

**COVID-19**

**Highlights of Relief Announced to Date**

**(Updated to April 10, 2020)**

<https://salvationist.ca/covid-19/covid-19-resources/>

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# Quick Links to Federal Announcements and Provincial/Territorial COVID-19 Action Plans

Note: Links to key federal and provincial government websites are here, but many of those websites also include the Twitter handle for government alerts if you prefer to follow via Twitter.

## National Hub

[COVD-19 Hub](https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/coronavirusbenefits/) – Provides an overview of supports provided to workers, seniors, families, businesses across the country

## Federal

[COVID-19 Website](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html)

[PM Press Releases](https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/releases)

## British Columbia

[BC COVID-19 Provincial Support](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support)

[COVID-19 News Releases](https://news.gov.bc.ca/Search?q=COVID-19)

## Alberta

[COVID-19 Information for Albertans](https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx)

Situation Updates and News Releases appear at the bottom of the page

## Saskatchewan

[Saskatchewan COVID-19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus)

[COVID-19 Press Releases and Updates](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/latest-updates)

## Manitoba

[Manitoba COVID-19](https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html)

[COVID-19 Media Releases](https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/media.html)

## Ontario

[Ontario COVID-19](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/)

[COVID-19 Press Releases and Media Advisories](https://news.ontario.ca/en/search/?keywords=covid-19)

## Quebec

[La maladie a coronavirus](https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/)

## Nova Scotia

[Nova Scotia COVID-19](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/COVID-19-Rent-Deferral-Support-Program-Guidelines.pdf)

[COVID-19 Press Releases](https://novascotia.ca/news/search/?dept=180)

## New Brunswick

[COVID-19 Guidance for Business](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html)

[Chief Medical Officer of Health Website](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus.html)

## Prince Edward Island

[PEI COVID-19](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/covid-19)

## Newfoundland and Labrador

[Newfoundland and Labrador COVID-19](https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19)

[COVID-19 News Releases](https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/covid-19-news)

## Charitable Sector Initiatives

[Imagine Canada - COVID-19 Resources](https://imaginecanada.ca/en/covid19)

# Honourable Mention – The Salvation Army – Government Partnerships

## Federal

**April 4** – Prime Minister – [Press Release](https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/03/prime-minister-announces-support-food-banks-and-local-food) - $5 million from the Local Food Infrastructure Fund

## Alberta

**April 2** – Minister of Education - [Press Release](https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=69985583EED83-0C75-4535-C73FD796C40C1802)

An additional $3 million to 9 non-profits that will receive $300K or $375K each to provide food assistance for vulnerable K-12 students and their families, with $300K to The Salvation Army – Grand Prairie and Area

## Manitoba

**April 3** – Premier - [Press Release](https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?archive=&item=47380)

Up to $1.2 million will be invested at several locations in Winnipeg to:

•    repurpose a vacant Manitoba Housing building on Sargent Avenue to create 31 new beds;  
•    add 35 beds provided by the Salvation Army at its Martha Street location;  
•    expand Siloam Mission’s capacity by 50 beds; and  
•    move individuals currently using the Salvation Army’s SonRise Village to alternate locations, making its 26 beds available for new clients.

## Saskatchewan

**March 31** – Minister of Social Services - [Press Release](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/31/social-services-pandemic-response)

$171,000 additional funding for emergency shelters in Saskatchewan, including The Salvation Army Waterston Centre

## Quebec

**April 2** – CIUSS-CN – [Communiqué de presse](https://www.ciusss-capitalenationale.gouv.qc.ca/nouvelles/covid-19-ouverture-dun-centre-designe-de-convalescence-dans-la-capitale-nationale-0)

Salvation Army buildings in Quebec City to be used as an isolation/convalescent centre for people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are awaiting test results and who are homeless or cannot self-isolate in their home

## Prince Edward Island

**March 17** – Premier - [Press Release](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/province-announces-initial-supports-islands-most-vulnerable)

$500K for community partners delivering services to Islanders with $250K to United Way, $100K to PEI food banks, $100K to Salvation Army for home heating, $50K contingency fund for non-profits

# **Suggested Ongoing GR Efforts**

## Opportunities for DHQ Outreach

#1) Continue to monitor the regular news releases issued by your province to learn about new initiatives that have been launched (see links to websites above or follow your governments, premiers and key ministers on Twitter)

#2) Call, write to or meet (via videoconference) with MPP/MLAs (premiers, finance ministers, housing ministers, and community and social services ministers, and their parliamentary assistants) and local municipal officials to:

* thank them for their leadership;
* thank them for the measures they are taking to protect people’s health, and for the measures to protect people’s economic well-being;
* thank them for any specific initiatives that recognize the contributions of charities and non-profits and provide additional support to them to meet the needs in communities (e.g. $60 million in AB, $200 million in ON, $500K in PEI, $157.5 million Reaching Home money and $50 million for women and children fleeing domestic violence (Canada));
* highlight what The Salvation Army is doing in their riding or the province;
* let them know of any specific needs or gaps in programs and offer suggestions; and
* remind them that we’re on the front lines and we’re here to help!

#3) TC has sent letters to PM, Finance Minister, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

#4) DSPRs to customize template letters from DCs to Premiers and provincial Finance, Community & Social Services, Housing Ministers and their parliamentary assistants

#5) Send **thank you letters or emails** from the DC or DSPR if your government grants new or additional funding to your ministry units

#6) MUs could send letters to their MPPs/MLAs and MPs and municipal elected officials thanking them for their public service, upholding them in prayer and offering to help where we can

## Key Messages to Premiers and Cabinet Ministers

* Thank you for your leadership during this most difficult and challenging time
* We want to assure you of our prayers and best wishes for you, your colleagues and your counterparts in other levels of government.
* We are committed to working with all levels of government and with other community-based organizations to meet the needs of Canadians
* Our records show that in 2018-19, we supported 1.6 million Canadians in 400 communities across Canada, including providing food, clothing and other practical assistance to 1.186 million Canadians
* We are grateful for the generous support of our individual and corporate donors, in addition to that of governments
* We have implemented social distancing measures in our 300 community churches, which have found new and innovative ways of meeting the spiritual and social needs of people in their congregations.
* We continue to provide much-needed support to some of the most vulnerable members in our communities.
* We are taking proactive measures to protect the health and safety of our frontline staff as well as those we serve in our emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, our long-term care facilities, and our community and family services centres in more than 400 communities across Canada

# Draft Template Letter

(initially circulated March 27. Updated April 7 to reflect updated numbers of Community & Family Services offices)

April 10, 2020

Go [here](https://salvationist.ca/files/salvationarmy/public-affairs/Section1_toolkit/Templates%20and%20Guides/How%20to%20address%20public%20officials.pdf) for tips about how to address your provincial politicians

The Honourable **[insert your Premier’s name]**

Dear Premier **[insert your Premier’s surname]**

**Re: [insert name of your province] COVID-19 Response**

I am writing to thank you for your leadership during this most difficult and challenging time.

We applaud your government’s efforts to protect both the physical and financial health and well-being of **[British Columbians, Albertans, etc.]** and in particular, we thank you for **[insert reference to any province-specific measures for charities on the frontlines].**

We want to assure you of our prayers and best wishes for you, your colleagues and your federal/provincial/territorial counterparts and to express our commitment to work with all levels of government to meet the needs of people in our communities.

As a national charitable organization that employs more than 10,000 people in over 400 communities across Canada, we are the largest non-governmental provider of social services in the country.

In **[insert name of your province]** alone, we have more than **[insert # of officers and employees]** who are meeting the needs of Canadians in **X** communities, through **Y** community churches, **Z** community and family services offices, and **AA** frontline social services programs, which provide **[shelter/long term care/other?]**

Across the country, we are seeing and feeling the impact of COVID-19 on the front lines:

·       in our emergency shelters, drop-in centres and transitional housing settings where our staff are meeting the needs of already vulnerable people who are experiencing homelessness and cannot self-isolate in the safety of their own homes,

·       in our long-term care facilities and other residential settings, where we are doing our utmost to care for and protect the health and safety of both our residents and our staff,

·       in our more than 250 Community & Family Services offices, where we have already been meeting the needs of more than 1 million Canadians each year who struggle to make ends meet.

**[Note: add a 4th bullet here if you have mobile units/EDS responses]**

We have implemented social distancing measures in our 300 community churches, which have found new and innovative ways of meeting the spiritual and social needs of people in their congregations.

We want to assure you that we are committed to continuing to provide much needed support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities, in addition to a growing number of Canadians who may need our help in the weeks and months to come.

As you implement further public health and economic measures, we urge you and your government to remember and consider the impact organizations such as ours have in communities across Canada.

