

# NEW BRUNSWICK COVID-19 RESOURCES

Province of New Brunswick Updates: <http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus>

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## Information for Families and Individuals

### Employment Benefit (One-Time)

A one-time \$900 benefit will be administered through the Red Cross and will help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business on or after March 15, 2020. The Canadian Red Cross can assist people in accessing a wide range of supports and services. People who have issues or concerns should call **1-800-863-6582**. More information on the benefit and the application procedure [is available online](#).

### Childcare for Essential Workers

Information for essential service workers on how to access child care services is now available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's [Parent Portal](#) or by calling **1-833-221-9339**.

### Tenants

The rights of landlords under section 19 of the Residential Tenancies Act to require tenants to vacate for non-payment of rent, and the authority of residential tenancies officers under section 22 of that act to evict tenants for the same reason, are suspended, until May 31, 2020.

### Student Loans

The federal government announced a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada student loans. This will also be the case for provincial student loans. For more information on New Brunswick student loans, please visit: [Government of NB Student Loans](#)

### NB Low Income Senior's Benefit

To be eligible for the \$400 benefit, a person must have been a resident of New Brunswick on Dec. 31, 2019, and have received one of the following federal benefits under the Old Age Security Act: Guaranteed Income supplement; Allowance for Survivor Program; or Allowance Program. More information about the program, and on how to apply, is available from Finance and Treasury Board, Revenue Administration Division, at **1-800-669-7070** or visit:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/finance/promo/seniors.html>

For more information on the GIS or one of the other federal benefits, please contact Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at: **1-800-277-9914** (English) or **1-800-277-9915** (French).

### Provincial Drug Coverage

Effective immediately, and for the duration of the emergency, patients with drug coverage under New Brunswick's public drug plans will only be responsible for the initial co-payment on a prescription fill or refill. For example, a patient with a 90-day prescription will only have a co-payment for the first 30-day fill. There will be no co-payment required for the second and third 30-day fills on the same 90-day prescription. This applies to all New Brunswickers that are on the public drug plan, including many seniors and low-income individuals.

Any New Brunswick resident who has questions about the New Brunswick Drug Plan may call the information line toll free at **1-855-540-7325**, email [info@nbdrugs-medicamentsnb.ca](mailto:info@nbdrugs-medicamentsnb.ca), or visit [The New Brunswick Drug Plan](#) and may view the list of eligible drugs covered by the New Brunswick Drug Plan by visiting the [New Brunswick Drug Plans Formulary](#).

### Information Line

A toll-free information line and email address, which offers services in both languages, has been set up to help answer non-health related questions, including questions about compliance with the state of emergency. The number, **1-844-462-8387**, is operational seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The email address is [helpaide@gnb.ca](mailto:helpaide@gnb.ca)

*This document is intended to be a resource to help identify possible provincial and federal supports*

*\*Updated as of April 8, 2020    \*\*Document will be updated and distributed weekly*

*\*\*\* All information collected and provided in this document was sourced from publicly available websites*

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## *Updates for April 8:*

### **The Emergency Bridging Fund for Vulnerable Post-Secondary Students**

Support for vulnerable post-secondary students in New Brunswick, who are directly impacted by the COVID-19 situation. Students must demonstrate financial gap in meeting their basic needs between now and the end of the term. Post-secondary institutions will distribute the funds to students based on eligibility criteria and will provide a one-time amount of up to \$750 per student. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2wQQIGH> or contact your post-secondary institution, or Student Financial Services, Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, phone: (506) 453-2577, toll free: 1-800-667-5626.

**\*\*\* Workers Emergency Income Benefit Application Deadline is approaching, the deadline is at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.** The one-time \$900 benefit was created to help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business to when they receive their federal benefit. \*\*\*

### Food Security – Farm to School Grant

Farm to School grant deadlines were extended to April 17<sup>th</sup> with a stream-lined application process. This is funding for schools to plant gardens, purchase greenhouses and use that produce in school cafeterias. <http://www.farmtocafeteriacanada.ca/2020/03/deadline-extended-farm-to-school-canada-grants/>

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## Information for Businesses in New Brunswick

### Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Businesses that are impacted by sudden shifts in the economy are strongly encouraged to get in touch with ACOA officials at 1-800-561-4030.

### Waiving Late Penalties on Property Taxes

Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19.

### Deferring Interest and Principle Payments on Provincial Loans

As an immediate measure, and on a case-by-case basis – the Government of New Brunswick will defer loan and interest repayments for up to six months on existing provincial loans. This support will enable businesses to have immediate relief if they are experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19. This assistance is available, on a case-by-case basis, to any business that has a loan with an existing Government of New Brunswick department. The deferral can be requested by contacting the department that issued the loan.

### Support for Small Business

The Government of New Brunswick will provide working capital to support small businesses. Loans will be up to \$200,000 and will help companies respond to challenges associated with COVID-19. Opportunities New Brunswick will work with a trusted partner to administer the application process. More details will be available from the Government of New Brunswick on the application process in the coming days. For more information, please refer to [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for\\_business/covid19.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html)

### Injecting needed working capital for mid-to-large employers

Opportunities New Brunswick will provide – upon request – working capital in excess of \$200,000 to help mid- to-large employers manage the impacts of COVID-19 on their operations. Mid- to large employers will be able to apply for this assistance directly from [Opportunities New Brunswick](#) .

### New Brunswick Workers' Compensation

[WorkSafeNB](#) has announced assessment that premiums related to employer payrolls for March, April and May will be deferred for three months without interest charges.

### FAQ's for Small Businesses Related to Covid-19

Businesses with questions they cannot find answered on our dedicated website are invited to contact the Business Navigator Service, by emailing [nav@navnb.ca](mailto:nav@navnb.ca), or calling 1-833-799-7966

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## Information for Businesses in New Brunswick

*Updates for April 7:*

### Loans for working capital now available

Small, medium and large employers in New Brunswick whose businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 can now apply to the provincial government for loans for working capital. The new loans are to support New Brunswick-based companies. A total of \$50 million has been allocated for two distinct loan programs for working capital.

Businesses can access more information about the application processes at [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for\\_business/covid19.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html)

### FCC AgriSpirit Fund

Do you have a project that will enhance lives or contribute to sustainability in your rural community? The FCC AgriSpirit Fund may provide between \$5,000 to \$25,000 to projects that qualify in a city, town or Indigenous community with fewer than 150,000 people. **Update: Application deadline extended to April 15, 2020. First Nations are eligible up to \$25,000.**

**Types of Projects considered:**

**Capital projects** – construction or upgrades to a hospital, medical centre, childcare facility, rink, sportsplex or the purchase of fire and rescue equipment.

**Sustainability projects** - upgrades to heating and cooling systems in a community building, installing new windows in a recreation centre or purchasing capital items for a recycling facility.

**For more information:** <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/community/giving-back/agrispirit-fund.html>

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