

Food and Beverage Industry Information



Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

April 2020 Food and Beverage Industry Information

The spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a widespread concern. Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. In addition, farmers, agriculture businesses and food processing facilities are encouraged to follow daily updates from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

Beyond sharing COVID-19 information and resources through other frequent updates, OMAFRA will continue to provide general industry news, information and resources monthly.

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Read our latest blog post on [RegionalEcDevON](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news, events and more!

Industry News

Equipping Southern Ontario Manufacturers to Increase Productivity and Competitiveness

Up to 175 small to medium-sized enterprises to benefit from technology assessments with the help of the Government of Canada.

[Canadian Manufactures & Exporters \(CME\)](#) will provide up to 175 small- to medium-sized manufacturers in southern Ontario, with in-depth productivity and technology assessments, aimed at stimulating investments and the adoption of new technology solutions. These assessments will position businesses to improve their overall productivity, grow and diversify into new markets, increase competitiveness and bring higher-paying jobs and skills into southern Ontario.

For more information, including how to apply, please click [HERE](#).

Get Social with the Business Development Branch

Did you know that the Business Development Branch has a blog and twitter account? Blog posts are published weekly, and provide information about reports, funding programs, and events related to agriculture, food processing and economic development.

Visit the [BLOG](#) and follow us on [TWITTER](#).

Funding Opportunities

Farm Credit Canada - COVID-19 Support Program

To ensure producers, agribusinesses and food processors can remain focused on business-critical functions rather than worrying about how to access funds to keep operating through this challenging period, effective immediately, Farm Credit Canada has put in place:

- a deferral of principal and interest payments up to six months for existing loans; or
- a deferral of principal payments up to 12 months
- access to an additional credit line up to \$500,000, secured by general security agreements or universal movable hypothec (Québec only)

Learn more about the [COVID-19 Support Program](#).

Ontario Job Grant

The Ontario Job Grant provides direct financial support for employers who wish to purchase training for their workforce. Employers choose the individuals they would like to have trained and the training that meets their workforce development needs.

The grant covers up to 50% of direct training costs for large employers up to 80% for small

employers (less than 100 employees). However, small employers may qualify for 100% funding and up to \$15 000 per trainee if the employer is hiring and training unemployed individuals.

Learn more about the [Ontario Job Grant Program](#).

Mitacs Accelerate

This internship program connects companies with over 50 research-based universities, where graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are given the chance to apply their specialized expertise to business projects.

The project evaluation proportion of this program will take approximately 6-8 weeks. The project can be as long as desired, however there is a minimum length of 4 months. For every \$7 500 invested in the project, another \$15 000 of research funds will be attributed to the project.

Contact accelerate@mitacs.ca to confirm your start-up's eligibility. Learn more about the [Mitacs Accelerate Internship Program](#).

NSERC Engage

NSERC Engage Grants are designed to give innovative companies access to the knowledge, expertise and capabilities available at Canadian colleges. These grants are intended to foster the development of new research partnerships by supporting short-term research and development projects aimed at addressing a company-specific problem.

A two-page letter of support from the company involved in the project must be provided and must outline the company's support for, contribution to, and agreement with the research project plan, by responding to a list of points. A maximum grant of \$25,000 over a period of six months will be awarded to support the project costs.

Learn more about [NSERC Engage Grants](#).

Market Access Initiative

The Market Access Initiative is a targeted cost-share intake available to help businesses and organizations across the Ontario supply value-chain that are directly involved in, or support the production, processing and/or sales of Agri-products for domestic or export markets and have been directly impacted by trade restrictions.

Funding is available for 75% of eligible costs up to \$30,000. Please refer to the project category description for further details on what cost-share dollar amount is available. Applicants may only apply to one project category per application. Applicants who have been notified of application decisions may then apply again for funding consideration.

Learn more about the [Market Access Initiative Intake](#).

Events

Future of Manufacturing in the Food Industry Special Event

June 9, 2020

Institute of Food Processing Technology, Conestoga College - 850 Fountain Street South,
Cambridge

Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium is pleased to be focusing on the Future of Manufacturing in the Food Industry at this special event. Guest Speakers, Brad McKay, former CEO with Healthcare Food Services, and Renata McGuire, of NSF International will be sharing their insights on the topic at hand!

