



## Statement

For Immediate Release  
March 16, 2020

### March 16, 2020 Statement Regarding COVID-19

**Salmon Arm, B.C.** –Member of Parliament Mel Arnold issued the following statement on the COVID-19 pandemic today:

“Public health and safety must be a priority for all Canadians, and we all have an essential role to play in supporting the health and safety of ourselves, our families and communities.

“Today’s announcements from the Government of Canada and Government of British Columbia reflect the speed at which COVID-19 is spreading and the need for constant assessment and reassessment of the facts and threats we are facing.

“For updated information on the COVID-19 situation including what symptoms to look for and how to avoid infection, please visit the federal government’s special website at [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

“Today, the Government of Canada issued a clear directive for all Canadian citizens outside of Canada to return. At the same time, the government made it clear that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms are not to be allowed on planes travelling to Canada.

“Canadians abroad requiring emergency assistance from the Government of Canada can consult <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-assistance> to learn how they may be assisted.

“In response to the impacts of COVID-19 on businesses, the federal government is establishing a Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to support financing in the private sector through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC).

Here are the current options available:

[Small Business Loan](#): Up to \$100,000 can be obtained online.

[Working capital loan](#): For loans over \$100,000 and can support everyday operations.

[Purchase Order Financing](#): Loans to fulfill domestic or international orders.

“If you have specific questions about applying for funding, BDC can be reached at the toll-free number: 1-877-232-2269 Monday to Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). They also have an [online assessment tool](#).

“Today, the Government of Canada indicated they will be announcing additional measures related Employment Insurance (EI) and other supports for Canadians whose employment has been impacted by the crisis; I will provide links to the associated details once they are released.

“In response to public health directives on social distancing, my constituency offices will be closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. **Please call the office at 250-260-5020 or email [mel.arnold.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mel.arnold.C1@parl.gc.ca) if you require assistance with federal government services.**”

“I continue to communicate with local health and safety authorities to monitor the evolving situation and encourage everyone to stay informed and follow the directions of health officials.