

DTNYXE Newsletter + COVID-19 Latest Information | March 20, 2020

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For the latest updates on COVID-19 and the **Downtown Saskatoon community** - including resources, business status updates, and special services, continue referring to our dedicated website page from the orange button to the right. **Going forward, we'll reserve our emails to regular district newsletter content + emergency notifications, as required.**

[DTNYXE COVID-19 RESOURCES](#)

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser: <https://dtnyxe.ca/covid-19>

Stay healthy + safe, and stay connected!

HAPPY + HEALTHY DOWNTOWN



Still Need to Eat!

We've tabulated which DTNYXE Restaurants are open + delivering, and will continue to update the list.

[DTNYXE Restaurants](#)

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser: <https://dtnyxe.ca/restaurants-covid-19/>

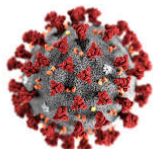


Wonderhub is offering Virtual Programming

For creative ways to keep the kids occupied + educated, virtually visit Wonderhub.

[Play Virtually at Wonderhub!](#)

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser: <https://wonderhub.ca/>



Good News About the COVID-19 Pandemic

It's not too early to appreciate these wins! Through the informational grape-vine our eyeballs are all glued to lately, we came across this positive take on current events, from scientific discoveries to healthy recoveries.

[Good News Outcome](#)

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser: <https://www.diamandis.com/blog/good-news-covid-19>

GOVERNMENT UPDATES RE: COVID-19 RELIEF



The City of Saskatoon has announced COVID-19 Financial Relief + Flexibility

In recognition this pandemic requires change in billing + collection for utility services, relief for Utility Payments + Property Taxation has been announced March 19 - find this report at the below button. Follow City of Saskatoon's updates (including Transit, facilities + more) directly, [here](#).

[City of Saskatoon Financial Relief](#)

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser: <https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/fire-emergency/covid-19>



Saskatchewan State of Emergency

While implications for each Downtown Saskatoon member will be different, some important points to date include:

- All **restaurants**, bars and event venues must limit their seating to 50 per cent of capacity or up to a maximum of fifty people, whichever is lesser. All must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers. Retail spaces including grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are **exempted** from this policy but must have processes to maintain a one to two metre separation.
- All gyms, fitness centres, casinos and bingo halls are ordered to close until further notice.
- Any **licensed restaurants and taverns** in Saskatchewan will be permitted to sell alcohol as an offsale according to SLGA regulations indefinitely.
- All **crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs** allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan residents whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

Later today (March 20) a further provincial announcement is expected. Follow continuing provincial updates [here](#).

SK State of Emergency

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser:
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/18/covid-19-state-of-emergency>



Federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

Prime Minister Trudeau announced economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period. Important points for small business and their employees, include:

- Introducing the **Emergency Care Benefit** providing up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment Benefit would be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to:
 - Workers, **including the self-employed**, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
 - Workers, **including the self-employed**, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
 - Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.
- Increases to **GST** credit payments and **Canada Child Benefit** payments.
- Placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the **repayment of Canada Student Loans** for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans.
- Providing the **Reaching Home initiative** with \$157.5 million to continue to support people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding could be used for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters.
- To support businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a **temporary wage subsidy** for a period of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Businesses will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, as well as non-profit organizations and charities.
- The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any **income tax** amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.
- The Canada Revenue Agency will not contact any small or medium (SME) businesses to initiate any **post assessment GST/HST or Income Tax audits** for the next four weeks.
- The **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** will allow the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC) to provide more than \$10 billion of additional support, largely targeted to small and medium-sized businesses.

Need help interpreting these updates? DTNYXE member Felesky Flynn summarizes tax details [here](#).

Federal Response

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

OTHER COVID-19 UPDATES

Business Impact Survey - extended deadline

Downtown Saskatoon continues to work with the local business community, including the Chamber of Commerce, NSBA, and Tourism Saskatoon to gather information and support our collective memberships through these difficult times.

In case you missed the original tight deadline, you can still complete this 10-question survey before 10 a.m. Monday, March 23.

Take the Survey

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3ZVNZ7>

Big Bank Mortgage Announcement

In a news release late Tuesday, TD Bank announced that the country's six largest financial institutions will "provide financial relief to Canadians impacted by the economic consequences of COVID-19."

"Effective immediately, **Bank of Montreal, CIBC, National Bank of Canada, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank and TD Bank** have made a commitment to work with personal and **small business banking customers** on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges such as pay disruption due to COVID-19; childcare disruption due to school closures; or those facing illness from COVID-19," the statement reads. "This support will include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products."

For more information, contact your financial institution.

Mortgage Announcement

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/mortgage-covid19-coronavirus-cmbc-stimulus-1.5501125>

Canadian Heritage Grants and Contributions Announcements

Canadian Heritage

If your organization receives funding through Canadian Heritage, please be aware of changes to the funding model on events and festivals impacted by COVID-19.

Broken link? Sorry about that - copy this into your browser:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/information-covid-19.html>



* You have received this message by way of being a Downtown Saskatoon member business/property, within the boundaries of our Business Improvement District (for more information, visit our website dtnyxe.ca). If you are not the person who should receive such emails on behalf of your business, we would be happy to help straighten that out with you. Please contact our office.

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