



Date: January 22, 2021

From: Lisa Hardy, Executive Director Skate Canada: Alberta-NWT/Nunavut

Good Afternoon Clubs / Skating Schools, Coaches and Officials:

Yesterday's announcement by Dr. Hinshaw came with disappointment when the current health order restrictions which included the temporary closure of all indoor recreation facilities were not lifted and will remain in effect. Alberta still has the second highest active case rate per capita in Canada, and even with the drop in cases and positivity rate, hospitalizations continue to remain high. As a result, the current measures are being kept in place and will remain in effect until rescinded by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

We will continue to watch for updates and communicate them out to you as they become available. An events update will also be provided no later than February 12th. As there is still much uncertainty surrounding the current health restrictions and when facilities will re-open, we are temporarily pausing on decisions regarding upcoming events and will re-assess when restrictions are lifted and we understand what opportunities are permitted.

This extended period that facilities have remained closed continues to create ongoing challenges and uncertainty for our membership. We also understand that some seasonal facility operators are now looking at removing their ice in response to the restrictions remaining in place for an undetermined length of time, which would result in the season ending much earlier for many – particularly in our rural communities.

As a result, many clubs / skating schools, coaches, and athletes are looking for ways to continue with programming in some way and are taking advantage of the mild weather we are having this winter and skating outdoors. Since our last communication, the Province has provided additional guidance for outdoor recreation, and lifted some restrictions for outdoor gathering. We have also received additional clarification from Skate Canada regarding insurance compliance for outdoor rinks.

Can I coach at an outdoor rink? Will my insurance be valid?

There are limitations however, as indoor facilities are closed currently, outdoor sessions may replace sessions that would have occurred indoors as long as the Skate Canada club/skating school is in support of the activities, a coach is present, and there are no further restrictions put in place by the Local or Provincial Health Authority or Facility Operator. Once indoor facilities re-open then outdoor or private ice sessions would only be permitted for occasional/adhoc use and not permitted as part of the regular training routine.

Can we run our CanSkate or CanPower group lessons on an outdoor rink or outdoor ice?

No. CanSkate and CanPower group program lessons on outdoor rinks or outdoor ice are not permitted under the Skate Canada insurance program.



Can we coach private and semi-private lessons on outdoor rinks or ice?

If the club / skating school is in support of the activity and there are no further restrictions put in place by the Local or Provincial Health Authority or Facility Operator, then yes private and semi-private lessons on outdoor rinks or ice are currently covered under the injury benefit.

The current Provincial health guidance requirements must be met at all times for this activity to occur:

- Group Lessons up to a maximum of 10 people (including coaches) is permitted outdoors. This excludes CanSkate and CanPower group programs as per Skate Canada insurance restrictions.
- Participants who are not part of the same household must maintain 2 metres of physical distance at all times.
- Outdoor rink capacity limits as defined by the lesser of the facility operator or by following the instructions for calculation included in the [Outdoor Winter Recreation Provincial Guidance Document Appendix](#) are not exceeded

Can non-Skate Canada members (General Public) be on the ice for the insurance benefit to be in effect?

Our prior communication stated that extra ice must not be shared with non-Skate Canada members for the Skate Canada insurance to be in effect. We received updated information this week that because private outdoor public ice is not feasible the injury benefit is VALID if non-Skate Canada members (General Public) are also on the ice. The main criteria for insurance are to ensure that a coach is present and that the club/skating school is in support of the activities.

Is Virtual / Online training still permitted and in effect under the Skate Canada Insurance?

Yes. the Virtual/Online Training allowance was extended by Skate Canada until August 31, 2021

The information around the virtual training and what is required or permitted is on Skate Canada's website <https://skatecanada.ca/covid-19-response/#virtualonlinetraining-requirements>

Can I coach at a rink in someone's backyard?

On January 18th the Province lifted restrictions that would now permit this if the club/skating school also approves this activity. Serious consideration of the Coaching Rule of 2, Code of Ethics and Safe Sport guidelines should be given prior to a coach undertaking this activity.

Can my skaters continue to skate on their own on outdoor ice?

Yes. Outdoor recreation is still permitted under the current health order; however, members of different households must still maintain 2 metres distancing at all times.

If you have any questions, please email returntoskating@skateabnwtun.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hardy
Executive Director

Additional Support and Resources

Mental health resources and support

The COVID-19 pandemic can have a significant impact on mental health. Online resources are available if you need advice on handling stressful situations.

- [Help in Tough Times](#) (AHS)
- [Mental health and coping with COVID-19](#) (CDC)
- [Talking with children about COVID-19](#) (CDC)
- [COVID-19 information for young kids and students](#) (PDF, 122 KB)

If you need to talk, call the 24-hour help lines:

- Mental Health Help Line at [1-877-303-2642](tel:1-877-303-2642)
- Addiction Help Line at [1-866-332-2322](tel:1-866-332-2322)

Sport Information Resource Centre

- [Mind over Matter Article: Mental health tips for coaches, athletes, and sport administrators](#)

TrueSport

- [How to set athletic goals in uncertain times](#)
- [Pivoting for the Goal: How to help Athletes through Mid-Season Adjustments](#)
- [6 Simple Reasons why Athletes Fail to Meet Their Goals](#)

Financial Support

Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)

The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) gives income support to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. The CRB is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

If you are eligible for the CRB, you can receive \$1,000 (\$900 after taxes withheld) for a 2-week period.

If your situation continues past 2 weeks, you will need to apply again. You may apply up to a total of 13 eligibility periods (26 weeks) between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021

For information on eligibility criteria see [here](#)

Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)

Canadian **businesses, non-profit organizations, or charities** who have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of their commercial rent or property expenses, starting on September 27, 2020, until June 2021



Rent Subsidy

Eligible organizations include not for profits, and registered Canadian amateur athletic associations.

The eligible expenses include rent, taxes, property insurance and interest on commercial mortgages.

The maximum funding per period is \$75,000 per location, up to \$300,000 which is based on their loss of revenue they have experienced.

Organizations are eligible for receive a % of their eligible expenses based on % of revenue they have lost.

The time frame for calculation is Sept 27 2020 to June 2021, and does allow organizations to apply for retroactive expenses.

Lockdown Support

Qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly limit their activities under a public health order may be eligible for additional Lockdown Support of 25% of eligible expenses.

For more Information and application - www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/11/canada-emergency-rent-subsidy.html

Alberta Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant

Alberta Jobs, Economy and Innovation's Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations and that experienced a revenue reduction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting early the week of December 14, job creators who have experienced a 30% revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic will qualify for the program, lowering the threshold from the existing 40% revenue loss requirement. This 30% threshold will be available to impacted businesses retroactive to March.

Alberta businesses affected by the public health orders in effect from November 6, 2020 and later will also be eligible to apply for a second payment through the program.

Job creators that meet the program's eligibility criteria will be able to apply for 15% of their pre-COVID-19 monthly revenue up to:

- a maximum of \$5,000 in funding for their first payment, and
- a maximum of \$15,000 for their second payment
- Application intake for the second payment is not currently available but will open soon.

More information, including updated eligibility criteria and how to apply for the second payment will be available shortly at www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx.



Businesses, cooperatives and non-profits can use these funds as they see fit to help offset a portion of their relaunch costs, such as implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission, which could include:

- physical barriers
- purchasing personal protective equipment and disinfecting supplies
- paying rent and employee wages
- replacing inventory and more

Businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations as a result of public health orders issued by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health may be eligible.

Applications will be open until March 31, 2021 unless otherwise communicated.

Please visit www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx for more information.

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

Provides interest-free loans of up to \$60,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits. Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 33% (up to \$20,000)

Applicants require an active CRA Business Number (active prior to March 1, 2020) and must meet eligibility requirements of either the Payroll stream (over \$20,000 employment income paid in the 2019 calendar year) or the Non-Deferrable Expense Stream (have eligible non-deferrable expenses over \$40,000)

As of December 4, 2020, CEBA loans for eligible businesses increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000 and applicants who received the \$40,000 CEBA loan may apply for the \$20,000 expansion.

All applicants have until March 31, 2021 to apply.

For more information and application - <https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

Canadian employers that have seen a drop in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, may be eligible for a subsidy to cover part of your employee wages retroactive to March 15.

Eligible applicants must have had a CRA payroll account on March 15, 2020 and have experienced a drop in revenue. See [here](#) for who is eligible to apply.

CEWS has been extended to June 2021, including changes to the rates and top-up calculation. Changes to the CEWS program can be found at [here](#)

Deadline to apply is January 31, 2021 or 180 days after the end of the claim period, whichever comes later.