

REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

Deh Cho Business Development Centre – <http://www.dcbdc.ca>

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The DCBDC office is closed to the public but we can help you via phone, email, and fax. Our offices are too small to meet the social distancing requirements, but we want to help you in whatever way we can. Direct assistance is outlined below and is followed by other programs which DCBDC staff can help you access.

3 Month Loan Deferral

Any business with an existing loan with the DCBDC can ask for a 3-month deferral of their loan payments with no penalty. The DCBDC is working on getting the interest portion of these payments not only deferred but paid (by the Territorial Gov't).

Business Financing

The DCBDC is offering loans of up to \$200,000 for business start-ups and existing businesses at interest rates fixed for the life of the loan (up to 10 years). The lowest rate offered is currently 5.25% (based on CIBC prime of 2.45%)

Consultation / Technical Assistance

DCBDC continues to with business planning, start-up, and business issues you may have. Staff can also help you to apply on its own loan programs or any of the programs listed below:

TERRITORIAL ASSISTANCE

BDIC Working Capital Loan - <https://www.bdic.ca/>

To provide immediate working capital for NWT businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is offering low interest loans to business operators through the Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC). Loans of up to \$25,000 (or more if needed) are being made available to qualified NWT businesses at a rate of 1.75%. Loans will be amortized for up to five years with options for **payment deferment**. To be eligible, business owners will need to reside in the NWT and will need to demonstrate financial need due to cash flow issues resulting from the COVID-19 crises (a credit check is required). Priority will be given to businesses with fewer than 20 employees but the GNWT will consider application from businesses with up to 50 employees.

The following documentation is required to process your application;

1. A complete application form
2. Supporting documentation in regards to the need;
 - a) Monthly Expenses for the operation of your business for the next 30 days (can be written)
 - b) Support information showing a change in revenues within the last 60 days
3. Valid NWT Business License (this can be Territorial or Local)
4. Valid NWT Driver's License

Also note:

- The loan amount being requested is based on the next 30 days of operations. Please ensure when requesting funds that this is taken into consideration.
- Security will be required by way of Promissory Note, Personal Guarantee and General Security Agreement should this loan be approved. The legal fees to register any security will be waived.
- Loan payments are paid on a monthly basis. Please indicate whether you would like the first 3 months of payments deferred on your application form or by email.
- Applications with supporting documentation are asked to be submitted to Industry, Tourism and Investment and will only be accepted by email as the Government of the Northwest Territories is practicing Social Distancing and all offices are closed.
- For more information regarding this program and the Loan Deferment Program please go to <https://www.bdic.ca/>

SEED 20/21 - <https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en>.

The Government of the Northwest Territories department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has currently put its SEED program on hold. As you can appreciate, they are not in a “business as usual” situation with respect to program funding as they review how best to serve NWT businesses during this unprecedented time. The \$3.86 million SEED fund will be a valuable tool going forward as we look to invest in business recovery efforts once the immediate COVID-19 health pandemic subsides. Therefore it will be important that they are strategic in how this funding is dispensed to maximize recovery efforts for our businesses. To that effect, they will communicate more information in the coming week on future SEED applications. Until then, please take a look at other business relief programs here: <https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en>.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Canada Emergency Business Account

This program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced, due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus.

Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (up to \$10,000).

To qualify, organizations will need to demonstrate that they paid between \$50,000 and \$1 million in total payroll in 2019. Applications will be made directly to the business' Financial Institution that holds their main operating account.

More details to come and here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Business Credit Availability Program

Through this program, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will provide more than \$10 billion in direct lending and other types of financial support at market rates to businesses with viable business models whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted.

Businesses interested in seeking support through this program should contact their financial institution.

For more information on this program, please click : <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html>

Tax Deferrals:

The deadline for businesses to pay any income tax amounts that become owing or due after March 18th, 2020 and before September 1, 2020 has been extended to September 1, 2020.

This means that you will not be assessed any penalties or interest if your balance due is paid by September 1, 2020.

For more information on this program, please click here. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update.html>

Wage Subsidy:

The Government of Canada is proposing to introduce a wage subsidy of 75% for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. The details of the program include:

- 75% of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees - representing a benefit of \$847/week.
- The program would be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.
- Eligible employers must have a 30% reduction in gross revenues in March, April or May when compared to the same month in 2019.
- For non-profits and charities, the government is continuing to determine if the definition of revenue is appropriate for their circumstances. More information will be announced shortly.

For more information on this program, please click here: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#wage_subsidies

Canada Emergency Response Benefit:

Provides \$500/week for up to 16 weeks for workers, small business owners and entrepreneurs who are not receiving a paycheck as a result of COVID-19.

There are two ways to apply:

- Online with CRA My Account

- Over the phone with an automated phone service

Applications will be accepted starting April 6, 2020 based on the month you were born. There is no waiting period and direct deposit payments will be delivered into accounts within 3 business days of applicants being eligible to receive it, and cheques within 10 days.

Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said the wage subsidies allow for “a quick recovery the minute the emergency phase of the pandemic is over.” And the program may be useful for businesses such as bars and cannabis growers that are shut out of other relief.

For more information on this program, please click here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

Most up-to-date on the Federal Programs here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Additionally please check out the YK Chamber website who have been doing a good job compiling all of the resources if NWT companies are looking for info:

<https://ykchamber.com/covid-19-resources-information/>

Other GNWT Assistance

Fee Reduction:

Provide relief to northern supply chain businesses through a removal of fees until the end of June for:

- Deh Cho Bridge tolls
- Truck permits
- Airport landing fees

Establish Economic Relief and Growth Advisory Group:

Begin work to establish an Advisory Council to help identify the economic impacts of the pandemic; represent the business community; and ensure that the items most critical to local economies and jobs are targeted for medium and long term government support.

Advance Portion of Net Fiscal Benefit Transfer to Indigenous Governments:

Provide advance payments for the 2020 GNWT net fiscal benefit from resource revenues to Indigenous Governments that are signatories to the Devolution Agreement.

Contribution Carryovers:

Allow non-government organizations, Indigenous Governments, and Community Governments with unused contribution amounts in 2019-20 to use these funds in 2020-21.

Payment Terms for Vendors:

Allow small businesses and individuals to access cash flow more quickly by shortening the payment terms on GNWT invoices so that they are paid out as soon as possible.

WSCC employer fees:

Extension of the due date for Employer Assessment Payments from April 1 to May 1, 2020.

GNWT Collections Policy:

Provide small businesses and individuals with access to greater cash flow during this crisis, by pausing most collections efforts, including:

- Outside collection agency activity
- GNWT set-offs on GNWT payments
- GNWT set-offs on Canada Revenue Agency tax refunds

Income Assistance:

Increase funding available for the Income Assistance program.

Student Financial Assistance:

Defer the payment of student loans to September 30, 2020, including not charging interest for this period.

NTPC Load Limiters/Collections Policy:

Support NWT residents by removing load limiters, ceasing disconnections, and pausing collection efforts.