

COVID-19

Support for the non-profit/voluntary sector

Alberta's non-profits are experiencing significant impacts and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alberta government and federal government have a number of supports in place to assist legally incorporated non-profits and registered charities. This includes faith-based groups as well as organizations related to sports and recreation, arts and culture, the environment, newcomer settlement, housing, social services, community development, education and research, volunteerism, unions, and professional associations.

Immediate supports

- In keeping with public gathering restrictions, deadlines are suspended for corporations, cooperatives and non-profit organizations that must hold **annual general meetings** before they can file their annual returns.
- Non-profits that are employers may be able to have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021. For complete details, please see the [WCB's COVID-19 update](#), which includes an employer fact sheet.
 - Employers who have already paid WCB premiums in 2020 are eligible for a rebate or credit.
 - For small and medium employers, the government will cover 50% of the 2020 premium when it is due in 2021.
 - Large employers will have their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until 2021, at which time their premiums will be due.
- The maximum time for temporary layoffs has been increased from 60 days to 120 days. This change is retroactive for temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 that occurred on or after March 17.
- Non-profits may be able to defer their utility charges by contacting their utility retailer.
- The [charitable donation matching program](#) allocates \$2 million to be used to match donations to designated Alberta-based charities and non-profits and with COVID-19 fundraising campaigns. This program runs until May 31.
- The federal government is investing \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need. The investment will flow through national organizations that have the ability to get funds quickly to local organizations that serve vulnerable populations.
- For students who choose to volunteer and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.

Charitable gaming proceeds

Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) recognizes that charitable groups may need expanded use of proceeds in order to maintain key programs while addressing the impacts of the crisis.

For a complete list of acceptable uses of proceeds, visit [AGLC.ca/COVID19](#). Please submit questions to gaming.useofproceeds@aglc.ca with subject line: COVID 19 UOP Request.

Emergency funding for charities and non-profits

The Alberta government is providing \$30 million to municipalities, charitable and non-profit organizations to support individuals, seniors, families and other vulnerable Albertans who are isolated or impacted by measures to contain COVID-19. Grants will be distributed with assistance from local Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). Applications for this program have been suspended. For more information, visit [emergency funding for charities and non-for-profit organizations](#).

The Alberta government has also announced additional support of [\\$5 million for food banks and community organizations](#) as they support secure access to food for vulnerable Albertans.

Employee supports

The Government of Alberta's temporary [Emergency Isolation Support program](#) is now **closed** after successfully distributing about \$91.7 million to 79,596 eligible Albertans since the launch of the program – close to double the amount originally allocated.

There are also several supports in the Government of Canada's (GoC) economic stimulus package:

- GoC is **waiving the one-week waiting period** for individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. GoC is also waiving the requirement to provide a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.
- For non-profit and charitable organization employees whose hours have been reduced, the GoC is implementing the **EI Work Share** program. This will provide EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers.
- Non-profits and charities with staff may also be eligible for the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#).
- Non-profits and charities may also be eligible for the [Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers](#) program.

- The GoC introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months to:
 - Workers who must stop working due to COVID19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support.
 - Workers who are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
 - Working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.
 - Workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.
 - **Wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers**, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.
 - People earning up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB, seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work.

To apply for supports and access the most up to date information, visit [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

Encouraging volunteerism

The province is accepting nominations for the new [Alberta Northern Lights Volunteer Recognition Program](#). The Alberta Northern Lights Volunteer awards honour everyday heroes to encourage the spirit of volunteerism as the province responds to COVID-19.

Government is leveraging existing community resources to ensure Albertans who want to help at this time can be connected to local volunteer opportunities directly through the new [Alberta Cares Connector](#) website.

Other resources

- Imagine Canada has provided resources and information on managing through and building resilience during the outbreak.
<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/covid19>
- Integral Org has provided a listing of resources for Non-profits and Charities from the Public Health Agency of Canada, Workplace preparedness, and municipal advisories at:
<https://integralorg.ca/about-us/resources/covid-19-resources-for-nonprofits/>
- Charity Village has built a resource library of those providing resources at:
<https://charityvillage.com/covid-19-resources-from-canadian-nonprofit-umbrella-groups/>
- Volunteer Canada has provided resources related to engaging volunteers and volunteer safety related to COVID-19 at:
<https://volunteer.ca/>
- United Way Calgary has provided a wealth of resources for social sector organizations, at:
<https://calgaryunitedway.org/covid-agency/>
- Fusesocial, a volunteer information and resource centre operating to support social profit organizations in Fort McMurray, has compiled a list of COVID-19 Resources for social profit organizations: <https://fusesocial.ca/covid-19-resources/>
- Volunteer Connector, an Alberta-based website for volunteer matching, has added a banner to its homepage directing prospective volunteers looking for opportunities to provide immediate assistance to organizations that require pandemic-related assistance.
<https://www.volunteerconnector.org/>

Please continue to monitor alberta.ca/COVID-19 for the most up to date information.