount, and providing a **top-up subsidy** for the most impacted employers.
 - Employers can expect to receive their payment within **3-5 business days** after applying if they are registered with direct deposit on their payroll account.
173. July 17th - FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario
- The Government of Canada has announced a **\$4-million FedDev Ontario investment** in **support of women entrepreneurs across southern Ontario**.
 - With this investment through the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**, the *Northumberland CFDC* and *WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation*, in collaboration with regional partners, will deliver the **Rebuild Reopen Revive** Initiative to **support women-led small- and medium-sized enterprises** in rural and urban communities across southern Ontario.

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- Both organizations will receive \$2 million to provide **non-repayable contributions of up to \$5,000** to help eligible women-led businesses with key re-opening expenditures, including:
 - i. Acquisition of reusable personal protective equipment (PPE);
 - ii. Reconfiguration of workspaces to accommodate social distancing impacts; and
 - iii. Enhancing online capacity to improve accessibility and client service.
 - Over 700 women-led businesses will be supported through this initiative.
 - Interested businesses can visit [Northumberland CFDC](#) (eastern Ontario) or [WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation](#) (southwestern Ontario) for more **details or to apply**
174. June 9th - Government of Canada creates a hub for organizations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment:
Currently Active
- The Government of Canada has launched a new [web hub](#) to bring together available resources for organizations **buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE)**.
 - The Supply Hub connects Canadian organizations from coast to coast to coast with federal, provincial, territorial and other resources and information about PPE, including consumer guidance.
 - Buyers will find PPE supplier lists, in addition to guidance to help plan their PPE purchases. As Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to engage with our partners and advisory groups, the hub will evolve to include additional resources.
175. May 20th (Update) - Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)
– Applications Open
- Purpose: to provide **bridge financing to Canada’s largest employers**, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going.
 - The LEEFF program will be open to **large for-profit businesses – with the exception of those in the financial sector** – as well as certain not-for-profit businesses, such as airports, with annual revenues generally in the order of \$300 million or higher.
 - To qualify, businesses must be looking for financing of **\$60 million or more** and have significant operations or large numbers of employees in Canada, and must not be involved in any ongoing insolvency proceedings.
 - The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic downturn, and avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable firms where possible.

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- This support will **not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms**, nor will it provide financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis.
- The government's support for large employers through LEEFF will be delivered by a subsidiary of the **Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV)**, in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance.
 - i. Additional information on the application process is available on the [CDEV website](#).
- Further details:
 - i. **Protection of taxpayers and workers:** Companies seeking support must demonstrate how they intend to preserve employment and maintain investment activities.
 - ii. Recipients will need to commit to respect **collective bargaining agreements** and protect workers' pensions.
 - iii. The LEEFF program will require strict limits to dividends, share buy-backs, and executive pay.
 - iv. In considering a company's eligibility to assistance under the LEEFF program, an assessment may be made of its employment, tax, and economic activity in Canada, as well as its international organizational structure and financing arrangements.
 - v. The program will not be available to companies that have been convicted of tax evasion.
 - vi. Recipient companies would be required to commit to **publish annual climate-related disclosure reports** consistent with the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, including how their future operations will support environmental sustainability and national climate goals.
 - vii. The government's support for large companies through LEEFF will be delivered by the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV), in cooperation with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the Department of Finance.
- For more details please visit [here](#).
- 176. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Term Loans – Currently Active
 - To ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors can remain focused on business-critical functions, FCC has put customer support programs in place.
 - FCC has expanded their offerings to include the following:
 - i. Term loans up to **\$2.5M, with no fees and an 18-month interest-only option available over a 10-year amortization**.

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- ii. These funds can be used for working capital and to modify production due to the impacts of COVID-19.
 - iii. FCC customers and non-customers are eligible to apply for FCC lending products.
- More information is available by contacting a [local office](#) or the Customer Service Centre at **1-888-332-3301**. <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html>
- 177. April 27th (Update) - 10% Wage Subsidy: Effective Immediately
 - To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of **three months**.
 - Those organizations that do not qualify for **the 75% Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** may continue to qualify for the 10% wage subsidy.
 - The **10% Temporary Wage Subsidy** for Employers reduces the amount of income tax source deductions that employers have to remit to CRA on behalf of their employees by **up to 10% of their remuneration** (to a **maximum of \$1,375 per employee up to \$25,000 per employer**).
 - Many employers that qualify for the CEWS also qualify for the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers.
 - CEWS and the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers are intended to provide total support of up to 75% for payroll, not 75% + 10%.
 - If you did not reduce the source deductions you remitted to the CRA, but you were entitled to the 10% Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers, the CRA will treat you as having over-remitted your employee source deductions (so that normally you will be entitled to a refund).
 - Eligible employers must have an existing business number and payroll program account with the CRA on March 18, 2020; and include:
 - individual (excluding trusts),
 - partnership (see notes in website below),
 - non-profit organization,
 - registered charity, or
 - Canadian-controlled private corporation (including a cooperative corporation) eligible for the small business deduction;
 - Firms do not need to apply for the subsidy and will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration.
 - For details please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>

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178. March 18th – BCAP - BDC Working Capital loans: Currently Active

- Through this program, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will provide more than **\$65 billion** in direct lending and other types of financial support at market rates to businesses.

- BDC Working Capital loans

- Please contact BDC for details - **1-877-232-2269**

- **For more details please visit:**

<https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx?special-initiative=covid19>

Terms & Conditions

- Working Capital loans up to **\$2MM**; with 12 months interest only payments and flexible repayment terms such as principal postponements for qualifying businesses;
- 36-month term to a 60% balloon;
- Pricing: Floating Only (Base – 1.75%)
- Flexible repayment terms, such as postponement of principal payments for up to 6 months, for existing BDC clients with total BDC loan commitment of \$1 million or less;

Documentation Required

- Most recent three years of accountant prepared year-end financial statements;
- Most recent interim financial statements (if year-ends are more than 3 months old) with comparisons to the previous year’s interim period (if available);
- Projections and a cash flow forecast (a 6-month cash flow forecast may be most applicable); The purpose is to understand the company’s true cash needs for the next six months.
- An organizational chart to the beneficial ownership level (i.e. shareholder level).

