



COVID-19

A RESOURCE FOR NEW ZEALAND BUSINESSES IN CANADA

Links with up-to-date information and news on Canada's response to COVID-19, including federal and provincial support, relief for businesses, legal and tax considerations and business continuity planning

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1. Overview

Canada, as in other parts of the world, is taking unprecedented steps to contain the spread of COVID-19. Canada has closed schools, limited the size of public gatherings, and closed the Canada/US border to all but essential traffic. Every province in Canada has now declared its own version of the “Emergencies Act” and thus has varying powers to respond to the crisis.

The Canadian economy remains strong and the Prime Minister has announced economic measures to help stabilize the economy, with billions of dollars being provided in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses. This includes a plan to mobilize industry in the fight against COVID-19, employee wage subsidies, interest free loans for businesses, and deferral of GST/HST payments as well as duty and taxes owed on imports (until June 2020).

Premiers in some Canadian provinces, like Quebec and Ontario, have directed that all non-essential businesses close for a period. However, closures to non-essential businesses do not preclude the provision of work and services conducted online, by telephone or by mail or courier. Teleworking and online commerce has become the new normal. If you have customers in Canada, whether deemed essential or non-essential businesses, NZTE recommends reaching out to them to check-in and see if they need your support.

The impact on businesses in Canada varies depending on the market segment or vertical. Businesses providing essential services are operating as normal and some supply chains may need to remain open and maintenance may still need to be done. Strong demand remains for equipment and supplies for utilities, IT infrastructure, healthcare, EMS, first responders, defence contractors, government services, energy, mining, and construction sectors. There also continues to be demand for materials and services for the operation, maintenance and safety of transportation systems (road, rail, air, marine). Manufacturing plants may remain open and operational provided their employees can maintain social distancing, and this may present an opportunity to check in with plant managers to see if they are having trouble getting parts from other parts of the world that you may be able to supply.

All cargo terminals in Canada remain open and continue to handle cargo. While the Canada-U.S. border has been temporarily closed to non-Canadian travelers it remains open to the movement of freight. The Canadian government has restricted international flights to all but four international airports including: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary in a further effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. NZTE Vancouver continues to monitor the situation but if you are sending freight to Canada please check with your freight forwarder to see what options are available to you and at what cost.

The Canadian federal government has extended a travel ban that bars entry to all travellers who are not Canadian citizens, permanent residents or people entering from the U.S. for “essential”. This order has been in place since March 21, 2020 has been extended until July 31, 2020 for public health reasons.

This [link](#) explains who can enter Canada during COVID-19 restriction. To be allowed into Canada as a foreign national the purposes of your visit must be deemed essential by the Government of Canada. Essential is defined as follows:

“Essential refers to travel for reasons that are non-discretionary and non-optional. The emergency orders under the Quarantine Act do not allow people to travel to Canada for optional or discretionary reasons, such as for tourism, recreation or entertainment.”

Given that this definition does not appear to be clear cut and does not explicitly exclude business, our advice is to contact Immigration Canada to confirm eligibility prior to travel to Canada. If you have any documentation (letter, work order, etc.) to support the essential nature of your business in Canada this should be submitted with your application.

This is an opportunity for NZ exporters to plan and build for the future, improve your online and digital presence (websites, marketing, training videos, etc.), and implement an effective Business Continuity Plan. To keep you informed, this document contains important Canadian Federal and Provincial updates and resources for New Zealand exporters who need to remain knowledgeable on the situation in Canada and how it is impacting New Zealand agents, distributors, as well as subsidiary and branch offices in Canada. NZTE in Vancouver continues to monitor the rapidly changing situation and will be providing periodic updates but please feel free to reach out with any questions or business needs.

2. Government of Canada Response and Resources

- [COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [Canada-Wide COVID-19 Statistics](#)
- [Canada's response to COVID-19](#)
- [Canada Travel Conditions](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Prime Minister's Office: Plan to Mobilize Industry to Fight COVID-19](#)
- [Public Health Services Update](#)
- [Canada's Economic Response Plan: Support for Businesses](#)
- [Resources for Canadian Businesses](#)
- [COVID-19: Changes to Canadian taxes and benefits](#)
- [Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers](#)
- [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#)
- [Essential Services in Canada during COVID-19](#)

3. Resources for Canadian-based New Zealand Businesses

Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

- [COVID-19 Quick-Reference Considerations for Employers](#)

