

## **Summary of Federal and Provincial COVID 19- Fish Harvester Assistance Programs as of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

### **Federal Programs**

#### **1. Program Change - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**

This program is for small businesses, including fishers, that have an existing Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) payroll account as of March 2020.

##### **What it provides:**

- 75% of the wages of business owner (Captain) and spouse employed in the business and wage subsidy for crew members, to a maximum of \$847 per person per week.
- Retroactive to March 15 and payable to August 29 2020
- Date extension being considered.

##### **Requirements:**

- CRA payroll number
- 30% drop in revenue in May of 2020 compared to May 2019.

Your accountant may be the best person to complete the application and determine your eligibility.

##### **How to apply:**

- go to My Business Account online at Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or contact your accountant. For information call the CEWS information Line 1 (833) 966-2099.

#### **2. New Program - Fish Harvesters Benefit (FHB)**

This program was announced in May of 2020 for fishers who do not have a CRA payroll number or do not meet the criteria for the CEWS wage subsidy.

##### **What it provides:**

- Income support to self-employed fish harvesters and sharepersons. The benefit covers up to 75% of

income losses beyond a 25% threshold for the 2020 tax year when compared to 2018 or 2019. The maximum benefit is \$10,164.

**Requirements:**

- Be a Self-employed commercial fish harvester (eg. "owner operator", enterprise heads, inshore, license holders, or hold limited entry commercial license eligibility)
- Self-employee freshwater fish harvesters
- Indigenous harvesters who are designated by their community under a commercial under a communal commercial fishing license
- Sharepersons crew

**Who is not eligible:**

- Commercial fish harvesters in the offshore sector
- Recreational fish harvesters, including sport fishing enterprises
- Individuals and companies within the aquaculture sector
- Individuals and companies within the processing sector
- Wage-earning crew
- Anyone who has applied for or received Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

**How to apply:**

- Applications will be accepted on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 until September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/initiatives/fhgbp-ppsp/index-eng.html>

**3. Program Change - Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**

This program is accepting applications online through your bank. There have been some recent program changes.

**What it provides:**

- 0% interest loans up to \$40,000 including a forgivable portion of \$10,000 if repaid by December 31 2022.

**Requirements:**

- as of June 26, 2020, businesses eligible for CEBA now include owner-operated small businesses that have a payroll lower than 20k. These changes will make more fishers eligible.

**How to apply:**

- go to your bank's webpage and search CEBA and your bank name. Talk to your account manager for more information.  
CEBA is being made available at more than 230 financial institutions over the coming weeks.

**4. New Program - Fish Harvester Grant (FHG)****What it provides:**

Non-repayable grant to self-employed fish harvesters with a valid commercial fishing license in 2020 (issued by DFO of their Province or Territory for freshwater commercial harvesters), and no-deferable business costs of up to \$40,000. The grant program provides non-repayable support of up to \$10,000, dependent on the level of the fish harvesters' historic fishing revenue in 2018 or 2019. A lesser grant amount may be provided on a sliding scale relative to revenue or actual expenses.

**Requirements:**

- Self-employed commercial fish harvesters (e.g. "owner-operators", enterprise heads, inshore license holders or hold limited entry commercial license eligibility)
- Freshwater fish harvesters (subject to provincial agreement to provide agreement to provide licensing information)

- Indigenous harvester who are designated as Vessel Masters by their community under a communal commercial fishing license
- Must hold a valid commercial fishing license for 2020
- Must have landings against a commercial fishing license for 2018 or 2019

**How to apply:**

- program details and application not yet available.
- the PEIFA will update new program information as it becomes available

**Who is not eligible?**

- Crew (wage earning and share persons)
- Commercial fish harvesters in the offshore sector
- Recreational fish harvesters, including sport fishing enterprises
- Individuals and companies within the aquaculture sector
- Individuals and companies within the processing sector
- Anyone who has applied for or received the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) or equivalent measures

**Application process will be open from August 24<sup>th</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Applicants should review the list of information they will need to provide at:**

[http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/initiatives/fhgbp-ppsp/index-eng.html?fbclid=IwAR1jDOqG0665J0mDOTBaV4jclrzH\\_IDW8dz9prbvBrC\\_MakwLIV6eo5XIm0](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/initiatives/fhgbp-ppsp/index-eng.html?fbclid=IwAR1jDOqG0665J0mDOTBaV4jclrzH_IDW8dz9prbvBrC_MakwLIV6eo5XIm0)

**5. Program Change - Changes to Employment Insurance (EI) :**

The proposed changes will allow self-employed fish harvesters and crew on shares, to access EI benefits in 2020 based on insurable earnings from previous seasons (winter and summer claims).

