

Government Alert: Government of Ontario



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Although we strive to provide accurate, relevant and timely information, there is no guarantee that the information will continue to be accurate in the future. Government programs, and other programs available to small businesses, can change daily. The information we provide you through this website is for educational and informational purposes only. For advice that pertains to your unique business situation, please get in touch with us at 1.800.265.1002 or email at fbc@fbc.ca

Read more on government programs, tools, insights and advice on how to navigate your business through COVID-19 on FBC's [online COVID Resource Centre](#)

SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-9 for the Long-Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has released A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This plan outlines our cautious and gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. It will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19.Over the next six months, they plan to slowly and incrementally lift any remaining public health and workplace safety measures, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">removing the provincial requirement for proof of vaccinationwearing face coverings in indoor public settingsTo ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely, this phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health care indicators, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">the identification of any new COVID-19 variantsincreases in hospitalizationsICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission
BUSINESS COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your organization can now conduct rapid testing on-site as an additional screening method that can help stop the spread of COVID-19. Free test kits are available through the Provincial Antigen Screening Program, which has expanded to include more essential sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Ontario government, in partnership with the federal government and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, has launched the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative for small and medium-sized businesses across the province.To contact participating local chambers of commerce and boards of trade about the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative, visit the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

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BUSINESS
COVID-19 Energy
Assistance Program
(CEAP-SB)

- The CEAP-SB provides a one-time, on-bill credit to eligible small business and registered charity customers to help them catch up on their energy bills and resume regular payments

- Small business and registered charity customers may be eligible for up to \$1,500 in support towards their electricity and natural gas bills and can apply for on-bill credits for both electricity and natural gas separately.
- Eligibility requirements:
 - have an active account with an electricity distributor, a USMP or a natural gas distributor.
 - the account falls within the following class:
 - for customers of an electricity distributor, the General Service less than 50 kW rate class
 - for customers of a USMP, the relevant commercial class that uses less than 150,000 kWh of electricity annually
 - for customers of a natural gas distributor, is a non-residential customer that uses less than 50,000 cubic meters of gas annually
 - customers can find information about their class on their bill, or they can contact their utility or USMP.
 - has a registered business number or charitable registration number for the small business or registered charity operating out of the premises.
 - has overdue amounts owing from one or more electricity or gas bills since March 17, 2020.
- You must apply for CEAP-SB through your utility or unit sub-meter provider.
 - Contact them directly about ways to apply – in addition to email and mail, other options like an online form may be available.
- Application Forms (PDF):
 - [Electricity](#)
 - [Natural Gas](#)
- For more information, visit the [Ontario Energy Board website](#)

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SUBJECT	SUMMARY	PROGRAM DETAILS
BUSINESS Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government is proposing to introduce a new 10 per cent refundable Corporate Income Tax credit for capital investments – the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit.• As announced in the 2021 Ontario Budget, a temporary enhancement to the credit provides an additional 10 per cent credit for eligible expenditures in excess of \$50,000 and up to \$500,000 for eligible property that becomes available for use during a qualifying corporation's taxation year, and in the period beginning on March 24, 2021 and ending before January 1, 2023. The maximum credit in respect of eligible expenditures that meet all of the conditions for the enhanced credit would be \$90,000 in a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit would be available to eligible businesses that are building, renovating or acquiring commercial or industrial buildings in designated regions in Ontario.• Eligible businesses could save up to \$50,000 this year.• A Canadian-controlled private corporation that makes qualifying investments that become available for use on or after March 25, 2020 in specified regions of Ontario would be eligible.• The tax credit would be available for expenditures in excess of \$50,000 and up to a limit of \$500,000 for qualifying investments that become available for use by a Canadian-controlled private corporation in the taxation year.• Qualifying investments would be eligible expenditures for capital property included in Class 1 and Class 6 for the purposes of calculating capital cost allowance.• You can apply for this tax credit when you file your tax return.