



NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS & LABOUR ECONOMIC COALITION

NSBLEC Policy Wins: November 2020 Update

GREEN = Sufficient

YELLOW = Sufficient, but could be improved

RED = Not Sufficient

Federal Government Asks & Discussion Points	Status	Our Response to
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Increase - Increase the wage subsidy for businesses as 10% is not sufficient to allow businesses to rehire employees.	The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy was increased from 10% to 75%.	
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy- Extend the wage subsidy to allow businesses to rehire/continue to employ employees and remain open for business.	The CEWS was extended to June 2021.	
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Modification - We asked that the requested 30% revenue loss be lowered to include more businesses that would benefit from the wage subsidy.	There was a decrease from the need of a 30% revenue loss in the first month to a 15% revenue loss for Canada's Emergency Wage Subsidy.	
Expand the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) for businesses who have revenue less than \$50,000 and more than \$1 million.	The CEBA was opened up to businesses with revenue from \$20,000 to \$1.5 million. The CEBA has also been increased for businesses and organizations who pay dividends as salary.	

<p>Provide support for commercial property tax payers and commercial property owners.</p>	<p>Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CERCA). Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provided relief for small businesses who experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19.</p>	
<p>Provide support for commercial property tax payers and commercial property owners.</p>	<p>Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)- Canadian businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities who have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of their commercial rent or property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021.</p>	
<p>Provide funding for students and recent graduates who are being impacted by COVID-19.</p>	<p>The Canada Emergency Student Benefit: The Federal government announced comprehensive support of nearly \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates. This plan will help provide the financial support they need this summer, help them continue their studies in the fall, and help many get the experience they need to start their careers.</p>	
<p>Expand the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to allow employees to have received some income to ensure employees can work some shifts at with their employer.</p>	<p>The CERB was expanded to allow individuals to have earned up to \$1000 in the month they are applying for the CERB benefit.</p>	
<p>Utilize Regional Development agencies to provide further funding for small businesses within Nova Scotia.</p>	<p>Canada's Regional Development Agencies (RDA) work closely with businesses and innovators in their regions to fuel economic growth that creates more well-paying middle-class jobs for Canadians. In Nova Scotia this will be provided by ACOA. This is available regionally.</p>	

Ensure businesses have access to funding to re-energize the business and recover sustainably.	The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) provides over \$1.5 billion in assistance to businesses and communities that may require additional support to cope with and recover from the pandemic.	
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Provincial Government Asks & Discussion Points	Status	Response to Status
Funding for Small Business in Nova Scotia - We have asked for funding for businesses compliment federal funding and fill-in the current gaps.	Small Business Impact Grant Program- Through the new \$20-million program, eligible small businesses, non-profits, charities and social enterprises who have had to close or greatly reduce operations because of the public health order may be eligible for a flexible grant. This one-time grant is equal to 15 per cent of revenue from sales, either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000. You can use it for any business purpose.	
Provide funding for employees who have lost their job.	The Worker Emergency Bridge is a one-time payment of \$1,000 for Nova Scotians who are laid off or out of work because of COVID-19, who don't qualify for Employment Insurance, and earn between \$5,000 and \$34,000.	
The NSBLEC asked government to ensure rent deferrals for the commercial sector. This was given, but at first it was for businesses with 5 or more employees.	To support small and medium-sized businesses, the government has stated that landlords are encouraged to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for 3 months, spreading the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term. The necessity for 5 or more employees was removed after advocacy from the NSBLEC. This program has been accessed by 1100 companies.	

<p>Provide an Assessment Tool for businesses to determine whether they are deemed an essential service and whether they can remain open.</p>	<p>An assessment online tool has been posted to the provincial Coronavirus website to quickly help employers determine if they may remain open, in compliance with current workplace safety requirements.</p>	
<p>Ensure businesses have quick access to cash where possible</p>	<p>To keep cash in the hands of our small business operators, government has implemented a rapid payment process on invoices it receives from small businesses with which they do business. Invoices will be paid within five days, instead of the standard 30 days. We would like to see businesses have greater access to cash rather than through new loans, so we will continue to push for greater cash programs.</p>	
<p>Allow restaurants and take-out businesses to sell liquor with purchase</p>	<p>Restaurants who are providing take out and delivery are now permitted to include alcohol purchases with those orders, as long as the alcohol cost is not more than three times the value of food ordered, effective March 30.</p>	
<p>Defer Fees for Businesses that could impact their ability to survive through COVID-19.</p>	<p>In recognition of COVID-19, the Government of Nova Scotia is deferring many program and service fees until 30 June 2020 to help support businesses. Deferrals include workers compensation premiums and licence, permit, registration, renewal and service fees.</p>	
<p>Provide support directly to the tourism sector.</p>	<p>Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program- The Tourism Accommodations Real Property Tax Rebate Program is a 25% rebate that helps owners of hotels, motels and inns with their 2020-2021 commercial property tax. To receive the rebate, eligible operators must have paid their commercial property tax bill in full or have entered into a payment plan with their municipality. The deadline for applications is 11 December 2020.</p>	

Provide support directly to the tourism sector.	Tourism Sector Financing Program- The Tourism Sector Financing Assistance Program is a loan guarantee that helps tourism operators access lower-cost financing. Eligible tourism operators receive a Standby Letter of Credit that lets them negotiate better terms with their lenders. Operators can submit an Expression of Interest by 22 October 2020.	
Provide Support to businesses who were ordered to close during the "Second Wave" of COVID-19 in November.	Grant Program Offers Support to Restaurants, Bars and Gyms in Halifax Regional Municipality and Hants County- A one-time grant of up to \$5,000 is being made available to support businesses in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and Hants County that have been ordered by Public Health to temporarily close in response to rising cases of COVID-19 in their communities.	
Provide Support for the Arts + Culture Sector	Emergency Support for Arts and Culture Organizations- This program provides immediate funding to arts and cultural organizations in Nova Scotia that have been affected by COVID-19. The funding helps will help them stay in operation so they can maintain or restart activity under current public health guidelines. The application deadline is 7 December 2020.	

Municipal Government Asks & Discussion Points	Status	Our Response to
Defer Property Taxes for Commercial and Residential taxpayers.	The Municipality is deferring the due date of property tax payments from April 30th to June 1, 2020. This will give the municipality more flexibility to determine what they need (revenue) to provide the same level of services.	

<p>There was a discussion during the call of removing the parking fees in Halifax as to allow easier access to take-out/pick up food and for those needing those parking spaces for emergencies.</p>	<p>The municipality removed parking fees until June 1, 2020.</p>	
<p>Extend patio season into Fall 2020 + Winter 2021</p>	<p>Businesses were able to apply individually for a patio extension. Extensions were given on the basis of snow plowing, etc.</p>	