



March 30, 2021

The City of Spruce Grove **ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NEWS** *Keeping you informed!*

Our [Economic & Business Development Department's](#) newsletter keeps you informed about new development, new business, and other interesting happenings in our City. We make every effort to update our [COVID-19 Resource for businesses page](#) to ensure that the information is current and relevant.

Stay in the 'know' - Sign-up below!

□ NEW DEVELOPMENTS □

New developments in Spruce Grove will be featured in each newsletter.

COLUMBUS PARK REDEVELOPMENT SCHEDULED FOR THIS SUMMER



Approval to proceed with the redevelopment of Columbus Park was given by City Council on Monday, March 22, as part of the City Centre Area Redevelopment Plan.

The park is being redeveloped to include a permanent stage and storage room, a shelter structure, tables, and a new digital sign. Other features will include flat green space, a water fountain and water bottle fill station, power outlets, and raised planters with seating. Underground services will also be installed to potentially accommodate a washroom facility in the future. The approved cost for the redevelopment of Columbus Park is \$1.76 million.

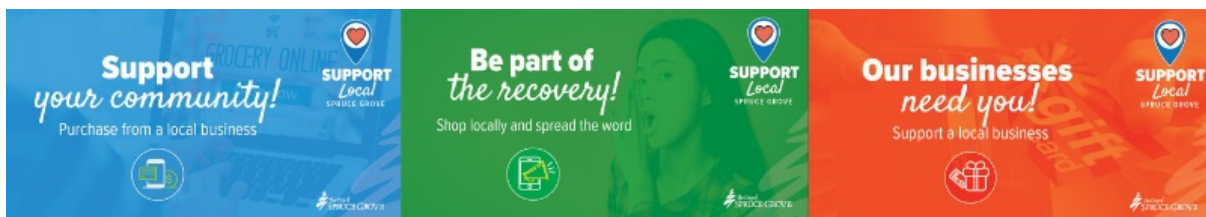
Updating Columbus Park will help to make the space an area that can be actively programmed for markets, and cultural and community events. It will be a focal point for drawing activities and people to the City Centre as a key step in the overall revitalization plan.

Construction is anticipated to start as early as mid-June 2021 and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

For more details on the project visit www.sprucegrove.org/CCARP.

*Please note: image is a rendering and subject to change

□ SUPPORT LOCAL □



The *City of Spruce Grove's* [Support Local campaign](#) encourages individuals to help businesses during this time of recovery, where all COVID-19 safety protocols and public health orders will be followed.

Welcome, new Spruce Grove businesses!



[Champion's Health & Fitness](#) is a 24/7 gym on McLeod Avenue with advanced equipment and Plexiglass barriers between cardio equipment. □



[Divine Spine](#) on Pioneer Road specializes in chiropractic needs by easing neck and back pain, headaches, and sciatica through state-of-the-art technology. □

Thank you to our existing businesses!



[CD Computers](#) on McLeod Avenue offers computer, cell phone, and tablet repairs, as well as the sale of new and used computers, laptops, and iPads. □



[Joffre's Water](#) on South Avenue offers pick-up and delivery of Alberta's cleanest water. Now offering filtration systems for home and business. □

□ [ALBERTA'S RELAUNCH STRATEGY: STAGE 2](#) □

[BEND THE CURVE](#)

The *Government of Alberta* has released a new 4-step plan to ease public health restrictions based on hospitalization benchmarks.

Effective March 8, additional health measures were eased for banquet halls, community halls, conference centres, hotels, performance activities, collegiate sports, and retail capacity increased to 25%.

For more detailed information on the application of Alberta COVID-19 protocols for businesses, this can be found at alberta.ca/bizconnect. More information can be found at www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx.

□ [THE CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19](#) □

Our business community has been significantly impacted by the most recent measures implemented by the Province of Alberta. The *City of Spruce Grove* has compiled [relevant information](#) as well as [COVID-19 FAQs for businesses](#).

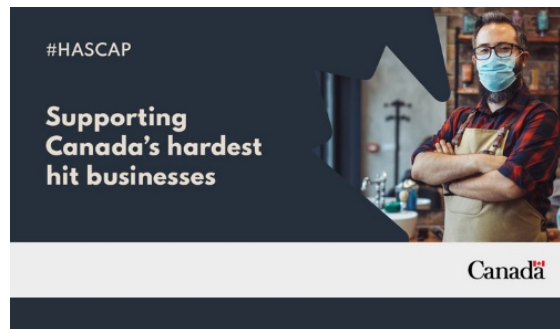
□ [COVID-19 SUPPORT PROGRAMS](#) □

[UPCOMING: Enhanced COVID-19 Business Benefit](#)



Up to \$30,000 in support for businesses affected by the pandemic. Additional funds of \$10,000 can be used to offset

[NEW: Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program \(HASCAP\)](#)



This program provides businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 to access low-interest loans of \$25,000 to \$1,000,000 to

costs such as PPE, bills, or hiring staff. This program will launch in April 2021.

NEW: Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)



Provides commercial rent and mortgage support to organizations affected by COVID-19. Lockdown Support allows organizations affected by public health orders to receive an additional 25% of support and provides hard hit businesses with support of up to 90%. Renters and property owners can receive payment without the participation of landlords. Applications for claim period 6 (February 14 to March 13, 2021) are now open.

EXPANDED: Employment Insurance Program (EI)



The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program has transitioned to EI to provide support to those who qualify for EI benefits, but are unable to work. The number of weeks of regular EI benefits is proposed to be increased to a maximum of 50 weeks for claims made between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

EXPANDED: Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

cover cash flow needs. Applications will remain open until June 30, 2021.

NEW: Alberta's Innovation Employment Grant



To promote investment and diversification as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan, Alberta launched this grant, where companies can receive up to a 20% tax credit towards research and development expenditures. The grant will be phased out for firms with \$10M to \$50M in taxable capital and will provide benefits up to \$4M in annual R&D spending. This grant is delivered through the corporate tax system.

EXPANDED: Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)



Individuals not eligible for EI can apply for income support through CRB. A proposed extension to the time eligibility period limits will allow recipients to apply for a total of 19 periods (38 weeks) between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021. Applications for claim period 13 (March 14 to March 27, 2021) are now open.

EXPANDED: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)



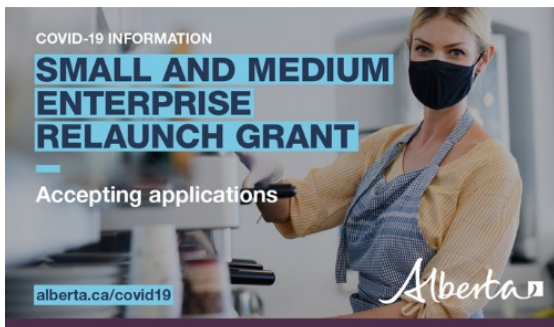
In addition to the \$40,000 interest-free loan, eligible businesses and non-profit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic will now be able to access an additional interest-free loan of up to \$20,000. The deadline for businesses to apply has been extended until June 30, 2021 for the \$60,000 loan or the \$20,000 expansion.

EXPANDED: Canada's Work Sharing Program

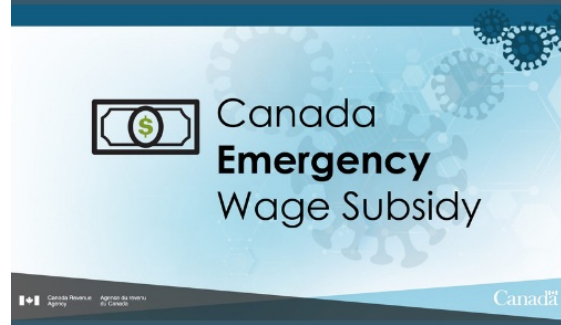


Extended from 38 to 76 weeks, eligible employers may immediately enter into a new agreement. Eligibility has expanded to include businesses who have been in business for 1 year and essential staff.

EXPANDED: Alberta Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant



This program provides up to a maximum of \$20,000 for businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that



An employer who has seen a drop in revenue may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of employee wages. Changes allow a top-up of 35% and a subsidy amount of \$595 for employees on leave with pay. The base revenue rate of 40% will remain in place. Applications for claim period 13 (February 14 to March 13, 2021) are now open.

EXPANDED: Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)



The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) has expanded and now offers up to an additional \$20,000 for eligible small and medium sized businesses needing continued financial support.

EXPANDED: Canada-Alberta Job Grant



As part of Alberta's recovery efforts, employers can apply for funding to help employees and unemployed Albertans

experienced a revenue reduction of at least 30%. Businesses that started operations between March 1 and October 31, 2020 can now apply. Applications are open until March 31, 2021.

access training opportunities. Employers are required to contribute 1/3 of the training costs and government contributes 2/3 to a maximum of \$10,000 per trainee per year.

□ UPCOMING EVENTS □

Chamber's Second Annual 2021 Golf Tournament



On August 12th, the *Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce* is hosting their second annual 2021 golf tournament on August 12, 2021. [Register here](#) to experience great golf, great networking, and great times, while supporting the *Parkland Pregnancy Support Centre*, an organization that provides support and resources to pregnant women, new mothers, and families with toddlers.

□ COMMUNITY GARDEN - PHASE 3 □



Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 growing season! This year, the [Spruce Grove District & Agricultural Society](#) will be adding 16 more garden boxes as part of the Phase 3 build-out.

This final phase would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors, such as: Golden Spike Lumber, Kiwi Nurseries, Black Dirt Company, Envoy Rentals, Giveback Construction, and the endless hours put forward by various volunteer groups.

Each year, the gardeners are welcomed to begin planting on the May long weekend. Application forms can be found [here](#).

□ OTHER NEWS □

[Edmonton Trade Accelerator Program](#)



This program helps businesses reach their global potential by providing access to industry experts to develop and execute a personalized market-entry export plan. Companies from Spruce Grove are encouraged to apply.

[Energy Savings for Business Program](#)



This program provides up to \$55 million for businesses to improve efficiency, reduce emissions, and decrease operating costs, while creating skilled jobs and boosting economic recovery. Applications are open.

→ [Spruce Grove Building Permit Summaries Year to Date](#) - See the *City of Spruce Grove's* latest permit activity reports (February 2021).

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

To learn more about economic and business development in Spruce Grove, visit InvestSpruceGrove.ca. If you have any questions, please email us at Invest@SpruceGrove.org.

Thank you for your engagement.
Together, we play an important role in keeping our community healthy and safe.

From our team to yours,
Dave, Karla, Jamie-Lynn, & Anika

SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA:

