

Frequently Asked Questions

Current as of 27 Nov 2020

For simplicity & ease of action “Government” represents programming available to Canadians residing in Alberta. Please check your municipal government for local COVID-19 information.

GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

Can the government restrict my business practices?

Yes. Alberta declared a Public Health Emergency on November 24, 2020 for the second time in the year. This declaration activates emergency powers to assist in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Alberta.

Is this a lockdown and how long will it last?

No, although restrictions designed to reduce the impact of the virus have now been enhanced. These restrictions are set to be reviewed three weeks after coming into force. The restrictions vary throughout the province depending on outbreak severity.

Resources

Go to <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx> to find restriction levels in your area.

For federal restrictions, go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>.

AREA provides its members in-depth material and guides to assist on moving through the pandemic. Go to <https://albertarealtor.ca/page/covid-19> for more information and support details.

GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

How do I know if I am eligible to receive government pandemic related support?

Complete the *Federal Government Financial Help Questionnaire* in which you will answer 7-10 questions and the system will determine what Federal assistance programs you are eligible to receive:

Go to <https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start> to complete this questionnaire.

Are there supports for the businesses & brokerages of REALTORS®?

Yes, the federal government has developed credit and deferral programs with non-government partners as well as subsidy programs to allow business to continue. To find out which program

you qualify for, check out <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

What if I get lost trying to figure out what support I should apply for? Where do I go for help?

You are not alone; this is one of the largest expansions of public policies Canada has ever faced. We recommend:

1. Look at our page on supports, which outline more common supports, and ways to connect with government program specialists at <https://albertarealtor.ca/post/government-support-for-realtors-during-covid-19>.
2. Contact your financial institution to see how they can support you. They may already be set up with government credit programming depending upon institution.
3. Contact your elected representative. Their offices can walk through your specific case with you. The following links will connect you to their offices (you will need to provide your postal code):
 - a. To find who represents you as an Albertan - <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly>
 - b. To find who represents you as a Canadian - <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>

MORTGAGES & CREDIT

Is help coming for people who deferred mortgages and are still struggling?

Mortgage deferrals and supports can be situationally specific and unique to every person. We recommend you review <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/mortgages/mortgage-deferrals.html> to see where you fit into support programming.

As well, the revamped employment insurance program and the Canada Recovery Benefit are both programs helping individuals who are struggling, regardless of whether or not they deferred their mortgage.

For more information about recent mortgage trends, check out AREA's podcast called *In Your AREA*, featuring a "Mortgage Update" episode, by clicking here <https://www.buzzsprout.com/206123/6348676>

How long will people's credit be affected by taking CERB?

While aspects of deferred accounts may require mandatory recording on the borrower's credit file, CERB is seen as a taxable income. Talk to your accountant team as your situation could vary.