Food and Beverage Processors interested in participating are asked to RSVP to Bren at bdeleeuw@emccanada.org.

Learn more about this [Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium Event](#).

Resources

Positive Impact Index: Maximize Your Sustainability Investment

Many of you have shared with Provision Coalition Inc. that you are struggling to identify where to focus your time and money for your sustainability efforts. Should plastics be the top priority? Climate change or food waste? What about water usage or responsible sourcing? To respond, Provision Coalition Inc has created the Positive Impact Index.

The Positive Impact Index will give you a quick and inexpensive way to understand where to focus your efforts on what will really matter most for your business. This is the practical decision-making tool that you need to address what is quickly becoming the biggest challenge facing food companies.

Learn more about the [Positive Impact Index](#) or for more information contact Sarah Reid by email at info@provisioncoalition.com or by phone at (519) 822-2042 x 4.

How to Increase Sales for Your Food and Beverage Business

Growing your business in the ultra-competitive food and beverage sector is not easy. Check out this online webinar to hear from Business Development Bank of Canada experts as they share how to identify the right growth avenues for your business, whether that's tapping into new food trends, diversifying your product line or entering new markets.

You'll discover how to:

- Build a solid growth plan to maximize profitability
- Choose the right sales channels
- Increase your margins
- Choose and implement food quality systems

Watch the [Hungry for Growth: How to Increase Sales for Your Food and Beverage Business Webinar](#).

Do You Have a New Idea for the Food and Beverage Market?

[Food Innovation & Research Studio \(FIRSt\)](#) is a research and development group located at George Brown College that offers access to technical resources and state of the art food and beverage R&D facilities. FIRSt offers food and beverage businesses support from concept to commercialization, taking a fact based approach to provide practical, cost effective and innovative solutions for our clients.

If you're just starting out, the team of food scientists, project managers, researchers and chefs at FIRSt can help you shape your product concept, support you with market research services, and build your product. If you're in-market already, FIRSt can fine-tune the products you're struggling with, create line extensions, and help you scale-up to the next level. FIRSt also offers a full suite of services pertaining to nutritional analysis, regulatory compliance, and collecting consumer feedback to give you the data you need to succeed.

Learn more about the [Food Innovation & Research Studio \(FIRSt\)](#).

Product Development Innovation Support Through Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre

The Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre team offers a full suite of services to support industry innovation and the commercialization of new products and processes. From new recipe development to shelf-life testing and nutritional labelling, risk assessments, consumer acceptance and sensory supports, the CFWI Innovation Centre pairs industry partners with their highly qualified staff, faculty, recent graduates and students with the right expertise and equipment to meet your needs.

Plugging in at the points where you need support most, they have access to funding for applied research projects and deliver technical services that are confidential and provide you with the intellectual property developed for formulations and process flows, ingredient lists, and food safety considerations. Building capacity for your team and knowledge exchange is at the heart of our approach – and because of this, their teams work shoulder-to-shoulder with yours to ensure quality and client satisfaction with you engaged every step of the way.

Learn more about the [Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre](#).

Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency

Strategies and tactics for community leaders to focus on for economic recovery and preserving jobs, incorporating useful information for convening private and public stakeholders to identify key economic recovery strategies, tips on how to navigate federal resources for response and recovery, and implementation of recovery initiatives.

Read [Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency](#).

Canadian Labour Market Information Survey for Food and Beverage Processors

The national food and beverage processors' labour market survey will provide critical information to industry and stakeholders for both current and future workforce planning. The survey takes 20 minutes to complete and the information gained will directly assist the industry in planning for new and changing workforce demands. This survey will close on April 24, 2020. [Food Processing Skills Canada - National Food and Beverage Processors' Labour Market Survey](#).

University of Guelph Co-op Students Still Available for Summer Work

University of Guelph co-op students are available for 8 to 16-week work terms, starting in May and can work remotely. Post your job today and our Employment Services Team can arrange your virtual interviews. [Funding options available](#).

Learn more about [posting jobs and the University of Guelph Co-operative Program](#).

Ministry of Agriculture,
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Ontario 

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