



## Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations

*La Société des Organisations des Citoyens Aînés de l'Ontario*

*Tuesday, April 14, 2020*

### **To All OSSCO Members, Supporters and Followers:**

We continue to update information on available programs and hope that this information is beneficial to you and/or your agency. *Note that this information is not legal or financial advice.*

We encourage you to visit the federal [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca) and provincial [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) websites on a regular basis as details change frequently on the program supports identified. Visit OSSCO's Facebook page and website for additional resources.

Be safe, be well and remember that we are OntarioStrong.

### **Province of Ontario Program Support**

#### Social Services Relief Funding for Ontarians

It was announced that \$148 million is available for charitable and non-profit social services organizations i.e. food banks, homeless shelters, churches and emergency services to better respond to COVID-19. Contact your municipality for details.

#### Support for Ontario Seniors Through Community Organizations

An additional \$10 million is allocated to help community organizations to coordinate the subsidized deliveries of meals, medicines and other necessities to seniors at home. This investment doubles the Ontario government's initial commitment in Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19. **Contact your community organization that normally provides meals-on wheels as well as pharmacies for information or contact 211.**

You can also visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/guide-programs-and-services-seniors> for A guide to programs and services for seniors. On this government website you will find information on resources available for seniors in Ontario, including tax credits, health, caregiving, housing, driving and staying safe.

[Download the guide \(PDF\)](#)

**The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE)** is a community based legal clinic for low income senior citizens. ACE provides direct legal services to low-income seniors, public legal education, and engages in law reform activities. Scheduled



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intake is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays Dial **1-855-598-2656** or **416-598-2656** to reach them. Visit <http://www.advocacycentreelderly.org/> for a virtual town hall on COVID-19 and other information relevant for people 55+.

### Mental Health Support (Ontario)

Emergency funding of up to \$12 million to expand online and virtual mental health supports and \$2.6 million to hire personnel has been provided.

- Contact ConnexOntario, **Ontario's mental health, addictions and problem gambling** help line at **1-866-531-2600**.
- For children and youth under 18, information is on the Ontario.ca and Kids Help Phone websites or call **Kids Help Phone** at **1-800-668-6868**, 24/7.
- **Hope for Wellness Helpline for Indigenous people** can be reached toll-free at **1-855-242-3310** or connect to the online chat at [hopeforwellness.ca](http://hopeforwellness.ca). It offers immediate help to all Indigenous peoples. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to offer counselling and crisis intervention.

### Support for Ontarians Dealing with Abuse

More than \$2.7 million is allocated to support services for victims of abuse, domestic violence, and other violent crimes. This includes people dealing with elder abuse (visit OSSCO's website YouTube videos for information on the 7 types elder abuse).

- **Toronto Seniors Helpline** is open 365 days/year from 9:00am - 8:00pm Monday to Friday and from 10:00am - 6:00pm on weekends and holidays. It is staffed by caring and certified professionals. Phone them at **416-217-2077** or **1-877-621-2077**
- **Seniors Safety Line (SSL)** provides contact and referral information for local agencies across the province that can assist in **cases of elder abuse**. Trained counsellors also provide safety planning and supportive counseling for older adults who are being abused or at-risk of abuse. Phone them at: **1-866-299-1011**
- **Elder Abuse Ontario** has a variety of information and community links on their website. Visit <http://www.eapon.ca/links/useful-community-links/> for the complete list of resources and information.



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Call 211 for local support services and community agencies or visit <https://cnpea.ca/en/what-is-elder-abuse/get-help/ontario> for an extensive list of supports and resources.

### Residential Relief Fund (Ontario)

The Province is providing up to \$40 million in relief funding for residential service providers that support vulnerable populations. This fund covers additional staffing, residential respite for caregivers, residential services for children/youth, people with developmental disabilities, emergency shelters, personal protective equipment and supplies to support physical distancing, and transportation.

### Health Information and Resources

Public Health Ontario's website <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en> has current information on COVID-19, how to protect yourself and accurate information.

If you think you may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please seek medical attention. Open 24/7, you can also contact **Telehealth Ontario for information and guidance at 1 866-797-0000.**

**Ontario Caregiver Organization** is a 24/7 resource and support line for individuals providing care to someone. You can reach them by phone at **1-833-416-2273** or visit <https://ontariocaregiver.ca/> for resources and educational information to help you deal with stress, depression and emotional support.

### Reporting Price Gouging

If you believe that you are being gouged as a result of the COVID-19 State of Emergency, you can file a complaint. Report an individual who is price gouging related to COVID-19 by filing a complaint at 1-800-889-9768 between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday or filing a report online. Information is found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>.

### Annual General Meetings (AGM)- Emergency Order (Ontario)



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In response to COVID-19, Ontario has issued an order for flexibility to permit AGM's beyond the normal requirement of being held no later than 15 months after the previous AGM or no later than 6 months after fiscal year end.

This emergency order applies to not-for-profit corporations incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act (CA). It gives this sector the ability to hold virtual meetings as well as extends the timeframe for AGMs to be held. This Emergency Order enables organizations in this sector to:

- Hold meetings of directors, shareholders and members electronically or over the phone even if legislation (like Ontario's Corporations Act) or your bylaws say you can't. The electronic or phone system has to allow people to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously. A Zoom or Skype type of meeting would qualify.
- Extends the timeframe under the Corporations Act and Business Corporations Act when corporations must hold AGM's.
- Deadlines for not-for-profits to hold their AGMs are extended to 90 days after the state of emergency is ended by the Ontario government. If the state of emergency within 30 days before your current deadline, you have until 120 days after the state of emergency ends.

### **Government of Canada Program Support**

#### Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Funding is available for people who lost work as a result of COVID-19 of up to \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months. This fund includes people who are self-employed as well as full time and part time workers.

#### GST/HST Remittance Deferral

For anyone who collects GST/HST, GST/HST remittances have been deferred until June 30. For details contact CRA or your accountant.

#### Canada Emergency Business Account (Federal)

Small businesses and not-for-profits can access interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to help with operating costs where revenues have been temporarily reduced due to impact of the COVID-19 virus. Visit [Canada.ca](https://canada.ca) website - Help for Businesses - for specific details including qualifications.

#### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy



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All organizations can immediately implement the 10% emergency wage subsidy.

Another subsidy fund (75%) has been created to help organizations that have experienced at least a 30% drop in revenue due to COVID. When applying for the 75% subsidy, employers are required to attest to the decline in revenue.

This Emergency Wage Subsidy is anticipated to be available in April. The Emergency Wage Subsidy is to help Employers during the pandemic. This includes:

- 75% subsidy of employee wages up to \$58,700 for up to 3 months
- Wages can be backdated to March 15, 2020

Visit [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca) or check with your accountant for information.

### **Non-for-Profit Annual Forms - Canada Revenue Agency (CRA Federal)**

Incorporated not-for-profit organizations are required to annually file the T2 form with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Many not-for-profit organizations also complete the T1044. These forms are due six months from the end of an organization's fiscal year (for example, a fiscal year end of March 31 would have a filing due date of September 30 for these forms). Confirm your filing date with CRA or your accountant.

CRA announced extensions in filing of these forms based on your filing due date:

- Forms that were due between March 18 and before June 1, 2020, are now due June 1.
- Organizations that have a December 31 year end, your filing due date remains June 30.
- Organizations that have a March 31 year end, your filing due date remains September 30.