



Provincial government unveils framework for re-opening Ontario

Earlier this afternoon, the provincial government released a document called “A Framework for Reopening Our Province”. The framework sets out the government’s roadmap for re-opening Ontario business, parks, etc., in three stages. Under each stage, the province has indicated what will re-open in very general terms, but the document does not include any timelines for what will re-open when.

OVMA continues to work closely with the province to ensure that any decisions balance the protection of public health with the need to ensure the ongoing health and welfare of the province’s animals.

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program

On April 24, the federal government announced a new program to support small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will provide rent relief for businesses that pay less than \$50,000 per month in rent and have temporarily closed operations or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-crisis revenues.

The CECRA has been designed as a forgivable loan to qualifying commercial property owners. The loan will cover 50 per cent of the monthly rent payments for April, May and June 2020. To qualify, the property owner must agree to reduce the eligible businesses’ rent by at least 75 per cent for the three months. The business renting the space would be required to pay up to 25 per cent of its monthly rent. For example, if the normal monthly rent is \$1,000, the landlord would have to agree to receive only \$750 per month: \$250 from the tenant and \$500 from the government.

OVMA members are encouraged to speak with their landlords to find out if the property owner will be taking advantage of the CERCA.

Apply for the Canadian Employee Wage Subsidy Program

The application process for the [Canadian Employee Wage Subsidy Program](#) (CEWS) is open today. Employers can apply for CEWS through the Canadian Revenue Agency’s My Business Account Portal. To help employers calculate the amount of wage subsidy for which they are eligible, an online calculator and excel spreadsheet are [available for download](#).

If you have questions about eligibility, contact Brandi Deimling at bdeimling@ovma.org. For help determining how to best use the available subsidies and/or budgeting/financial

issues in your practice, contact Darren Osborne at dosborne@ovma.org or Dr. Chris Doherty at cdoherly@ovma.org.

Webinar recording: telemedicine during the pandemic and beyond

A recording of last week's webinar about telemedicine during the pandemic and beyond is available for members.

The 45-minute webinar is presented by Dr. Sharon Quinn and Michael Parent from Smart.Vet, and highlights what clinic teams are doing now using telemedicine, what a telemedicine platform can do for you, why you should charge for virtual consults (and how to do it) and how to use telemedicine. [Watch the webinar.](#)

Smart.Vet offers OVMA member pricing. [Learn more](#) or sign up at [Smart.Vet](#).



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