

COVID - 19 Table of Federal and Provincial Programs: Subsidies, Grants and Loans to assist harvesters:

Items 1 to 5 are Federal Programs Items 6 to 8 are Provincial Programs

1) CEWS Wage Subsidy (CEWS) - Existing Program (revised)

CEWS is a wage subsidy program, available from March 15, 2020 to August 29 2020, that will provide a subsidy of 75% of the eligible remuneration paid by an eligible employer to each employee – to a maximum of \$847 per week.

An eligible employer includes an individual or a corporation.

In order to qualify for CEWS, the eligible employer must have experienced a decline in revenues and have had a CRA payroll account on March 1, 2020.

[How to apply: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#)

The [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) Eligible employers are able to apply for the CEWS through the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) My Business Account, Represent a Client portals or by going on-line and using a Web Access Code.

For more information about the CEWS program, please see [Frequently Asked Questions – Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#).

The CEWS is based on the number and type of employees you have, and the amount and type of pay they received before and during the COVID-19 crisis. The basic maximum is \$847 per week. This will generally be the amount for employees who earn \$1,129.33 a week or more. For employees who earn less than \$1,129.32 a week, the amount of the CEWS subsidy is generally 75% of the employee's weekly pay. Employers are also eligible for a subsidy of up to 75% of salaries and wages paid to new employees.

Accounting firms are being provided regular updates about changes to the wage subsidy program as they develop. Your accountant may be the best source of information about the wage subsidy.

Fishers, or their representatives or accountants, may want to call for Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) information or to speak with an agent about CEWS eligibility requirements, calculating the CEWS, or how to apply, call the CEWS line.

Telephone number:

1-833-966-2099

Hours:

Monday to Friday	9 am to 6 pm (local time)
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2) Fish Harvesters Benefit (FHB) - New Program

This new program is now available to fishers who are **not eligible** for the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**

Non-repayable 75% wage subsidy to maximum subsidy of \$847 - per weeks for 12 weeks for each Captain and crew member.

Support will be provided to those that experience fishing income declines of greater than 25 per cent in the 2020 tax year.

Details about how to apply are still to come, and will be posted on the PEIFA Website as soon as we get application information from Government of Canada

3) Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) - Existing Program (revised)

To qualify under the most recent eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return. (we have been advised a HST number should be sufficient)
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million.

Expenses will be subject to verification and audit by the Government of Canada. Funding will be delivered in partnership with financial institutions. More details, including the launch date for applications

under the new criteria, will follow in the days to come. The government will work on potential solutions to help business owners and entrepreneurs who operate through their personal bank account, as opposed to a business account, or have yet to file a tax return, such as newly created businesses.

CEBA Quick Facts

- The CEBA provides zero-interest, partially forgivable loans up to \$40,000 to small businesses that have experienced diminished revenues due to COVID-19, but face ongoing non-deferrable costs such as rent, utilities, insurance, taxes, and employment costs. Twenty-five per cent of this loan is forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022.
- The CEBA is delivered through Canadian financial institutions to deliver the loans to their existing business banking customers.

To apply for the CEBA go to the web page of your bank and search CEBA for the application form. Questions may be taken up with your account manager.

4) Fish Harvester Grant (FHG) - New Program

This new program is now available to fishers who are **not eligible** for the **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**.

\$10,000 maximum, non-repayable grant based on percentage of loss, covers 75% of losses after 25% revenue reduction. Replaces Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

The program provides up to \$10,000 to fish harvesters with a valid fishing license. Size of the non-repayable support will vary depending on the level of fish harvesters' historic revenue.

Details about how to apply are still to come, and will be posted on the PEIFA Website as soon as we get application information from Government of Canada

FHB and FHG programs were set up to meet conditions unique to the fishery which prevented fishers qualifying for the Canada Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

programs. These changes were made after extensive lobbying by PEIFA and others.

5) Changes to Employment Insurance (EI) - Revised Program

The new changes will allow self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons, crew, to access EI benefits on the basis of insurable earnings from previous seasons (winter and summer claims). Details about how to apply are still to come, and will be posted on the PEIFA Website as soon as we revised information from Government of Canada

Prince Edward Island Government Programs:

6) The Prince Edward Island Fish Emergency Loan Program:

Offered by Finance PEI and the PEI Credit Unions, will provide loans up to \$25,000 to Islander harvesters at 4 per cent interest over a five-year term. The principal will be deferred for the first 18 months. In addition, the Department of Fisheries and Communities will pay interest on behalf of the borrower for the first 18 months.

7) Fisheries Interest Relief Program: for other loans that fishers and aquaculture operators already have, PEI Fisheries will pay 12 months of interest relief for fish harvesters and aquaculture operators who demonstrate a minimum of 30 per cent decrease in fish-related revenues for the 2020 season.

To apply for interest relief go to Finance PEI home page:

www.financepei.ca

For information email: fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca

8) Finance PEI Loan payment deferral: Fishers that have their debt with Finance PEI will be eligible to defer their principal payments for the same 12-month period (May 1st, 2020 – April 30th, 2021).

To apply for loan payment deferral, go to Finance PEI home page.

www.financepei.ca

For information email: fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca

9) COVID-19 Workspace Adaption Assistance Fund: - Fisheries

This Fund contributes to costs (retroactive to March 16, 2020) that are directly related to implementing safety measures of a COVID-19 Operational Plan, including but not limited to:

Physical changes to workplaces specifically for the purpose of protecting employees and customers

Personal Protective Equipment (examples: gloves, masks, face shields,) Maximum of \$2,000 (based on 75% of Eligible Project Costs).

Applicants must attest that the costs have been incurred and paid, and agree to retain all documents for a period of three years for the purpose of a follow-up audit by Innovation PEI.

Online applications are recommended; however, a printable PDF form is available. The form can be mailed or emailed to business@gov.pe.ca(link sends e-mail)

Online applications can be submitted until July 15, 2020, subject to budget availability.

Contact for information:

Innovation PEI Toll-free: 1-800-563-3734

Email: business@gov.pe.ca

Note:

The combination of the Fish Harvesters Benefit (FHB) (75% wage subsidy) and Fish Harvesters Grant (FHG) \$10,000 grant) together with the provincial loans and interest subsidies effectively replaces the CEWS and CEBA programs and the combination is more compatible with conditions unique to the fishing industry.

Since the announcement of the Fish Harvester Benefit (FHB) and Fish Harvester Grant programs, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Canada (CEWS) 75% wage subsidy and then Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) \$30,000 bank loan have been changed and may now be more accessible to fishers.

Many fishers may now qualify for the regular CEWS wage subsidy and CEBA loan and grant and may prefer to use those programs.

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