179. May 4th - Government of Canada continues unprecedented investments for economic recovery, business growth and job creation in Northern Ontario

- The government has mentioned making FedNor a standalone agency, as well as a commitment of more than \$2.4 billion nationally for programs to be delivered by Canada’s RDAs
- Included in those national measures is an additional \$80 million for RRRF and an extension to the application deadline to June 30, 2021, to help Canadians and businesses through to the recovery.

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- This funding is in addition to the \$2 billion in RRRF funding already being delivered by RDAs and their partner Community Futures Development Corporations
 - Other investments proposed as part of Budget 2021 to be delivered by Canada's RDAs include:
 - \$700 million over three years for business financing to help position local economies for long-term growth by transitioning to a green economy, fostering an inclusive recovery, enhancing competitiveness, and creating jobs;
 - \$500 million for a new Tourism Relief Fund to help tourism businesses recover from the pandemic and position themselves for future growth;
 - \$500 million over two years for a new Canada Community Revitalization Fund that will invest in community infrastructure projects that stimulate local economies, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for Canadians; and
 - More than \$648 million to support other elements of the economy that are key to regional economies including the aerospace sector (\$250 million), women entrepreneurs (\$146.9 million), Black entrepreneurship (\$51.7 million), and major festivals (\$200 million).
180. May 12th - Government of Canada continues to support southern Ontario businesses and organizations amid and beyond the global pandemic
- As one of Canada's Regional Development Agencies (RDA), [FedDev Ontario](#) has been supporting southern Ontario businesses and organizations through the pandemic with **\$536.4 million in funding** through the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(RRRF\)](#).
 - Delivered by FedDev Ontario alongside local Community Futures Development Corporations and other partners, RRRF support is helping southern Ontario businesses and organizations mitigate financial pressures caused by the pandemic, sustain more employers for recovery and help keep more people employed—**protecting more than 25,500 jobs**.
 - Subject to parliamentary approval, Budget 2021 proposes the following Canada-wide measures to be delivered by RDAs, including FedDev Ontario, to provide targeted investments to support inclusive growth and the recovery of hard-hit sectors:
 - **\$700 million over three years** to support business financing, positioning local economies for long-term, inclusive, clean growth and creating jobs;

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- **\$500 million over two years** for community infrastructure projects through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund;
 - **\$500 million over two years** through the Tourism Relief Fund for local tourism businesses to adapt their products and services to public health measures, recover from the pandemic and position themselves for growth;
 - **\$250 million over three years** for small- and medium-sized aerospace firms to strengthen productivity and commercialization and green their operations through the Aerospace Regional Recovery Initiative;
 - **\$200 million over two years** to support major festivals and events;
 - **\$80 million to support extended application for RRRF** until June 30, 2021, delivered by RDAs and the Community Futures Network of Canada; and
 - An **additional \$51.7 million to support Black Canadian business owners** and entrepreneurs through the Black Entrepreneurship Program.
- By increasing the role of the Regional Development Agencies in our recovery and relaunch, the Government of Canada is taking a new approach to economic development: building on regional strengths, fostering job creation, growing local economies, and improving Canada’s collective competitiveness.

181. May 17th - Government of Canada invests to boost immigration to meet the workforce needs of Greater Sudbury employers

- The Government of Canada announced an investment of \$480,746 to enable the [City of Greater Sudbury](#) to implement the [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) (IRCC)’s [Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot](#) (RNIP) in the Sudbury and Nickel Belt regions.
- Provided through FedNor’s [Northern Ontario Development Program](#), the funding will enable the City of Greater Sudbury to hire a Business Development Officer and a Technical Coordinator to support outreach and education activities with employers regarding immigration pathways available to fill employment gaps.
- Designed to spread the benefits of economic immigration to smaller communities, RNIP supports permanent residence for skilled foreign workers wanting to relocate to a participating community.
- The City of Sudbury is one of the 11 successful applicant communities across Canada selected to participate in this five-year economic pilot program, which runs until 2025.

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182. May 18th - Government of Canada continues to strengthen Canada's biomanufacturing sector

- The Government of Canada announced an **investment of \$199.16 million** in [Resilience Biotechnologies Inc.](#)
- This investment will support a **\$401.52-million project** that will help develop Canada's medical countermeasures to COVID-19 and strengthen Canada's emergency preparedness for future pandemics.
- This investment will help Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. **increase its manufacturing and fill-finish capacity** for a number of vaccines and therapeutics, including for those that use novel technology such as mRNA and that are now being deployed to fight COVID-19.
- Once completed, the company's Mississauga facility is expected to allow for the **manufacturing of approximately 112 million to 640 million doses** of mRNA vaccines per year.
- With this investment, Resilience Biotechnologies Inc. will **create and maintain 500 full-time jobs** in Canada and **create 50 co-op positions**.