**How to Apply:**

- current claims are to be submitted as in past filing periods.
- Information will be posted on the following website as it becomes available: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>
- For information by telephone call 1 (833) 966-2099
- The PEIFA will also update new program information as it becomes available.

**Prince Edward Island Government Programs****6) New Program - The Prince Edward Island Fish Emergency Loan****What it provides:**

- offered by Finance PEI and the PEI Credit Unions
- loans up to \$25,000 to Island harvesters
- 4 per cent interest over a five-year term
- principal payment will be deferred for the first 18 months Department of Fisheries and Communities will pay the first eighteen (18) months' interest payments from the date of 1st disbursement.

**Requirements:**

- must be a commercial fisher, loan will be secured by best available position on the fishing license, vessel and personal guarantees (guarantees exclude primary personal residence)

**How to apply:**

- for information about program contact: [financepei@gov.pe.ca](mailto:financepei@gov.pe.ca)

**7) New Program - Fisheries Interest Relief Program:**

**What it provides:**

- for existing clients of Finance PEI and Provincial Credit Unions
- PEI Fisheries and Communities will pay 12 months of interest relief

**Requirements:**

- Demonstrate that primary species has been fished in 2020

**How to apply:**

- go to Finance PEI home page: [www.financepei.ca](http://www.financepei.ca)
- for information email:

[fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca](mailto:fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca)

**8) New Program: Finance PEI Loan Payment Deferral:****What it provides:**

- up to one-year of loan payment deferral.

**Requirements:**

- Existing Finance PEI clients may be eligible to defer their annual principal payments for a 12-month period (May 1st, 2020 - April 30th, 2021).

**How to apply:**

- You must apply before your annual payment(s) is due. Go to Finance PEI home page. [www.financepei.ca](http://www.financepei.ca) or contact your Finance PEI account manager.
- For information email: [fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca](mailto:fisheriesinterest@gov.pe.ca)

**9) Program, COVID-19 Workspace Adaption Assistance Fund:  
- Fisheries****What it provides:**

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).

**Requirements:**

- 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

**How to apply:**

- online applications are recommended; however, a printable PDF form is available. The form can be mailed or emailed to [business@gov.pe.ca](mailto:business@gov.pe.ca) (link sends e-mail)
- online applications can be submitted until July 15, 2020, subject to budget availability.
- contact:  
Innovation PEI Toll-free: 1-800-563-3734  
Email: [business@gov.pe.ca](mailto:business@gov.pe.ca)

**10. New Program - PEI Emergency Working Capital Financing**

**What it provides:**

- Financing up to \$100,000, to provide emergency working capital to PEI small business for disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This new loan program is to assist qualifying companies maintain normal business operations during these difficult times.
- Eligible applicants can apply to receive a working capital loan of up to \$100,000 with a fixed interest rate of 4% per annum to be used to assist with fixed operating costs. Principal & interest payments deferred for a minimum of 12 months.

**Requirements:**

- Existing small businesses (startups not eligible) located and operating in the Province of PEI,

been generating revenue on PEI and registered to conduct business within the Province of PEI.

**How to apply:**

- submit an application and supporting documentation to Finance PEI, including:
- download and complete the [Application for Emergency Working Capital Financing](#)
- direct any inquiries and submit your application with supporting documentation by email to: [financepei@gov.pe.ca](mailto:financepei@gov.pe.ca) ([link sends e-mail](#))

**11. New Program: Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**

**What it provides:**

- Small business owner loans up to \$40,000 through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)
- 0% interest until December 31, 2022;
- No principal payments until December 31, 2022;
- 25% up to a maximum of \$10,000 in loan forgiveness is available, provided the outstanding balance is paid back by December 31, 2022;

If any part of the balance is not paid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a term loan effective January 1, 2023; and, the full balance must be repaid no later than December 31, 2025.

**Requirements:**

- the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund provides funding to support businesses that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) or, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

**How to apply:**

- for more information on the RRRF Program or to apply, contact the CBDC in your area; CBDC West Prince, 902-853-3636, CBDC Central PEI, 902-888-3793, CBDC East, 1-888-303-2232. (**Please note: The demand for funds for the RRRF has exceeded the funds available. In order to provide you the highest level of service, our application**



portal remains open and we encourage you to submit an application which will be processed should more funds become available. Applicants will be contacted to discuss their individual case and the full range of CBDC programs and services available to them.