



## REOPENING THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

Provinces have begun considering how they will reopen and restore their economies, which have been devastated by COVID-19 and related containment efforts, as cases begin to stabilize and public pressure mounts.

Each province will take their own approach, with Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and PEI having put forward plans or taken initial steps to loosen restrictions, but the all provinces have agreed to work with the federal government on a jointly-drafted set of national guidelines, including guidelines for companies operating in multiple jurisdictions or across provincial borders, see below.

While residential construction has operated in most jurisdictions throughout the crisis, it has clearly been negatively affected by the shutdown of other elements of the economy, plus of course social distancing in general. CHBA will be monitoring closely to see how the re-opening process could impact the sector.

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### NATIONAL PRINCIPLES TO SUPPORT RESTARTING THE ECONOMY & SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT

On April 28, 2020, the First Ministers' released their national framework to guide and provide some consistency to the reopening process.

As governments develop plans to gradually lift restrictions, they will focus on:

- protecting the health of Canadians;
- easing restrictions gradually;
- protecting high-risk groups (e.g., those vulnerable due to age, underlying health conditions, remote location, close living spaces, and temporary or unstable living spaces);
- ensuring our public health capacity remains strong to prepare for, and respond to, any future waves of the pandemic, including through enhanced testing and contact tracing; and,
- supporting a broad range of economic sectors.

#### Principles

- Science and evidence-based decision-making – Decisions to ease and/or reinstate measures should be based on current public health situations, as advised by public health officials.

- Coordination and collaboration –First Ministers agree to support the continuation of supply chains across borders to maintain economic activity, access to protective equipment, and food security for all Canadians. Governments will continue to share information about challenges and opportunities.
- Accountability and transparency – Each government will continue to be accountable to its residents, and will monitor the impacts of measures to restart the economy and provide updates on progress. Data sharing is critical to understanding the situation across Canada and is essential to informing efforts to re-open segments of the economy.
- Flexibility and proportionality – Public health measures should be relaxed based on the level of threat, and in a controlled and phased manner, based on information that may change over time. This includes information on risks around the disease and health of Canadians as well as social and economic benefits to them. It also includes local and sectoral contexts (e.g., different workplaces, educational institutions, and social activities).

### **Criteria and measures needed to restart the economy**

Epidemiological analysis, health care service arrangements, population distribution, geographic considerations, and economic dynamics are some of the factors that might affect decisions on where, when, and how measures are lifted. Within this context, First Ministers agree that decisions should be informed by the following criteria and measures:

- COVID-19 transmission is controlled
- Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace, and isolate all cases
- Expanded health care capacity exists for all patients, COVID-19 and non-COVID-19
- Supports are in place for vulnerable groups/communities and key populations
- Workplace preventative measures – Support and monitoring of workplace protocols are in place to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. These protocols could include administrative controls, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and access to personal protective equipment where physical distancing is not possible.
- Avoiding risk of importation – Restrictions on non-essential domestic travel should be eased and managed in a coordinated manner. Re-opening of international borders and access for non-Canadian residents may only happen in later stages.
- Engage and support – The success of managing COVID-19 will depend on the ability of communities to use and keep the necessary measures, particularly for public services. Governments will support communities in managing local disease activity, including in child care, schools, and public transportation. Governments will also work with industry and economic sectors to support optimal health, reduced viral activity, and protection of the economy as it restarts.

On July 16, 2020, the federal government announced a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and make them more resilient to possible future waves of the virus. The Safe Restart Agreement, will help address the key priorities, agreed upon by Canada's First Ministers, over the next six to eight months, including support measures to increase testing and contact tracing, support the building the capacity of Canada's health care systems, procurement of personal protective equipment to help our essential

workers, funding for municipalities and providing income support for people who do not have paid sick leave. The latter fulfills a recent promise to provide paid sick leave to all workers, which was used as a bargaining chip by the NDP for their support for government legislation. CHBA maintains that a targeted sick pay program funded by EI and/or governments that can be temporarily deployed during serious public health crises can make sense; however, once such a health crisis is over, any such program should be ended. CHBA awaits more details to evaluate the proposed measure.

On September 15, the federal government unveiled its COVID Alert app, a tool to let Canadians know of possible exposures before any symptoms appear. The following provinces have signed-on to the app either as their primary or secondary tracing system: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the funding was released to support the objectives set out in the agreement.

### Provincial Plans

PROVINCE	PLANS	SECTOR
ALBERTA	<p>Provincial <a href="#">Opening Soon: Alberta's Relaunch Strategy</a> released April 30, 2020.</p> <p>On May 11, 2020, the province announced it was launching an online tool, <a href="#">Alberta Biz Connect</a>, to help guide businesses through the reopening process in Alberta. The tool includes general and sectoral guidance for Stage 1 businesses.</p> <p>Currently in Phase 2 allowing further reopening of businesses with continued protections in place. Relaxing some public gathering restrictions.</p> <p><a href="#">Alberta's Recovery Plan</a> was released on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It commits more than \$10B to infrastructure projects as a means to create jobs and economic activity, with housing as an eligible category. Also expect to match federal dollars committed to municipal infrastructure priorities, and will be asking them to commit to red tape reduction efforts to incentivize new, job-creating private sector investment.</p> <p>It was followed up by the Alberta <a href="#">Natural Gas Vision and Strategy</a> plan on October 6, 2020 that specifically targets economic development in the oil and gas sectors, whose performance continues to impact broader recovery efforts.</p>	Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.