183. May 20th - FedDev Ontario investment helps North York-based fabricator expand into next-generation telecommunications and 5G markets

- The Government of Canada announced a [FedDev Ontario](#) repayable contribution of **nearly \$850,000** for [Candor Industries Inc.](#) (Candor), to scale up and expand operations and create **15 highly-skilled jobs**.
- Candor is experiencing increased demand from clients in the technology, medical device, telecommunications and aerospace sectors for nanotechnology and semiconductor packages required for the high performance of new devices.
- With FedDev Ontario support, the company will take on **new, first-in-North America PCB manufacturing**, including green laser-cutting/drilling, induction lamination, bonding and direct imaging.
- Adopting new state-of-the-art equipment and technologies will **increase output, speed and cleanliness**, and add accuracy in its drilling and cutting processes.
- As a result, Candor will be able to produce higher complexity products for next-generation telecommunications and 5G markets, strengthening its position as an industry leader.
- Additionally, Candor will **significantly reduce its scrap waste** and use of environmentally-harmful chemicals, and **increase energy efficiency** in its lamination process **by 80 percent**.
- FedDev Ontario's investment will also leverage **an additional \$1.9 million in private sector** funding and boost local supply chain spending

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184. May 26th - Government of Canada invests in innovative Canadian solutions to help in the fight against COVID-19
- The Government of Canada announced the selection of eight companies that will receive a total of \$8 million in funding, under the [Innovative Solutions Canada](#) program, for innovative projects to address challenges related to COVID-19.
 - **Braebon Medical Corporation** (Kanata, Ontario) will receive \$2 million in response to the [Low-Cost Sensor System for COVID-19 Patient Monitoring](#) challenge. It will create a low-cost system to continuously measure COVID-19 patients' temperature, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rate and transmit this information wirelessly to a base station for patient monitoring.
 - **Nicoya Lifesciences Incorporated** (Kitchener, Ontario) and **Deep Biologics Incorporated** (Guelph, Ontario) will each receive up to \$2 million in response to the [Point of Care and Home Diagnostic Kit for COVID-19](#) challenge. They will each create a rapid test kit that uses saliva sampling to diagnose individuals with COVID-19 symptoms in 20 minutes or less.
 - **Cole Webber Productions Incorporated** (Red Deer, Alberta) will receive \$1 million in response to the [COVID-19: An Intelligent Digital Clearing House](#) challenge. It will create a smart digital exchange platform to connect researchers and health providers with the appropriate expertise, materials, devices and information to respond to COVID-19.
 - **Roswell Downhole Technologies Incorporated** (Calgary, Alberta) will receive up to \$200,000 and **Precision ADM** (Winnipeg, Manitoba) will receive \$300,000 in response to the [COVID-19: Compostable Disposable Surgical Masks and Compostable Disposable Respirators Used in the Canadian Healthcare System](#) challenge. They will propose solutions to manufacture compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators for healthcare workers.
 - **GreenMantra Technologies Limited** (Brantford, Ontario) and **Terragon Environmental Technologies Incorporated** (Montréal, Quebec) will each receive \$300,000 in response to the [COVID-19: Recycling Technologies for Disposable \(single-use\) Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Used in Healthcare Sector](#) challenge. They will propose solutions for efficient and cost-effective recycling of disposable PPE waste.

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185. May 27th - Government of Canada invests to accelerate business development and growth, and create up to 60 jobs throughout the Greater Sudbury region

- In Northern Ontario, the Government of Canada, through FedNor, is working closely with its community partners to ensure entrepreneurs and business start-ups can overcome the impacts of COVID-19, ramp-up quickly and fully-participate in our economic recovery.
- The Government of Canada announced a FedNor **investment of \$631,920** to help the City of Greater Sudbury establish a business incubator to enable high-growth and innovative firms to start-up, scale-up and create high-quality jobs
- Designed to offer a suite of programming and services to support business start-ups across all sectors and industries, the incubator will help early-stage companies commercialize new products or services, generate early revenue, raise capital and build managerial capacity. Specifically, the FedNor **funding will be used to purchase equipment, hire staff and renovate an approximately 5,000-square-foot space** in the downtown business district to house this state-of-the-art facility.
- Once complete, this three-year initiative is expected to **support more than 30 successful business start-ups**, while helping to **produce 30 new products and services**, and creating up to **60 middle-class jobs** in Greater Sudbury.

186. May 31 – Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund

- The federal government has announced the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund to address the systemic barriers Black business owners often face when seeking financing. Applications opened on **May 31, 2021**.
- The federal government has invested **\$33.3 million** and the Business Development Bank of Canada is investing **\$130 million** during the first phase of the project.
 - During the second phase, RBC, BMO, Scotiabank, CIBC, the National Bank of Canada, TD, Vancity, and Alterna Savings have committed an additional **\$128 million**.
 - The investment has the potential to reach **\$350.8 million**.
- Loans will range from **\$10,000 to \$25,000** to go towards small lending needs and other needs identified by the community.

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187. June 2 – Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program

- The proposed Canada Recovery Hiring Program will be available **June 6, 2021 to November 20, 2021**. This program will help hard-hit businesses hire workers they need to recover and grow as local economies reopen by **offering subsidies up to 50% of eligible salaries or wages**.
 - Eligible employers must have a payroll account with the Canada Revenue Agency which has been open since March 15, 2021 at the latest. Eligible employees must be actively employed through a qualifying period and must primarily work in Canada.
 - This program will not be available for furloughed employees or those on vacation leave, sick leave, or sabbatical.
- Qualifying employers must have experienced qualifying revenue declines so they can hire additional staff, increase working hours, or increase wages.
 - Businesses will be able to hire workers as their local economy reopens or as they are ready.
- Applications will be available through the Canada Revenue Agency. More information can be found [here](#).

188. June 21 – Minister Ng Announces Shop Local Investment Benefiting Canada's Small Businesses

- The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, announced the launch of **Shop Local, a Canada-wide investment of \$33 million** to encourage Canadians to shop locally.
- **\$9 million** of this investment will go to Ontario to support businesses in reopening and staying open so they can thrive as the economy recovers.
- Funding will be provided through provincial and territorial chambers of commerce to support awareness-building campaigns that promote consumer confidence and local businesses.
- Funding may be used to support a variety of activities that encourage consumers to shop locally in a way that is safe and aligns with public health guidelines. Chambers may solicit applications directly from local organizations or associations or have open calls for proposals that promote consumer awareness and demonstrate benefits to the broader business community. Examples of activities can be found [here](#).

