

Business and Contractor Supports

Available programs and resources for those impacted by economic disruption in a rural community.



Training & Skills Development

Last Update: February 2026

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
How can I and/or my current employees upskill or reskill? How can I train new employees?	BC Employer Training Grant	BC Employer Training Grant provides funding to employers (including self-employed workers and contractors) to pivot their business and support skills training for themselves or their employees. www.workbc.ca/find-loans-and-grants/industry-and-employers/bc-employer-training-grant
How can I grow my business to be more resilient?	WorkBC	WorkBC provides resources to learn about labour market supply and demand, increase work experience opportunities, and facilitate the hiring and retention of employees. www.workbc.ca/

Business Support Services

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
Where can I get assistance with my business?	Community Futures	Community Futures of BC provides business financing, advisory services, training, and strategic planning to small and medium-sized businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities. www.communityfutures.ca/
How can I advocate for my business?	BC Chamber of Commerce	The BC Chamber of Commerce advocates for support and promotes businesses in the community. www.bcchamber.org/
Who can support me in figuring out what programs and support will work for my business?	Business Advisory Services	Business Advisory Services offers path-finding services for new or existing entrepreneurs or small businesses in BC. Free one-on-one advice with an advisor, access to resources, guidance navigating government programs, and funding opportunities. Ph: 1-855-698-2157; Email: Business.Advisors@gov.bc.ca . www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/small-business/resources
Who can assist with business retention and expansion activities?	Economic Development Services	Regional Managers are specialized government staff available throughout B.C. to provide free and accessible economic development services to businesses and contractors. Services may include support for wayfinding funding programs and economic development tools, and business retention and expansion activities. www.gov.bc.ca/regionalmanagers

How can I avoid laying off my employees while decreasing production?	Work-Sharing Program	The Work-Sharing Program helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in the normal level of business activity, and the decrease is beyond the control of the employer. www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html
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Business Expansion Opportunities

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
How can I access funding to scale and grow my business?	Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)	BDC provides financing, venture capital, and advisory services to help businesses start, scale, and grow through various economic cycles. www.bdc.ca
How can I diversify and grow my business through exporting?	Export Navigator	Export Navigator is a program that helps B.C. businesses diversify and grow by guiding them through the export process. Participating businesses are paired with community-based advisors who provide free support and ongoing guidance. They offer specialized services for businesses owned by Indigenous Peoples. www.exportnavigator.ca/
How can I expand my business activities into wildfire reduction efforts?	Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST)	The Wildfire Reduction Equipment Support Trust (WREST) helps eligible contractors purchase specified equipment that will be used in BC forestry operations to support wildfire reduction efforts. www.wrestrust.ca/

Mental Health Supports

I need assistance with...	Program	Description
I need immediate mental health support.	310 Mental Health Support	310 Mental Health Support (310-6789, no area code required) is a toll-free number connecting callers to a BC crisis line. Offers emotional support, information on appropriate referral options, and a wide range of support relating to mental health concerns. www.helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/resource/310-mental-health-support
How can I find resources to help manage my employees' well-being?	HelpStartsHere Mental Health support	HelpStartsHere is a website that has over 2,600 service listings publicly funded or not-for-profit mental health and substance use supports. www.helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/about-us
Where can I find free physical and mental health resources for my employees and me?	Health Link BC	Health Link BC (8-1-1), available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for non-emergency health advice and to talk to a health services navigator or a registered nurse. www.healthlinkbc.ca/