

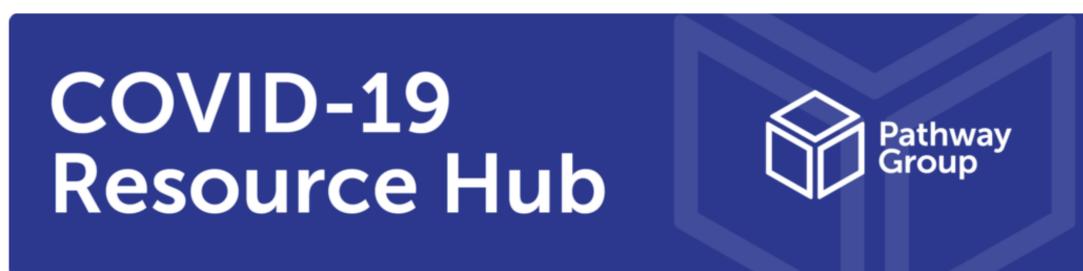
## WEEKLY BRIEFING

May 1 2020



Weekly Pathway Group Newsletter for Friday May 1, 2020

**Pathway Group has created a round-up of news releases and articles of interest to keep you informed of the rapidly-changing federal and provincial landscape in the face of COVID-19. For a complete and up-to-date look at all federal and provincial supports, visit our [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#).**



### News Releases

#### Monday April 27, 2020



##### **Ontario Unveils Guiding Principles to Reopen the Province**

On Monday, the Government of Ontario released its 13-page plan, [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#). According to the document, the province will reopen its economy through a three-stage process in the coming weeks and months, though there's no firm date as to when that will begin; before the government can start loosening restrictions and begin reopening the economy Ontario must see a "consistent two-to-four week decrease in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases." According to the province, the stages for reopening are as follows:

- Stage 1: Select workplaces that can "immediately meet" public health guidance and some outdoor spaces such as parks
- Stage 2: More workplaces based on risk assessments, which could include some service industries and retail; and some larger gatherings.
- Stage 3: Further relax restrictions on public gatherings and open all work places "responsibly."

Even in this phase, however, "large gatherings such as concerts and sporting events will continue to be restricted for the foreseeable future." Each stage will last at least two to four weeks, at which point Ontario's chief medical officer of health will be able to tighten certain restrictions, extend the stage or advise that the province can move into the next phase. On Monday, Ontario's top doctor, Dr. David Williams, said "we have a ways to go" before the province can move into phase one, saying that as of now the province remains in the "pandemic phase" of the outbreak.

#### Tuesday April 28, 2020



##### **Ontario Launches Web Portal to Help Businesses Affected by COVID-19**

Ontario has announced the launch a new web portal, [COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers](#), for businesses looking to retool operations to make health-related products during the COVID-19 pandemic. The province is using the new portal to solicit requests from businesses for temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations, in order to remove barriers that hinder businesses or Ontario's supply chain. Requests and feedback can be submitted using an [online form](#).

##### **Over half of Ontario Tourism Businesses Shut Down, and Some May Never Reopen**

Ontario's tourism sector could be decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with well over half of all tourism businesses already temporarily closed and 16 per cent at risk of permanent closures, new survey results show. Findings provided to CBC News by the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO) come from roughly 1,180 surveys completed by businesses and workers across the province, ranging from small independent outlets like fishing outposts to larger tourist attractions. More than 60 per cent of tourism businesses are temporarily closed, and half of seasonal businesses won't be able to open for the summer season, according to the survey taken between April 22 and 27.

##### **Ontario Government Expands List of Workers Eligible for Pandemic Pay**

The provincial government has expanded its temporary "pandemic pay" program to paramedics, respiratory therapists, public health nurses and all addictions and mental health workers in a congregate setting who serve the same functions as their counterparts in workers in acute-care hospital settings.