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189. June 29 – Online Course Provides Guidance on COVID-19 Risk Assessments and Workplace Safety Plans

- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has developed **a free online course to help organizations in Canada conduct COVID-19 workplace risk assessments and safety plans.**
- The course outlines steps needed to plan and conduct risk assessments and to plan and evaluate safety plans. Managers, supervisors, and health and safety committee members or representatives will learn the work and personal factors which need to be considered when assessing and preventing the risk of exposure, reviewing safety plans to ensure they are effective, and keeping up to date with current COVID-19 guidelines.
- The course can be accessed [here](#).

190. July 12 – Federal Government Launches Tourism Relief Fund to Help Tourism Businesses and Organizations Recover and Grow

- The Government of Canada has launched a **\$500 million Tourism Relief Fund.**
- Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs) will deliver **\$485 million directly to businesses and organizations** to help them adapt their operations to meet public health requirements while investing in products and services to facilitate future growth.
- A minimum of **\$50 million** of the Tourism Relief Fund will be invested in Indigenous tourism projects.
- **\$15 million** will be delivered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to support destination development, seasonal and local attractions, and human resource skills and development.

191. August 6 – Government of Canada Investments of \$70 Million to Support Canada's Artists and Live Music Sector

- The Government of Canada will be investing **\$70 million over three years to support Canada's live music sector and Canadian artists through the pandemic.**
- **\$50 million** of the investment will be delivered in 2021-22 through the Canadian Music Fund (CMF), with **\$20 million** being delivered in annual funding in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to current CMF recipients.

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192. August 11 – Government of Canada Supporting Canadian Cleantech Companies from Seed to Scale-up

- The Government of Canada has announced an investment of **\$19.1 million in six transformative Canadian cleantech companies through Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC)**. Companies receiving funding include:
 - **\$520,000** to Solid State of Mind Inc. to build software to reduce the amount of data required to train and retain artificial intelligence object detection models.
 - **\$1.7 million** to Flash Forest Inc. to develop a drone-based, rapid reforestation that is adaptable to many different environmental conditions and difficult-to-access sites, reducing reforestation costs and time.
 - **\$4.3 million** to Eavor Technologies Inc. to develop Eavor-Loop 2.0, the first scalable form of clean baseload power.
 - **\$3 million** to HaiLa Technologies to develop an ultra-low energy communication chip for wireless sensors operating in a Wi-Fi environment.
 - **\$5.1 million** to Giatec Scientific Inc. to add additional sensing technologies to monitor concrete performance in its preparation, delivery and use.
 - **\$4.5 million** to Questor Technology Inc. to develop high-efficiency systems to convert waste heat into power.

193. August 13 – Government of Canada Supporting Canada’s Major Airports with Funding for COVID-19 Testing and Screening Infrastructure

- The Government of Canada has announced a Biosecurity Funding Stream of **\$81.6 million to support Canada’s major airports with investments in COVID-19 testing and screening infrastructure.**
- There are **26** major Canadian airports eligible for funding. Eligible projects include:
 - Infrastructure investments for the establishment of COVID-19 health testing and screening facilities;
 - Improvements to airport flow and zoning to better manage the movements of people and physical distancing requirements to, from, and at the testing and screening facilities;
 - Tools to inform travellers and workers of the existence and operating hours of health testing and screening facilities, to direct them to the facility, and to notify them of procedures related to the flow, zoning, testing and screening; and
 - Technological aids to assist with traveller and worker notification, regarding testing and screening and the processing of related results.

COVID-19 – Federal Government – Support for Individuals

Website highlighting useful resources:

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

<https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start>

194. April 23rd – Government of Canada suspends flights from India and Pakistan
 - Today, the Government of Canada **announced new rules for some international travel.**
 - Transport Canada has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to **suspend all commercial and private passenger flights from India and Pakistan for 30 days**, effective 23:30 EDT April 22, 2021.
 - The Minister of Transport will amend the Interim Order Respecting Certain Requirements for Civil Aviation Due to COVID-19, which means for passengers who depart India or Pakistan to Canada after 23:30 EDT April 22, 2021, via an indirect route, they will need to obtain a negative COVID-19 pre-departure test from a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.
195. April 23rd - Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021
 - Today, the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced that **Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023, with options to extend into 2024.**
 - The agreement guarantees access to **65 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine**, with access to up to 120 million more if all options are exercised. In addition to providing booster vaccine doses, the agreement provides flexibility to procure future COVID-19 vaccine formulations from Pfizer, such as those to protect against variants of concern and vaccines developed for children.
196. April 20th - Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience
 - Today, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, released **Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, the Government of Canada's plan to finish the fight against COVID-19 and ensure a robust economic recovery that brings all Canadians along.**
 - The Government of Canada's top priority remains protecting Canadians' **health and safety**, particularly during this third, aggressive wave of the virus and its variants. Vaccine rollout is underway across Canada, with federal government support in every province and territory. **Budget 2021 invests in Canada's bio-manufacturing and life sciences sector to rebuild**

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domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity, and has a plan to put in place national standards for long-term care and mental health services.

