

# PICTOU COUNTY REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

**Please see below:**

- Tools developed by the PCREN to help create awareness about your business.
- A tool developed by the Office of Sean Fraser MP for Central Nova to help you figure out what program to apply for and how to apply.
- Updates received from the Province of Nova Scotia that summarizes Provincial and Federal Supports. There is a very useful chart at the bottom.

**Here are tools that have been developed by the team at the PCREN:**

**1) A [Support Pictou County Businesses Facebook Page](#):**

This page is intended to be a place for Pictou County businesses to provide operational updates to the public during this challenging time.

Please post your business modifications on the Facebook page, including your business name and the details you would like to share.

Please also stay-tuned for a contest that will be posted soon to help encourage more views to the page. You can also "like" and "share" the page too.

2)A [pictoucounty.com website](#): This temporary site has been established to direct community members

- to government updates/resources with an emphasis on supports for businesses
- to local businesses who are adjusting their products and services to keep doing business safely

We are working hard at the PCREN to gather and summarize information as it becomes available from government and other resources.

If you would like to reach out to us, please contact us at [office@pcren.ca](mailto:office@pcren.ca)

### **Tool developed by the Office of Sean Fraser Member of Parliament for Central Nova:**

They have created a step-by-step guide for constituents during the COVID-19 pandemic to find out which benefits they qualify for and how to apply with The Government of Canada.

[To find the tool to help determine the benefit you qualify for, please click here.](#)

### **Updates from the Province of Nova Scotia:**

#### **WORKER EMERGENCY BRIDGE FUND AND SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT GRANT**

Applications for the two programs announced Thursday, April 2, will be available online by April 10th, at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support>.

The Department of Business is committed to getting money into the hands of our small businesses and workers as quickly as possible. Dalhousie University has agreed to help us with that. All funds will be dispersed by the end of April.

#### **COVID-19 IN THE WORKPLACE**

All positive cases of COVID-19 are reported to Public Health through the lab testing processes. Anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health and they will work to determine who their close contacts are. If co-workers are identified as close contacts, Public Health will follow up with those individuals, typically within 24 hours, with instructions to self-isolate. All other employees should continue to practice good hand hygiene and use cough and sneeze etiquette. Physical distance of 2 metres, or six feet, must be maintained in the workplace.

There is no requirement for businesses to close if an employee has tested positive.

Businesses that are open must take the following steps to keep employees and customers healthy:

- Maintain a two-metre, or six-foot, distance among employees and customers
- Clean and disinfect workplaces a minimum of twice a day, or as required
- Employees must follow proper hand-washing and other hygiene guidelines

To clean and disinfect workspaces, wash with soapy water first. Then disinfect using household cleaning products, following the directions on the label, or a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Disinfect phones, remotes, computers, and other handheld devices with 70% alcohol or wipes.

## **PRODUCTIVITY INNOVATION VOUCHER PROGRAM**

NSBI is taking applications for the Productivity Innovation Program. The program helps small and medium sized companies access direct assistance to help make their business more productive and innovative.

The program helps businesses find expertise within post-secondary institutions to:

- Improve productivity
- Develop a new product, service, or process; and
- Create growth

More information on the program and how to apply is available online at

<https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/export/programs-services/productivity-and-innovation-voucher-program>

## **EMPLOYER ASSESSMENT TOOL**

The Employer Assessment tool has proved to be a popular resource for businesses looking to find out if they are complying with the Public Health order. Since it was posted online on March 30, it has been visited 8,316 times, with 7,116, or 86.73% of respondents completing the assessment.

Respondents included 2,618 businesses exempt from the Public Health order, 2,491 businesses who are permitted to operate if they are able to practice the social distancing measures, 769 employers who chose “other”, 390 from the food service industry, 279 from regulated health professions, 202 from unregulated health professions.

Employer Assessment Tool is located here: <https://covid19-employer-assessment.novascotia.ca/en>

## FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Program	Terms	Eligibility	Amounts
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)	75% of salaries (up to 3 mths) for qualifying businesses, retroactive to March 15, 2020	Individuals, corps, partnerships and NFP – all sectors (except public sector entities) Must be able to demonstrate 30% or more drop in revenues	Max \$847/week per employee
Wage subsidy 10%	Organizations that do not qualify for the CEWS may qualify for the 10% wage subsidy (March 18 – June 19, 2020)	Individuals, CCPC, partnerships and NFP- all sectors (except trusts)	Max \$1375/employee Max \$25,000/employer
Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)	Interest free loan (repay Dec/22)	paid salaries of \$50,000-\$1 million	up to \$40,000 (\$10,000 potentially forgivable)
Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) for SMEs 1) Loan Guarantees 2) Co-Lending Program	BDC/EDC working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs.	All credit-worthy businesses with viable business models whose activities fall within the mandate of BDC or EDC.	No limits
SBLGP – Credit Unions	90% provincial guarantee on Term loans (10yrs) 75% provincial guarantee on lines of credit (7yrs)	NS owned companies (exclude business with 50%+ alcohol sales)	Up to \$500,000 cumulative loan cap per client
SBLGP- COVID Response Stream	100% provincial guarantee on Term loans/lines of credit	NS owned companies (exclude business with 50%+ alcohol sales)	Up to \$100,000 (loan cap \$500,000 /client)
Small Business Impact Grant	Grant -cash payment to businesses affected by Health order		