<p><b>BRITISH COLUMBIA</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">BC Restart Plan</a> was released May 6, 2020.</p> <p>Employers will be required to review the <a href="#">new Health and Safety Guidelines</a>, best practices and other resources from <a href="#">WorkSafeBC</a> and apply them to their COVID-19 Sage Plans.</p> <p>Currently in Phase 3 which includes a gradual return to smart, safe and respectful travel within B.C.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.</p>
<p><b>MANITOBA</b></p>	<p>Province released its <a href="#">Restoring Safe Services Together: Manitoba's Phased Approach</a> on April 29, 2020.</p> <p>Province has also provided <a href="#">Workplace Guidance for Business Owners</a> to support businesses permitted to operate/reopen, while reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among employees, volunteers and patrons. It is very general – no sector-specific guidance.</p> <p>Currently in Phase 4 and response level yellow, which limits group sizes to a maximum of 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors, discourages non-essential travel outside of Manitoba is strongly discouraged and required self-isolation for individuals who travelled internationally or domestically). Phase 4 entails easing of restrictions for faith-based gatherings, powwows and other cultural and spiritual events, along with resuming live theatrical performances and reopening movie theatres.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.</p>
<p><b>NEW BRUNSWICK</b></p>	<p>Province released <a href="#">NB's recovery plan</a> on April 24, 2020, it is a four-stage plan to re-open economy based on public health alert levels: Red, Orange, Yellow and Green.</p> <p>Physical distancing and good hygiene are mandatory throughout plan and a <a href="#">guidance document</a> of the public health measures during the recovery phases has been developed.</p> <p>As of July 3, 2020, residents of the Atlantic provinces can travel within the four provinces without the requirement to self-isolate.</p> <p>All zones in NB are currently in the Yellow level.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.</p>
<p><b>NEWFOUNDLAND &amp; LABRADOR</b></p>	<p>Provinces released their plan <a href="#">A Foundation for Living with COVID-19</a> on April 30,2020.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health</p>

	<p>As of July 3, 2020, residents of the Atlantic provinces can travel within the four provinces without the requirement to self-isolate.</p> <p>Currently at Level 2, which allows gatherings of up to 100 people if formally organized, and 50 people otherwise.</p>	<p>protections required still in effect.</p>
<b>NOVA SCOTIA</b>	<p>Remains in state of emergency, although some public health restrictions have been eased.</p> <p>Businesses must follow public health protocols related to their respective sectors, including physical distancing, increased cleaning and other protective measures for staff and customers. To reopen, sector associations representing <a href="#">businesses and organizations that were required to close</a> under the Health Protection Act Order must develop and comply with a <a href="#">Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan</a> for their sector. Businesses and organizations that weren't required to close under the Health Protection Act Order should develop a <a href="#">Workplace COVID-19 Prevention Plan</a> to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>As of July 3, 2020, residents of the Atlantic provinces can travel within the four provinces without the requirement to self-isolate.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.</p>
<b>ONTARIO</b>	<p>Province released <a href="#">A Framework for Reopening Ontario After COVID-19</a> on April 27, 2020.</p> <p>On May 19, retail stores with a street entrance allowed to reopen (for curb-side pickup) and full resumption of residential and non-residential construction, and planned renovations as of on May 19, 2020 and removes the restrictions on new home renovations (work must be carried out in compliance with the health and safety guidelines).</p> <p>On April 29, 2020, the province released <a href="#">60 labour guidelines</a> businesses will need to follow as the economy response, including several industry-specific ones for construction.</p> <p>Currently in Stage 3, nearly all businesses and public spaces will be able to gradually reopen, with public health and workplace safety restrictions in place, while some high-risk venues and activities will remain closed until they can safely resume operations. <b>As of September 8, 2020, Ontario is</b></p>	<p>As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, sector operational but work must comply with current health and safety guidelines.</p>

	<p>pausing any further loosening of public health measures or reopening of businesses, facilities or organizations.</p>	
<p><b>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</b></p>	<p>Province released its <a href="#">Renew PEI Together</a> plan on April 29, 2020.</p> <p>As of May 1, outdoor and construction services (i.e. landscaping, outdoor construction (e.g. decks, roofing, fencing), new construction including roads, and indoor projects as per physical distancing guidelines.</p> <p>As of May 8, remaining construction, maintenance and repair services resumed.</p> <p>As of July 3, 2020, residents of the Atlantic provinces can travel within the four provinces without the requirement to self-isolate.</p> <p>Currently in Phase 4 which permits gatherings of up to 50 people and more personal services to reopen.</p>	<p>Operational with physical distancing guidelines</p>
<p><b>SASKATCHEWAN</b></p>	<p>Province released its <a href="#">Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan on</a> April 23, 2020.</p> <p>Currently in Phase 4 which permits the re-opening of libraries, museums, galleries, movie theatres, and live theatres. The re-opening of indoor sports and activities, indoor pools, indoor rinks, casinos and bingo halls are set to open during Phase 4, but the Province has not yet set a date.</p>	<p>Essential Service – Only public health protections required still in effect.</p>
<p><b>QUEBEC</b></p>	<p>Province released its <a href="#">Gradual resumption of activities under the COVID-19-related pause</a> on April 28, 2020.</p> <p>On May 11, 2020, all construction industry, construction industry’s supply chains and manufacturing companies (some restriction of # of workers) were permitted to resume operations.</p> <p>On May 25, 2020, all manufacturing companies were permitted to resume operations with no restrictions.</p>	<p>Initially shutdown at the onset of the crisis, but fully operational as of May 11.</p>

	<p>As of October 8, 2020 several regions are now orange and red on <a href="#">Québec's COVID-19 alert system</a>, reintroducing a range of personal and business restrictions.</p>	
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