- Please visit [here](#) for more details
197. April 13th - FedDev Ontario supports production of personal protective equipment in Waterloo Region
- Today, the Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth and Member of Parliament for Waterloo, announced a **FedDev Ontario repayable contribution of over \$1.9 million for [Swenco Ltd.](#)**, one of North America’s leading manufacturers and distributors of components for the safety footwear industry, **to expand operations for the full-time production of COVID-19-related PPE.**
 - With this investment, the company outfitted its new facility with a certified clean room and specialized manufacturing equipment for mask production. As a result, **Swenco Ltd. will produce 7.6 million masks per month upon project completion, with more than 75 percent of the masks to be sold domestically to aid Canada’s COVID-19 relief efforts** and increase domestic production capacity.
198. March 24th – Government of Canada funds more than 3,000 projects across Canada to support seniors
- Today, Canada’s Minister of Seniors, Deb Schulte, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Seniors, Stéphane Lauzon, announced an investment of **\$60.8 million to fund over 3,000 community-based projects to support seniors across the country.** This funding was awarded through the **New Horizons for Seniors Program’s (NHSP)** most recent call for proposals for community-based projects.
 - This project aims to **support seniors’ physical, mental and social well-being** by providing them with **access to tablets and the Internet** so they can join virtual groups. Seniors can mentor other seniors who are struggling to transition to the virtual world. This will help increase seniors’ digital literacy and inclusion, reduce their social isolation and foster a feeling of community connection, particularly among seniors who are living in rural areas of York Region.
 - This year, increased funding and improvements to the program **resulted in the highest number of applications ever**, almost double the number of projects serving rural seniors, and a greater share of funded projects serving vulnerable seniors.
199. March 23rd - Government of Canada Announces Funding for COVID-19 Safe Voluntary Isolation Sites under Ontario’s High Priority Community Strategy
- Today, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced **\$23.7 million** for the Province of **Ontario to operate a number of safe, voluntary**

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- isolation sites** in various communities identified under Ontario’s High Priority Community Strategy. These sites will help residents in the province who have COVID-19, or have been exposed to it, access safe isolation accommodations to keep themselves and their community safe.
- **Voluntary isolation sites reduce the risks of spreading the virus among household contacts**, both in Canada’s densely populated urban centres, as well as in locations where people are faced with crowded housing and resources constraints. These sites are one of the rapid response tools we have to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and they can be deployed to communities facing outbreaks.
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
200. February 25th - Government of Canada introduces legislation to increase number of weeks for EI regular benefits and to prevent international travellers from qualifying for recovery benefits during mandatory quarantine
- Today, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, introduced **Bill C-24, to increase the maximum number of weeks available to workers through EI regular benefits and give them the certainty they need should their job be affected by COVID-19**. The proposed legislation would provide workers with **up to a maximum of 50 weeks** for claims that are established **between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021**.
 - In addition, **self-employed workers** who have opted in to the EI program to access special benefits would be able to use a **2020 earnings threshold of \$5,000**, compared to the previous threshold of \$7,555. This change would be retroactive to claims established as of January 3, 2021 and would apply until September 25, 2021.
 - As part of this proposed legislation, **all international travellers who need to quarantine or isolate upon their return to Canada**, including people returning from vacation, **would be made ineligible to receive support from any of the Canada Recovery Benefits for the period of their mandatory quarantine or isolation**. These changes would be retroactive to **October 2, 2020**.
 - Please visit [here](#) for more details.
201. February 12th - Government of Canada invests \$53 million to address COVID-19 virus variants of concern
- The Government of Canada is taking a multilayered approach **to detecting and addressing variants** of concern in Canada. To this end, the government developed a monitoring program with provinces and territories to identify new COVID-19 virus variants in Canada, such as the ones originating in the **United Kingdom (B.1.1.7), South Africa (B.1.351) and Brazil (P.1)**. Today,

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the Government of Canada is increasing our capacity to find and track these variants in the country by investing **\$53 million in an integrated Variants of Concern Strategy**. This will help rapidly scale up our surveillance, sequencing and research efforts.

- The Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories and the **Canadian COVID Genomics Network (CanCOGeN)** to rapidly scale up sequencing and scientific efforts to detect known and potentially emerging COVID-19 virus variants of concern.
- To implement the Strategy, PHAC's NML is providing **\$20 million** and CanCOGeN is providing **\$8 million** to increase genomic sequencing and real-time data sharing capacity. CIHR is providing up to **\$25 million** to scale up Canadian research to increase our understanding of emerging variants and provide decision makers with rapid guidance for drug therapy, vaccine effectiveness, and other public health strategies.

202. February 9th - Government of Canada addresses CERB repayments for self-employed individuals and announces interest relief on 2020 income tax debt due to COVID-19 related income support

- Today, the Government of Canada announced that **self-employed individuals** who applied for the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** and would have qualified based on their gross income will not be required to repay the benefit, provided they also met all other eligibility requirements. The same approach will apply whether the individual applied through the Canada Revenue Agency or Service Canada.
- In addition, today, the Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, Minister of National Revenue, announced that the Government of Canada will provide **targeted interest relief to Canadians who received COVID-related income support benefits**. Once individuals have filed their 2020 income tax and benefit return, they will not be required to pay interest on any outstanding income tax debt for the **2020 tax year until April 30, 2022**. This will give Canadians more time and flexibility to pay if they have an amount owing.
- Please visit [here](#) for more details.

203. January 13th – Government of Canada Announces Further Reinforcement of COVID-19 Supports for Indigenous Communities

- As the COVID-19 pandemic increases in intensity, the Government of Canada continues supporting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to keep their communities safe, and respond to outbreaks of COVID-19.
- Today, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services is **highlighting \$1.2 billion in investments made through the Fall Economic**

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Statement (FES) in additional support for the ongoing public health response to COVID-19 in **Indigenous communities**

- To continue to support this work, the Government of Canada is allocating **an additional \$380 million for the Indigenous Community Support Fund**. This will ensure continued critical support for on-the-ground, community-led solutions to prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.
 - Funding can be used for a variety of measures, such as **promoting food security, improving mental health support services and ensuring the distribution of emergency equipment**.