We would be pleased to meet with you, your Cabinet colleagues or Parliamentary Assistants to discuss how we can continue to support individuals, communities and governments at all levels in Canada.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honourable **[insert name]**, Minister of Finance

The Honourable **[insert name]**, Minister of …

The Honourable **[insert name]**, Minister of ….

Note: I recommend that you cc: your provincial Finance Minister, Minister of Community and Social Services or Poverty Reduction (the name of the portfolio varies by province) and the Minister responsible for emergency preparedness in your province

Should you wish, you could also send a slightly modified version of this letter to the parliamentary assistants to those cabinet ministers - if they have them.  In some provinces, they are called Legislative Assistants - who are MPPs/MLAs that support the Minister, as opposed to a political staffer in the Minister’s Office.

# Highlights of Announcements to Date – as of April 10, 2020

To see the latest updates, please visit federal or provincial COVID-19 websites or Twitter feeds, or read the updates provided by Edelman.

# Federal

**April 10** – Temporary changes to **Canada Summer Jobs** program

* allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
* allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis
* jobs begin as early as May 11, 2020 and may end as late as February 28, 2021

**Note:** MPs to to identify organizations that provide essential services in the community and could provide youth jobs but did not apply for the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2020.

Ministry Units or Divisions interested in obtaining Canada Summer Jobs funding can find their MP Contact Information [here.](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en)

In 2019, The Salvation Army was granted over $800K to hire more than 160 youth in just over 20% of the 338 federal ridings.

**March 19 - $157.5 million for Reaching Home**

Distributed through:

Community Entities (i.e. those who receive the money to distribute) in the larger communities under the federal government’s Reaching Home Program:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/find-community.html](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canada.ca%2Fen%2Femployment-social-development%2Fprograms%2Fhomelessness%2Ffind-community.html&data=02%7C01%7CDani_Shaw%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Ccb7a9019f617476f359608d7d1e4c0fa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637208652723586086&sdata=xgEXLKqf3ihDSnkKLOq35iBi7mCMsgCSkqUwgKnlx%2BQ%3D&reserved=0)

In rural and remote communities:

[https://srv144.services.gc.ca/cgi-bin/emailform/index.aspx?GoCTemplateCulture=en-CA&section=hpsr](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsrv144.services.gc.ca%2Fcgi-bin%2Femailform%2Findex.aspx%3FGoCTemplateCulture%3Den-CA%26section%3Dhpsr&data=02%7C01%7CDani_Shaw%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Ccb7a9019f617476f359608d7d1e4c0fa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637208652723586086&sdata=2onXXJ%2F0%2BGZqjY4JPGnJBdBz7KIeJKCrT47861H%2B68s%3D&reserved=0)

**Local Food Infrastructure Fund** - $5 million to The Salvation Army (THQ) to facilitate the purchase of fresh food. For announcement, see Federal.

**Women and children** - $50 million toward women’s shelters and sexual assault centres to support women and children fleeing violence allocated as follows:

* $40 million to be given to Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) consisting of:
* $26 million to Women’s Shelters Canada to be distributed to 575 violence against women shelters across the country
* $4 million to the Canadian Women’s Foundation to distribute to sexual assault centres across Canada
* Working with the government of Quebec to implement this initiative there
* $10 million to be provided to Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) existing network of 46 emergency shelters on reserve and in Yukon to support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence.

**March 29**

* $7.5M for more counsellors and trained volunteers to support **Kids Help Phone**, which has been receiving over 2,000 calls for service everyday
* $9M in the New Horizons for Seniors Program directed to the **United Way** for home health check-ins and food delivery
* The Prime Minister thanked all Canadians who work in the charitable and non-profit sector. In the coming days the government will make announcements to financially support the sector.

# British Columbia

**Announced March 29 and re-announced April 2**

* $3-million emergency grant from the Community Gaming Grants program to Food Banks BC to distribute among food banks province wide
* The provincial Vulnerable Population Working Group continues to identify, assess and address the immediate challenges faced by five specific groups – people living on the street, people experiencing homelessness living in encampments, shelter residents, tenants of private single-residence occupancies and tenants in social and supportive housing

**March 26** - $50 million to United Way of the Lower Mainland to bolster seniors’ supports at community service agencies throughout British Columbia

**March 23**

* $2.8 billion to help people and fund the services they need to weather the crisis, including:
  + $1.7 billion for housing and shelter supports, income and disability assistance programs and crucial health services, such as funding for the BC Centre for Disease Control hotline, quarantine costs, lab tests and work underway at the First Nations Health Authority and the United Way’s Better at Home program for seniors
  + To support non-profits, service delivery agencies and childcare providers, the Province will continue to provide funding even if these agencies are closed or their regular operations have been disrupted.

