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Federal Update, May 20, 2020.

The Prime Minister [announced](#) that the eligibility criteria for the **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** will be expanded to include more owner-operated small businesses. The program will now be available to a greater number of businesses that are sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll. To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

The CEBA funding is being distributed through financial institutions. Please talk with your financial institution for more information and to apply.

- On Friday, it was [announced](#) that the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** will be extended until August 29, 2020. The Government will consult with key business and labour representatives over the next month on potential adjustments to the program to incent jobs and growth, including the 30 per cent revenue decline threshold. In addition to the extension, the government made regulatory changes to extend eligibility for CEWS to additional groups including Indigenous government-owned businesses, registered Canadian amateur athletic associations, registered journalism organizations, and non-public educational and training institutions. You can find more information about these changes [here](#).
- Minister Ng announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$15 million in additional funding to support women entrepreneurs through the [Women Entrepreneurship Strategy](#) (WES). This money will go directly to select organizations that are currently [WES Ecosystem Fund](#) recipients and will help women entrepreneurs through the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The application portal for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program has not yet opened. Please visit the [Canada Housing & Mortgage Corporation site](#) for more information. The Chamber continues to advocate on behalf of the business community so that this program is more inclusive of more small businesses.