204. December 16th – FedDev Ontario announces support for women in advanced manufacturing and digital technology

- The Federal government has announced a FedDev Ontario investment of over **\$6.5 million** for **The Hamilton Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA Hamilton)**.
- With this funding, the YWCA Hamilton will **provide support and training to help more than 500 women** to develop new, in-demand skills and aid their transition into high-skill jobs in sectors where women are traditionally underrepresented, particularly in the **advanced manufacturing and specialized technology sectors**.
- This three-year investment will focus initially on the **Hamilton Region ecosystem**.
 - The project will also be expanded across southern Ontario in partnership with other local YWCAs throughout the GTA, London/St. Thomas, Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Ottawa, and eastern Ontario, as well as other women-focused industry partners.
 - The project will support and accelerate 255 women into STEM-based, well-paying careers.
 - In addition to the reskilling programming, the YWCA Hamilton will work with the YWCA Canada and industry partners to launch the Curated Pathways to Innovation digital application (app).
 - I. The app will offer free personalized learning pathways and resources to 250 women across southern Ontario, supporting them to acquire the skills to effectively compete for positions in technology fields and skilled trades which are traditionally underrepresented by women.

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205. December 4th - Government of Canada announces funding to train 4,000 personal support worker interns, support sector
- The Federal government has announced **\$23.2 million** in funding for **Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan)** to develop and implement an **accelerated online program** to train approximately **4,000 new personal support worker interns**.
 - The program includes six weeks of online training followed by a four-month paid work-integrated learning placement with an employer in long-term care or home care.
 - This new training program will be offered at no cost to the trainees.
 - These new personal support worker interns will provide much needed support to long-term care staff, as they receive training on the job.
 - As part of this project, CICan will work in collaboration with provinces, territories, employers, workers' organizations, unions and training providers to begin a national dialogue on training standards for the supportive care sector.
206. December 3rd - Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic
- The Federal government has introduced **Bill C-14, An Act to implement certain provisions of the economic statement tabled in Parliament on November 30, 2020 and other measures**.
 - Bill C-14 is an essential step to implement measures from the Fall Economic Statement that would provide assistance to families with young children, support students, and invest in resources to protect the health and safety of Canadians.
 - Bill C-14 includes measures that would:
 - introduce a temporary and immediate **support for low- and middle-income families** who are entitled to the Canada Child Benefit, totaling up to \$1,200 in 2021 for each child under the age of six;
 - ease the financial burden of student debt for up to 1.4 million Canadians by **eliminating the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year (2021-22)**;
 - provide funding of up to \$505.7 million as part of the new Safe Long-term Care Fund **to support long-term care facilities**, including funding to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, outbreaks and deaths in supportive care facilities;
 - provide additional funding of:

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- up to \$133 million to **support access to virtual care, mental health tools, and substance use programming** and
 - up to \$262.6 million for a suite of **COVID-19 initiatives, including testing, medical research, countermeasures, vaccine funding and developments, border and travel measures and isolation sites;**
 - formally provide that an expense, such as rent, can qualify as an eligible expense under the new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy when it becomes due so businesses can access the subsidy before the expense is actually paid; and
 - allow the government to continue making the necessary investments to weather the pandemic and support the recovery.
 - For more details, please visit [here](#).
207. May 3rd - Minister Murray highlights investments to support seniors in Budget 2021
- Budget 2021 proposes to provide \$3 billion over five years to support provinces and territories in ensuring standards for long-term care are applied and permanent changes are made
 - The federal government is proposing to provide provinces and territories with \$4 billion through a one-time top-up to the Canada Health Transfer
 - The Government is also delivering on its promise to increase Old Age Security for Canadians aged 75 and older, which will provide up to \$766 more for eligible seniors in the first years, and that will grow with indexation.
 - Taking action through the \$1 billion Safe Long-term Care Fund announced in the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, to ensure seniors, and those who help them, are well protected.
 - \$41.3 million over six years, and \$7.7 million ongoing, starting in 2021-22, for Statistics Canada to improve data infrastructure and data collection on supportive care, primary care, and pharmaceuticals.
 - \$90 million over three years, starting in 2021-22, to Employment and Social Development Canada to launch the Age Well at Home initiative.
208. June 8 – Government of Canada Funds Five New Projects to Encourage Vaccine Uptake in Canada
- The Government of Canada is funding **five new projects through the Immunization Partnership Fund (IPF)** to support vaccination efforts across Canada.

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- These projects will support COVID-19 vaccine uptake among populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 through targeted outreach to provide culturally relevant and tailored vaccination resources.
- **Four provincial and one national Community Health Centre (CHC) Associations will receive funding to increase COVID-19 vaccine knowledge and access**
- The four provincial organizations are: (1) British Columbia Association of Community Health Centres; (2) Manitoba Association of Community Health; (3) Ontario's Alliance for Healthier Communities; and (4) Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres.
- The Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (CACHC) will receive funding **to support its work as a coordinating body to align and consolidate the vaccination strategies and best practices developed through the provincial projects.**

209. June 20 – Individuals Approved for Permanent Residence May Travel to Canada as of June 21

- As of **June 21, 2021** any foreign national who holds a valid Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) may travel to Canada.
- For applicants with expired COPRs issued after March 18, 2020, more information on when and how to obtain a new COPR will soon be available on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website.
 - Individuals with expired COPRs **should not attempt to travel to Canada** until they receive a new COPR from IRCC.
- Those travelling to Canada must comply with COVID-19 health measures.

210. June 21 – Helping Indigenous Youth Get Skills Training and Supports Needed to Get Good Jobs

- The Government of Canada is investing **over \$116 million through Employment and Social Development Canada's (ESDC) Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS)** to provide young people, including Indigenous youth, with the supports and skills training they need to get a head start on their careers.
- **78 organizations funded through ESDC's YESS program are delivering 78 projects which will serve close to 8,000 young people.** Over 40 of the contributing organizations are Indigenous-led.

