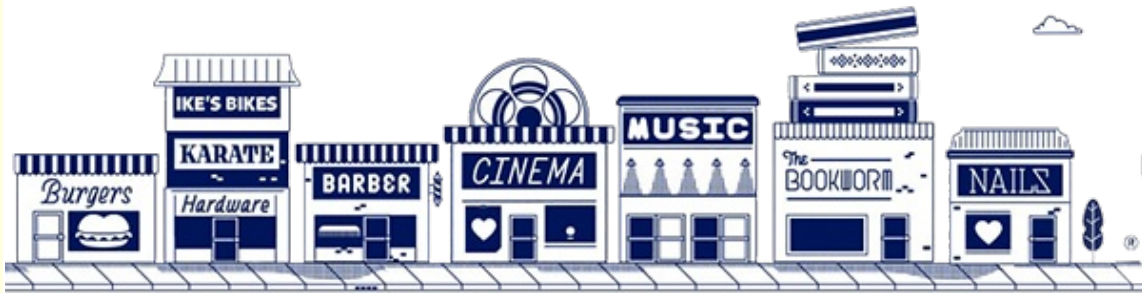


*The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*

# Economic Development Newsletter

## COVID-19 Update: Ontario temporarily moving to modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen



The province will return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. for at least 21 days (until January 26, 2022), subject to trends in public health and health system indicators.

Some of these measures include:

- Limiting capacity at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.
- Retail settings, including shopping malls, permitted at 50 per cent capacity.
- Personal care services permitted at 50 per cent capacity and other restrictions. Saunas, steam rooms, and oxygen bars closed.
- Closing indoor meeting and event spaces with limited exceptions.
- Closing indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities including gyms.
- Closing indoor concert venues, theatres, cinemas, rehearsals and recorded performances permitted with restrictions.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

The Ontario government is introducing new supports for many of the businesses that are most impacted by public health measures in response to the Omicron variant. These supports include a new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program and a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes.

Through the new [Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program](#), eligible businesses will receive rebate payments equivalent to 50 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to the current capacity limits. This will provide support to businesses that are expected to be most impacted financially by the requirement to reduce capacity to 50 per cent. Examples of businesses that will be eligible for the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program include restaurants, smaller retail stores and gyms. A full list of eligible business types will be made available through a program guide in mid-January 2022.

**Online applications for this program will open in mid-January 2022** with payments to eligible businesses provided retroactive to December 19, 2021. Businesses will be required to submit property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

**The province is also providing additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes**, supporting businesses in the immediate term while capacity restrictions are in place while providing the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning. The six-month period will begin January 1, 2022 and end July 1, 2022.

This measure will provide up to \$7.5 billion in relief to help approximately 80,000 Ontario businesses. With this help, approximately 80,000 businesses will have the option to delay their payments for the following provincially administered taxes, helping them free up cash flow during these challenging times:

- Employer Health Tax
- Beer, Wine & Spirits Taxes
- Tobacco Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax
- Fuel Tax
- International Fuel Tax Agreement
- Gas Tax
- Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts & Benefit Plans
- Mining Tax
- Race Tracks Tax

[Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.](#)

**Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program  
(HHBRP) Recovery Program**

As a business, charity, or non-profit in Canada who has faced deep losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for a wage subsidy, a rent subsidy, or both through the [Hardest Hit Business Recovery Program \(HHBRP\)](#).

### **Who can apply for the HHBRP**

[Eligible organizations](#), regardless of their sector, may qualify for the HHBRP if they don't qualify for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP). To qualify for the HHBRP, you must meet the following two conditions:

- You have a [12-month average revenue drop from March 2020 to February 2021](#) of at least 50%
- You have a [claim period revenue drop](#) of at least 50%

## **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP)**

As a business, charity, or non-profit in Canada who has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for a wage subsidy, a rent subsidy, or both through the [Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program \(THRP\)](#).

You may qualify if you are either:

- 1) part of the tourism, hospitality, arts, entertainment, or recreation sectors, or;
- 2) affected by a qualifying public health restriction.

## **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB)**

[The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit \(CWLB\)](#) gives temporary income support to employed and self-employed people who cannot work due to a COVID-19 lockdown.

The CWLB is only available when a COVID-19 lockdown order is designated for your region.

If you are eligible for the CWLB, you can receive \$300 (\$270 after taxes withheld) for each 1-week period. You may apply for any weeks your region is eligible between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022.

The CWLB is administered by the [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](#).

## **Canada Worker Recovery Program**

As an employer in Canada who continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible to apply for a subsidy to cover part of your wages as you hire new employees and increase existing employees' wages or hours.

Each claim period, eligible employers can claim either the higher of the [Canada Recovery Hiring Program \(CRHP\)](#), or the wage portion of:

- the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP), or
- the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP)

Before October 24, 2021, eligible employers could claim either the CRHP or the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

## Canada Summer Jobs Program - Apply now!

Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is a program under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, which aims to provide flexible and holistic services to help all young Canadians develop the skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition into the labour market.

The CSJ program objectives align with the redesigned Youth Employment and Skills Strategy and are as follows:

- provide quality work experiences for youth
- respond to national and local priorities to improve access to the labour market for youth who face unique barriers
- provide opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills

**The program provides wage subsidies to employers** from not-for-profit organizations, the public sector, and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to create quality summer work experiences for young people aged 15 to 30 years.

- **Applications are due by January 25, 2022**
- Funding confirmations will be sent to employers starting in April 2022

Find out more online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

## Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit

The Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit supports business investment, economic growth and job creation in designated regions across the province that lagged in employment growth between 2009 and 2019.

It is a 10% refundable Corporate Income Tax credit for corporations that invest more than \$50,000 to construct, renovate or acquire eligible commercial and industrial buildings in these regions, which includes the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

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.

## Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Stay, Discover, Grow Regional Incentives Program

The County believes that 50% matching grant funding is a direct, predictable, and simple way to stimulate private sector investment, attract and retain businesses, and increase taxable assessment. These grants are available to eligible property owners and authorized tenants within the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

The next intake period for the Regional Incentives Program is expected to launch on February 1, 2022 (*Pending approval of the 2022 Budget for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*).

Projects funded through the Regional Incentives Program must demonstrate that they will:

- Stimulate investment in tourism and in the agricultural sector by funding diverse, on farm expansions and agri tourism.
- Encourage redevelopment and private sector investment in existing building stock within the County to support employment, reduce the number of vacant commercial, institutional and industrial buildings, and increase the assessment base.
- Increase the amount of permanent roofed accommodations within the County to specifically accommodate for an increase in tourism establishments that cater to short-term accommodations.

To learn more about the eligibility criteria, contact Tara Kirkpatrick, the Program Coordinator and Manager of Economic Development at the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. She can be reached at [tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca) or by phone at T. 613-932-1515 ext.1227.

## Get your business online with Digital Main Street "Shop Here" Program

ShopHERE is funded by the province of Ontario and key corporate sponsors to help Ontario businesses and artists get selling online. Learn more at Digital Main Street.

**We are here to support your business.**

The United Counties of  
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry



**Department of Economic Development**

Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic Development

[tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca)

[www.discoverisdg.ca](http://www.discoverisdg.ca)

T. 613-932-1515 ext. 1227