Watson Goepel LLP

- [Government Supports for your Workplace](#)

Blake, Cassel & Graydon LLP (Blakes)

- [Key Business and Legal Implications](#)
- [Coronavirus: A Primer on Best Practices in the Workplace](#)
- [Keeping Cyber-Safe During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Financial System Measures in Response to COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19: Changes to Canadian taxes and benefits](#)
- [Considerations for Employee Pensions and Benefits during COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 and your Contracts](#)
- [How COVID-19 Is Impacting Canada-U.S. Border Crossings](#)
- [Restrictive Transportation Measures](#)
- [Ontario Government Procurement](#)

Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)

- [CFIB Business Response by Province](#)
- [COVID-19 Small Business Help Centre](#)

Other Important Resources

- [Conference Board of Canada: Daily COVID-19 Insights](#)
- [BDC: Business Credit Availability Program](#)
- [BDC: Support for Canadian Businesses](#)
- [BDC Access to Capital and Other Liquidity Support Measures](#)
- [EDC Help for Canadian Businesses](#)
- [Insurance Bureau of Canada: How coverage is triggered](#)
- [Excellence in Manufacturing Help Line](#)
- [BCEDA COVID-19 Planning Guide for Businesses](#)
- [Mentor Works: Government Support for Businesses](#)

Business Continuity Planning Resources

- [Canadian Chambers of Commerce Pandemic Preparedness](#)
- [BDC: Business Continuity Plan & Templates](#)
- [CDC: Business Pandemic Planning Checklist](#)

4. Canadian Provincial Updates

- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)

- [Ontario](#)
 - [Quebec](#)
 - [Nova Scotia](#)
 - [New Brunswick](#)
 - [Prince Edward Island](#)
 - [Newfoundland & Labrador](#)
 - [Yukon](#)
 - [Northwest Territories](#)
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5. Ontario Provincial Resources

- [Ontario Together: Help Fight Coronavirus](#)
 - [List of Essential Workplaces](#)
 - [Extended Validation Periods](#)
 - [Ontario COVID-19 Relief Measures for your Business](#)
 - [Electricity Relief](#)
 - [COVID-19 Preparedness for Business](#)
 - [COVID-19 WSIB Updates](#)
 - [Economic Developers Council of Ontario Support](#)
 - [Ontario Job protections for workers and here](#)
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6. National News Media for COVID-19

- [CTV News](#)
 - [CBC News](#)
 - [Globe & Mail](#)
 - [National Post](#)
 - [Financial Post](#)
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7. Canadian Law Firms Updates on COVID-19

- [Osler](#)
- [Blakes](#)
- [Watson Goepel](#)
- [McCarthy Tetrault](#)

8. Canadian Tax Accounting Firms Updates on COVID-19

- [KPMG: Government and Institution measures](#)
 - [BDO Global: Responding to COVID-19](#)
 - [CPA Ontario COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [Financial Help for Canadians Affected by COVID-19](#)
 - [Ernst & Young Planning for Recovery](#)
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9. Canada Industry/Sector Response to COVID-19

Food & Beverage

- [Restaurants Canada](#)
- [Canadian Food Inspection Agency COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers \(CFIG\)](#)
- [Retail Council of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Produce Marketing Association](#)

Construction

- [Canadian Construction Association](#)
- [Ontario Construction](#)

Agriculture

- [Canadian Federation of Agriculture](#)

Forestry

- [Forest Products Association of Canada \(FPAC\)](#)

Aviation

- [Transport Canada \(Aviation, Marine, Rail\)](#)
- [Aviation measures in response to COVID-19](#)
- [Air Transport Association of Canada](#)
- [Helicopter Association of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Aviation News](#)
- [HAI Working for You](#)

Marine

- [Canada's Cruise Ship Season Deferred](#)

- [Canadian Ports COVID-19 Response by Province](#)
- [National Marine Manufacturers Association of Canada](#)

Defence

- [Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries: COVID-19](#)
- [Canada National Defence COVID-19 Update](#)

Government Procurement (PSPC)

- [Advisory Notice on Procurement Impacts during COVID-19](#)
- [Message to Contractors during COVID-19](#)
- [Canadian Manufacturers Needed](#)
- [Products and Services Needed by Canada to Help Combat COVID-19](#)
- [Q&As relating to COVID-19 Call to Suppliers](#)
- [Information for Contractors on the American Defense Production Act](#)