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211. June 21 – Government of Canada’s First Phase to Easing Border Measures for Travellers Entering Canada

- Beginning **July 5, 2021 at 11:59pm EDT, fully vaccinated travellers who are permitted to enter Canada will not be subject to the federally required quarantine or take a COVID-19 test on day-8.**
- Fully vaccinated travellers arriving by air will **not be required to stay at a government-authorized hotel.**
- To be considered fully vaccinated, a traveller must have received **the full series of a vaccine or combination of vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada at least 14 days prior to entering Canada.**
 - Acceptable vaccines as of June 21 include: Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
- Proof of vaccination must be provided in English, French, or a certified translation. Vaccines can be administered in any country.
- Fully vaccinated must meet all other mandatory requirements, including pre- and on-arrival testing. Continued testing will allow for positivity rates to be monitored at the border, as well as allow for the monitoring for variants of concern. Testing will also allow for further adjustments to be made to border measures as needed.
- Travellers must also be asymptomatic and provide COVID-19 related information through ArriveCAN prior to arrival in Canada.
- **Suitable quarantine plans must still be provided** if it is determined at the border that all conditions required to be exempt are not met.
- For travellers who are not yet fully vaccinated, there are **no changes to current border measures.**

212. June 22 – Legislation to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Becomes Law

- On June 21, 2021, **the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP) received Royal Assent and immediately came into force.**
- The application of UNDRIP will require the Government of Canada to consult and collaborate with Indigenous Peoples to develop an action plan within two years to achieve the Declaration’s objectives and take all necessary measures to align federal laws with the Declaration. Some measures include:
 - Address injustices, combat prejudice and eliminate all forms of violence, racism and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples;
 - Promote mutual respect and understanding, as well as good relations, including through human rights education;

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- Ensure Canada is held accountable on progress through regular reporting and oversight.
- The legislation will **complement and inform** other initiatives underway across Canada with Indigenous partners to close socio-economic gaps, advance reconciliation and renew relationships based on the affirmation of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples will be broad and inclusive, include national and regional Indigenous organizations, women's and youth organizations, 2SLGBTQQIA+ Indigenous persons, urban Indigenous people and other Indigenous groups.
- The declaration responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 43, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Call for Justice and Supports the *Federal Pathway*.
- UNDRIP will be used to address the legacies of colonialism, violence, systemic racism and discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

213. June 23 – More Sport Opportunities for Youth in Indigenous Communities

- Approximately **150 communities and 33,000 Indigenous youth will benefit from as much as \$17.8 million** between 2021 and 2023.
 - **As much as \$10.6 million** will be invested in the 13 Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies (PTASBs) to deliver sport for social development projects, and to the Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) to provide leadership and support to the PTASBs for the delivery of programming.
 - **As much as \$7.2 million** will go to Indigenous governments, communities and organizations to deliver sport for social development projects in Indigenous communities in Canada.
- The targeted social outcomes and activities for each project are identified and proposed by Indigenous communities to ensure they address individual needs.

214. June 24 – Government of Canada Funds New Project to Encourage Vaccine Uptake in Canada

- The Government of Canada has announced funding to the Dr. Peter Centre to develop a bilingual National Community of Practice to help community health agencies across Canada **improve uptake and access to the COVID-19 vaccine for people living with HIV and other complex health and social conditions**.
- The Dr. Peter Centre will develop an online portal for community leaders to access and share COVID-19 vaccination resources and best practices so they can increase vaccine uptake among the populations they serve.

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215. June 28 – Indigenous Intellectual Property Program Grants Applications are Now Open

- The Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry has announced the opening of the [2021 Indigenous Intellectual Property Program grants](#) application to provide greater opportunities for Indigenous peoples to build their intellectual property (IP) awareness and capacity, encourage use and participate in the development and implementation of related policies and programs in Canada and abroad.
- The application process will close on **September 8, 2021**. More information on this process can be found [here](#).

216. June 30 – Canada Invests in Green Jobs for Youth

- Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Natural Resources has announced **\$44 million to create green jobs and training opportunities for youth aged 15 to 30 in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), as well as fields related to energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology sectors.**
- 11 organizations will provide **1500 green job placements for youth** to gain valuable on-the-job experience and explore careers in the natural resource sector. The organizations include:
 - Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) Canada
 - Biotalent Canada
 - United Nations Association in Canada
 - Electricity Human Resources Canada
 - Project Learning Tree Canada
 - Clean Foundation
 - Colleges and Institutes Canada
 - Mining Industry Human Resources Council
 - Relay Education
 - Indigenous Clean Energy
 - First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute

217. July 5 – Government of Canada Funds Three New Projects to Encourage COVID-19 Vaccination in Canada

- **Three new projects** to support vaccination efforts across Canada will be receiving funding through the Immunization Partnership Fund (IPF).
- Indigenous Primary Health Care Council will receive funding for the development and implementation of educational outreach sessions and resources for non-Indigenous health care providers to allow for better promotion of vaccine uptake

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among Indigenous clients and their families in a culturally safe and trauma-informed way.

- University Health Network will receive funding to develop COVID-19 vaccine initiatives directed at personal support workers to build their confidence in vaccines and their capacity to effectively counsel and support their colleagues, communities, and clients/patients in making informed decisions about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Women's College Hospital will receive funding to educate and build the capacity of non-physician health care practitioners and other essential workers in long-term care facilities and home care settings as vaccinators and vaccine promoters.

