



April 24, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE (CECRA) FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

UDI is pleased to see ongoing recognition of the issues facing commercial property owners across the country. There are still details to work through, but UDI continues to be committed to engaging with government to ensure equitable economic recovery.

Today, [Prime Minister Trudeau announced](#) that the federal government has reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. This program will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19.

The government is also providing further details on the program:

- The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three-monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during **April, May, and June**.
- The loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. **The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent.**
- Impacted small business tenants are businesses paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.

[Prime Minister Trudeau also noted](#) that Ottawa is still looking at similar relief for bigger companies, and another announcement will be coming in the next days.

Additionally, earlier this week, the Prime Minister announced the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#) will open for applications as of **Monday, April 27**. This subsidy will provide employers a 75 percent wage subsidy for up to 12 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020, to June 6, 2020 and will cover the first \$58,700 per employee – up to \$847/week per employee.

For more COVID-19 government resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/external-covid-19-resources/>

For more COVID-19 real estate industry and business resources, please visit our web page: <https://udi.bc.ca/real-estate-industry-and-business-coronavirus-resources/>

We are continuing our advocacy efforts and all of our seminars have been transitioned to **educational webinars** to address the topics that are critical during these unprecedented times. **Have a suggestion for our next webinar? Complete our short [webinar survey here](#).**

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at AMcMullin@udi.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne McMullin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI