

## MLA Kit - Covid-19 Closure Relief Grant now open

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From: Sharma, Richa JERI:EX <Richa.Sharma@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Sharma, Richa JERI:EX <Richa.Sharma@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: January 12, 2022 11:38:55 AM PST  
Attachments: 2022JERI0003-000039.pdf, COVID\_Closure\_grant\_SQR.mp4, KMs - Covid-19 Closure Relief Grants.docx

Hello everyone,

Today the minister announced that applications for the Covid-19 Closure Relief Grant are now open! This grant program was created to support those businesses ordered to temporarily close their doors due to the recent public health measures. This funding will provide up to \$10,000 for businesses, which can help with costs such as rent, employee wages, insurance, maintenance and utilities.

Eligible businesses include:

- Gyms, fitness and adult dance studios
- Bars, lounges and nightclubs that do not serve full meals
- Event venues that can no longer hold events

Please find attached KMs, the NR (which can also be found [here](#)), and digital to share on SM.

You can also find the minister's tweet here:

<https://twitter.com/KahlonRav/status/1481348799972864002>

Please share the news that applications are open, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate reach out.

Thank you,

**Richa Sharma**

Ministerial Advisor to the Honourable Ravi Kahlon  
Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation  
[richa.sharma@gov.bc.ca](mailto:richa.sharma@gov.bc.ca) | C 778-584-6486 | she/her/hers

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2022JERI0003-000039  
Jan. 12, 2022

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### **Applications open for COVID-19 Closure Relief Grants**

VICTORIA – Businesses can now apply for the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, a new program the Province has fast-tracked to support B.C. businesses ordered to temporarily close their doors due to recent public health measures.

“This is not the way any of us wanted to start the new year with more strain on our businesses, families and communities,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation. “Our government will be there to help hard-hit businesses that have had to shut down and get them some necessary support to help pay their bills. We can get through this together as quickly as possible by going back to the basics – bringing back our COVID-19 safety plans for all businesses, recommitting to our daily health checks and continuing to follow all public health measures.”

Businesses that were ordered to fully close on Dec. 22, 2021, including bars, nightclubs and lounges that do not serve full meals, gyms, fitness and adult dance centres and event venues that can no longer hold events, can apply for relief grants of between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Funds from the program, which is expected to support more than 3,000 businesses, can help with expenses like rent, employee wages, insurance, maintenance and utilities.

“There is no denying these are extremely challenging times for our industry,” said Sara Hodson, president, Fitness Industry Council of Canada. “Supports like the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant are very welcome at this time as many B.C. business owners need all of the financial supports available to us. The fitness and health industry has been committed to doing everything we can to keep people healthy and safe throughout this pandemic. We look forward to reopening and being able to once again provide the essential physical and health benefits of exercise to all British Columbians.”

The total grant amount per business will be based on the number of employees and follows a formula similar to the previous Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant that supported businesses in the spring of 2021. To apply for a grant, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief](http://www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief)

This \$10-million provincial program complements existing federal government programs, including the recently expanded Local Lockdown Program and the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit.

The Local Lockdown Program provides wage and commercial rent support for businesses and other organizations, regardless of their sector, that have been impacted by regional provincial health officer orders. This program is a way businesses, charities and non-profit organizations can be eligible for up to 75% of wage and rent support. The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit provides \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly affected by a

COVID-19-related public health order and who have lost 50% or more of their income.

“B.C. businesses have remained resilient throughout the pandemic and have adapted in more ways than one to keep people safe and healthy,” Kahlon said. “I continue to urge everyone to support local businesses where you can, and know that our business community needs us, as we need it. Let’s work together, and we will get through this once again.”

On Jan. 7, 2022, B.C.’s public health officer ordered all businesses to reactivate their COVID-19 safety plans to help keep employees and communities safe during the rapid spread of cases related to the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

**Learn More:**

For more information on the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, including the application process and eligibility, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief](http://www.gov.bc.ca/business-relief)

For more information on COVID-19 safety plans, visit: <https://worksafebc.com/covid-19>

For more information on B.C.’s COVID-19 recovery supports, visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/economic-recovery/business-supports>

For more information on federal supports, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

For information on industry-specific COVID-19 safety protocols, visit:  
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/covid-19/industry-specific-information>

For more information on StrongerBC, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

A backgrounder follows.

**Contact:**

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and  
Innovation  
Media Relations  
778 587-3237

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## BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release  
2022JERI0003-000039  
Jan. 12, 2022

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

### **Business relief grant eligibility criteria, pay structure**

To be eligible for the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant, a business is required to:

- confirm it has been fully closed by the provincial health officer's recent orders;
- confirm that it was registered with BC Registries before Nov. 1, 2021;
- produce up-to-date business validation documents (2020 or newer), such as a municipal business licence, liquor and/or food primary licence, notice of assessment, insurance policy, statement of business registration or lease agreement;
- confirm majority ownership and operations and payment of taxes in B.C.; and
- confirm that the business has been following and will continue to follow all public health orders and guidelines.

Eligible businesses that offer online rentals or online services, but their physical location is fully closed, are eligible to apply.

New applicants will need to provide direct-deposit information. This will not be needed if the business was approved for the Circuit Breaker Business Relief or the Small- and Medium-Sized Business Recovery grants, and banking information is the same.

Eligible businesses that closed as a result of the provincial health officer orders will receive funding based on number of staff at the time of closure. The breakdown is as follows:

- Businesses with no employees or contracted staff: \$1,000
- One to four employees or contracted staff: \$2,000
- Five to 99 employees or contracted staff: \$5,000
- 100 or more employees or contracted staff: \$10,000.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 12, 2022, at 10 a.m. (Pacific time) to Feb. 28, 2022.

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and  
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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**New COVID-19 Business Supports Now Available**  
**Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation**  
January 12, 2022

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**Key Messages**

- We know how difficult the recent surge in Omicron COVID-19 cases is for impacted business owners and their employees and families.
- This is the last thing we all wanted right now. Public health measures are needed and in place to help us keep people safe and to protect our hospitals and we must all stay home if we are not feeling well or are sick.
- To support businesses directly impacted by public health closures, our government fast-tracked the COVID-19 Closure Relief Grant program.
- Gyms, fitness and adult dance centres, bars, lounges, nightclubs and event venues that can no longer hold events and have been ordered to fully close can now apply for funding through the grant program.
- These grants will supplement federal support programs and provide impacted businesses who have been ordered to temporarily close, up to \$10,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance and utilities.
- Applications will be accepted from January 12, 2022 at 10 a.m. to February 28, 2022.
- In addition, the Provincial Health Officer has ordered that all business reinstate their COVID-19 safety plans to keep employees and communities safe.
- We are asking all businesses to review their safety plans, ensure they are in place and work to do their part to reduce transmission – including by reminding people to work from home if possible and limiting the number of people gathering in a small space at one time.
- As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to look at how to support people and businesses as we determine the effects of these latest public health orders and the current COVID-19 situation.

Law, Judy J CITZ:EX

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**From:** Ward, Colin FIN:EX  
**Sent:** December 22, 2021 5:39 PM  
**To:** Lawson, Liam FIN:EX  
**Cc:** Wood, Heather FIN:EX; Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Omicron Circuit Breaker Material  
**Attachments:** a JERI Circuit Breaker Omicron BN.pdf; b JERI Circuit Breaker Omicron Sub.pdf; d JERI Circuit Breaker Omicron DL.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

Hi Liam –

Find attached BN, Sub and DL to support this item.

Thanks!

## TREASURY BOARD STAFF BRIEFING NOTE

CLIFF NO:

REQUEST NO.: 22-14

MINOR MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2021

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### TITLE: OMICRON CIRCUIT BREAKER GRANT

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#### ISSUE SUMMARY:

- s.12

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- s.12; s.13

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

Option 3. s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

## CONTEXT:

- As of December 22, 2021, the following PHO restrictions are in place:
  - Indoor organized gatherings of any size are not allowed;
  - Indoor events at venues can only have 50% capacity. This includes events like concerts, sports or movies;
  - Bars, nightclubs and lounges are closed;
  - Restaurants, cafes and pubs can have a maximum of 6 people at each table; and
  - Adult gyms, fitness centres and dance studios are closed.

● s.12

- Previous Circuit Breaker (CB) grants were in place in the Spring of 2021 for fitness, hospitality and short-term accommodations for grants of between \$2,000 and \$20,000. s.12  
s.12

- On May 28, 2021, Treasury Board approved the provision of an *ex gratia* payment to the Royal Canadian Legion to support its operations, impacted by the Spring 2021 PHO order.

s.12

## DISCUSSION:

- s.12; s.13

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s.12 ; s.13

s.12; s.13

## **OPTIONS:**

1. **Option 1** <sup>s.12; s.13</sup>  
s.12; s.13

- **Option 2** <sup>s.12; s.13</sup>  
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

- **Option 3**<sup>s.12; s.13</sup>  
s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

## **RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:**

Option 3.<sup>s.12; s.13</sup>  
s.12; s.13

**TBS Contact: Colin Ward**

**Draft sub. 1<sup>st</sup> received:** Dec 22/21

**Final draft received:** N/A

**Signed sub. received:** Dec 22/21

**TB briefing note provided to the Ministry:**

**Draft sent:** No

**Final sent:** Dec 22/21

**Min. DM fact sign-off:** Dec 22/21

## **APPENDIX A –**

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

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s.12 ; s.13



TB Minor Meeting Date: December 22, 2021

Confidential

Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation  
Room 301 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague:

Re: Omicron Circuit Breaker Grant

s.12

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson  
Chair

cc: See attached Distribution List

.../2

Distribution List:

cc: Bobbi Plecas  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Joanna White  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer  
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

## **APPENDIX A –** s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13