218. July 7 – Government of Canada Announces that the Pay Equity Act Will Come into Force on August 31, 2021

- On **August 31, 2021** Canada's Pay Equity Act will come into force to close the gender wage gap and ensure that workers receive equal pay for work of equal value. The Act will also help ensure an inclusive economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Employers with 10 or more employees will have **three years to develop and implement their proactive pay equity plans.**

219. July 7 – Date Announced for \$500 One-Time Payment, and Old Age Security to be Automatically Increased by Almost \$100 Over the Coming Year

- During the week of **August 16, 2021**, the Government of Canada will deliver a **\$500 one-time payment to older seniors who are eligible for the OAS pension and were born before June 30, 1947** to support higher expenses.
- In **July 2021**, OAS benefits will automatically increase **1.3%**, **bringing the maximum monthly OAS pension amount to \$626.49.**
- In **July 2022**, a permanent increase of 10% will be applied to the OAS pension for seniors aged 75 and over, providing an additional **\$766 to full pensioners over the first year.**

220. July 13 – Government of Canada Launches Jobs and Growth Fund to Create Jobs and Foster Economic Activity in Canada's Communities

- The Government of Canada has announced the launch of the Jobs and Growth Fund, delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs). The fund will provide **\$700 million to support a regional response and stimulate economic recovery by investing in projects that will help create jobs over the next three years and beyond.**
- Up to **\$70 million** for businesses created after January 2020 will also be available to those who meet eligibility criteria.

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- Applications will be on a continuous intake basis until **March 31, 2024 or until funding is fully committed.**
- 221. July 14 – Federal Government Delivering \$5 Billion in Pandemic Support to Provinces and Territories for Vaccines and Health Care
- A payment of **\$5 billion** will be distributed to Canada’s provinces and territories to further support vaccination campaigns and ensure our health care systems remain resilient and responsive to Canadians’ needs. The payment will be distributed equally per capita.
- 222. July 19 – Government of Canada Announces Easing of Border Measures for Fully Vaccinated Travellers
- As of **August 9, 2021**, Canada will be allowing entry to American citizens and permanent residents currently residing in the United States and who have been fully vaccinated with a Canada-approved vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Non-essential travel will be permitted.
- Should the domestic epidemiologic situation remain favourable in Canada, the national borders will open to any travellers who have received a full course of a Government of Canada-accepted vaccine on **September 7, 2021**. The full course must have been completed at least 14 days prior to entering Canada.
- All travellers must use the ArriveCAN app to submit their travel information.
- Those eligible to enter Canada who meet specific criteria and are full vaccinated will **not have to quarantine upon arrival**.
- Furthermore, as of **August 9, 2021**, international airports will be permitted to land at **five additional airports**:
 - Halifax Stanfield International Airport;
 - Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport;
 - Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport;
 - Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport; and
 - Edmonton International Airport.
- International flights will **still be permitted to land at**:
 - Montreal-Trudeau International Airport;
 - Toronto Pearson International Airport;
 - Calgary International Airport; and
 - Vancouver International Airport.
- All travellers will still be required to produce a pre-entry molecular test result. However, fully vaccinated travellers will not need a post-arrival test unless they have been randomly selected to complete a Day 1 COVID-19 molecular test, as part of a new surveillance program at entry points into Canada.

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- At **12:01 A.M. on August 9, 2021** the three-night government authorized hotel stay will be eliminated for all travellers arriving by air.
- While fully vaccinated travellers will no longer be required to quarantine, all travellers must still provide a quarantine plan which they are prepared to follow should it is determined at the border that they do not meet the necessary requirements.

223. July 26 – Minister of Health to Announce Two New Projects Promoting the Importance of Vaccinating Against COVID-19 in Youth

- Two new projects will receive funding through the Immunization Partnership Fund (IPF) to promote vaccination uptake among youth aged 12 and over in Canada. The projects are as follows:
 - **\$500,000** to BGC Canada to promote the benefits of vaccinating against COVID-19 and promote evidence-based dialogue about vaccination among families of children and youth who access programming at local clubs across Canada.
 - **\$220,000** will go to The Canada Safety Council to create a COVID-19 vaccine education and awareness program to be delivered in schools with the support of teachers across Canada to engage students and their parents on vaccinating against COVID-19.

224. August 9 – Canada Invests in Net-Zero Retrofits for Affordable Housing in Ottawa

- The Government of Canada is investing **\$547,500 to the Ottawa Community Housing Corporation** to retrofit affordable housing. OCHC will be matching federal funding, bringing the project total **over \$1 million**.
- The project aims to retrofit a four-unit townhome in Ottawa into net-zero homes, meaning they will produce as much energy as they consume, all while extending the building's life-cycle and maintaining access to affordable housing in the city.

225. August 11 – Canada Moving Forward with a Proof of Vaccination for International Travel

- The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories to develop a proof of vaccination to facilitate cross-border travel. The Canadian government will also be collaborating with Indigenous partners to ensure proof of vaccination credentials respond to the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples.

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226. August 13 – Government of Canada Negotiates Additional Agreement with Moderna for Vaccine Supply Beyond 2021

- Canada has entered into an agreement with Moderna for additional supply of its COVID-19 vaccine for 2022 and 2023, with an option to extend into 2024. The agreement guarantees **40 million doses, with access to up to 65 million more if all options are exercised.**
 - **20 million doses** will arrive in 2022 with option for **15 million more**
 - **20 million doses** will arrive in 2023 with option for **15 million more**
 - 2024 will be an optional year, where Canada will have access to **35 million more doses.**

227. August 24 – COVID-19: Border Services Resume at a Number of Small Canadian Marine Vessel Reporting Sites, Airports of Entry and Ferry Terminals

- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will **proceed with the resumption of service** at various small marine reporting sites, airports of entry and ferry terminals over the coming days and weeks. This decision follows changing measures affecting travel to Canada for fully vaccinated United States citizens and permanent residents, which began on August 9.
- More information on sites where services will resume is available [here](#).

228. October 16th, 2021 - Support for long-term care homes in Ontario extended to manage COVID-19 outbreaks

- The Government of Canada has **approved an extension to a Request for Federal Assistance** from the Province of Ontario to manage the COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care and retirement homes.
- As a result of this extension, the Canadian Red Cross will continue to support long-term care and retirement homes upon request from the Ontario government **until November 30, 2021**, with the option to **extend by an additional two months until January 2022.**

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Sources

- Office of the Prime Minister of Canada / Premier Ministre du Canada
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- The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
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