##### **PM urges Canadians Not to Drop their Guard as Officials Show Progress in COVID-19 Fight**

Modelling released by federal public health officials shows the COVID-19 epidemic in Canada is still growing, but at a slower rate. While the number of new cases was once doubling every three days, it is now doubling every 16 days. The modelling predicts between 53,191 and 66,835 total cases across the country by May 5, and between 3,277 and 3,883 deaths. According to CBC News, about 79 per cent of COVID-19 deaths so far have occurred in long-term-care facilities and nursing homes.

##### **MPs Gather in First Special Virtual Sitting**

Almost 90 per cent of MPs dialled into the virtual special sitting on the videoconferencing platform Zoom, as the spread of COVID-19 made it difficult for parliamentarians to observe physical distancing measures with a traditional gathering. The meeting was not technically an official House of Commons sitting, but instead is a special committee formed as the Procedure and House Affairs Committee continues to study how a more formal virtual convening of the House of Commons could be conducted while respecting the traditions and privileges of Parliament.

#### Wednesday April 29, 2020



##### **Canadian Chamber/StatCan Major Survey of Business Conditions Amid COVID-19 Shows Economic Clock is Ticking**

Statistics Canada officially released data collected through the [Canadian Survey on Business Conditions \(CSBC\)](#) regarding the impact of COVID-19 on businesses on issues such as revenues, employees and the workplace, access to credit, changes to how businesses interact with customers and other insights.

The survey showed that more than half of Canadian companies saw their revenue drop by more than 20 per cent during the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, while nearly three-quarters of businesses report being negatively affected by social distancing measures aimed at curbing the virus's growth. Nearly one-third of businesses said sales dropped more than 40 per cent in the first quarter when compared to a year earlier. About one-fifth of businesses said their revenue had declined between 20 per cent and 40 per cent during the period.

##### **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Portal**

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is administering the CECRA program on behalf of the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories. CMHC now has a portal online for the program; however, applications are still unavailable.

##### **Ford government expands list of workers eligible for free emergency child care**

The Ontario government is further expanding the list of essential workers eligible to receive free emergency child care during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those who will benefit include people who work in the food supply chain, retirement homes, grocery stores and pharmacies, and certain federal employees, including the military. Since emergency child care was introduced last month, almost 100 child care centres have reopened along with 40 Licensed Home Child Care Agencies in communities across the province.

#### Thursday April 30, 2020



##### **Ontario Providing Employers with Workplace Safety Guidelines**

The Ontario government has released new safety guidelines for employers as the province prepares for a gradual reopening of the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 61 sector-specific safety guidelines provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector. There are also separate guidelines for the construction sector. The guidelines include recommended actions employers can take as they plan for reopening, including:

- Ways to ensure appropriate physical distancing, like eliminating pay-at-the-door options, holding team meetings outdoors, staggering shift times, and using ground markings and barriers to manage traffic flow.
- Changes to the workplace, such as installing plexiglass barriers, increasing the air intake on building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to increase air flow, and using boot-sanitizing trays.
- Promoting proper workplace sanitation, providing personal protective equipment, substituting dry dusting with vacuuming, ensuring customer-facing staff are given hand sanitizer, providing a place to dispose of sanitizing wipes, and enforcing handwashing before and after breaks.

The government has also created printable posters for employers and employees to promote a variety of useful safety tips, such as physical distancing and sanitation. The posters as well as the safety guidelines are available from the Ontario government website at: [ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace](#)

#### Friday May 1, 2020



##### **Ontario Allows Certain Businesses, Workplaces to Re-open May 4**

The Ontario government is allowing seasonal businesses and some essential construction projects to begin operations as long as they comply with strict public health measures and operate safely during the COVID-19 outbreak. Starting Monday, May 4th the following businesses will be permitted to re-open:

- Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only.
- Lawn care and landscaping.
- Additional essential construction projects that include: shipping and logistics; broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure; any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services; municipal projects; colleges and universities; child care centres; schools; and site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development.
- Automatic and self-serve car washes.
- Auto dealerships, open by appointment only.
- Golf courses may prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public.
- Marinas may also begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