# Alberta

**March 17**

* $30 million for adult homeless shelters and women’s emergency shelters to support their COVID-19 response.
* $30 million for charities, non-profits and civil society organizations to support their COVID-19 response.

For more information on the funding for charities, non-profits and civil society organizations, click [here.](https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-funding-for-charities-and-not-for-profit-organizations.aspx)

For announcement, see Alberta.

# Saskatchewan

**March 31** – Additional $171,000 to help emergency shelters serving people in need during the pandemic.

For announcement, see Saskatchewan.

# Manitoba

**April 3 -** Add more than 140 new shelter beds to support people affected by homelessness and allow for social distancing protocols

Up to $1.2 million will be invested at several locations in Winnipeg to:  
•    repurpose a vacant Manitoba Housing building on Sargent Avenue to create 31 new beds;  
•    add 35 beds provided by the Salvation Army at its Martha Street location;  
•    expand Siloam Mission’s capacity by 50 beds; and  
•    move individuals currently using the Salvation Army’s SonRise Village to alternate locations, making its 26 beds available for new clients.

For announcement, see Manitoba.

# Ontario

**April 4**

$40 million [COVID-19 Residential Relief Fund](https://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/crrf.aspx) to support residential service providers, to be accessed through agencies’ **Program Supervisor/MCCSS contact**

Funding available to service providers in these areas:

* Children’s residential services, including residential programs for Complex Special Needs, Child Welfare, Youth Justice, out-of-home respite for children with physical and/or developmental disabilities, and children’s developmental services
* Gender-based violence residential programming, including Anti-Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women
* Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy residential programming
* Intervenor services
* Adult Developmental Services residential supports.

**March 25**

Released the COIVD-19 Action Plan, which included:

* $3.3 billion for frontline health workers including upgrades to long-term care facilities, systemic changes
* $4 billion contingency fund
* $200/child/family and $250 for those with special needs

**March 23**

$200 million in [social services relief funding](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-protecting-the-most-vulnerable-during-covid-19-crisis.html) help municipalities and social service providers such as shelters, food banks, emergency services, charities and non-profits continue to deliver their critical services, hire additional staff, and find ways to promote social distancing and self-isolation to keep clients safe and healthy

Funding to be distributed through municipal service managers and consolidated municipal service managers

Includes:

* **$148 million for charitable and non-profit social services organizations** such as food banks, homeless shelters, churches and emergency services to improve their ability to respond to COVID-19, by providing funding directly to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards who would allocate this funding based on local needs.
* Click here to access [contract information for municipal service managers](https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-your-local-service-manager).
* Expanded [Emergency Assistance program](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-children-community-and-social-services?_ga=2.258359112.335408561.1586090085-1951003033.1543964892) administered through Ontario Works (OW) for **individuals** who do not qualify for federal emergency relief programs. Additional resources to cover these individuals' needs such as food, rent, informal childcare, and services.

# Quebec

**March 31**

* $133 million for retirement homes – to better protect residents and staff
* $2.5 million support for victims of domestic violence – support and shelter organizations for women and victims of domestic violence

**March 27 -** Minister of Labour, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity highlighted the need for volunteers at food banks and an online portal to sign up for or post positions

# New Brunswick

Primary focus to date has been on direct support to individuals and businesses.

**April 3**

* Financial support for vulnerable post-secondary students
* Evictions for non-payment of rent suspended to May 31, 2020

**April 2** - Emergency Worker Bridge Fund

**March 26 –** $4.5 million in financial support for businesses and workers announced

# Nova Scotia

**March 31 -** 800 iPads delivered to long-term care homes so residents can connect with family and friends

# Prince Edward Island

**March 17** - $500K for community partners delivering services to Islanders with $250K to United Way, $100K to PEI food banks, $100K to Salvation Army for home heating, $50K contingency fund for non-profits

For announcement, see Prince Edward Island

# Newfoundland and Labrador

**March 27** - $500,000 to Food First NL to establish a **COVID-19 Community Food Support Program** that will provide immediate resource to community food programs in the province (application deadline April 3)

**March 24** - $120 million in core funding for the 2020-21 fiscal year to help community-based organizations continue their **existing** work in supporting families and communities and to respond to COVID-19