



The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in uncertainty and anxiety for many businesses, their employees as well as their families. As a result, the Federal Government and FedNor have authorized LOWBIC (and all Northern Ontario CF's) to provide a specific lending solution to qualifying small businesses. The criteria is listed below and if you are a small business that has been affected by the COVID-19 interruption, I encourage you to call, email or text for more information or to apply.

Parameters of the loan:

- Amount considered, normally up to \$40,000
- 0% interest until December 31, 2022
- No principal payments until December 31, 2022
- Principal repayments can be voluntarily made at any time
- 25% up to a maximum of \$10,000 in loan forgiveness is available, provided the outstanding balance is paid back by December 31, 2022.
- If any part of the balance is not paid by December 31, 2022, the remaining balance will be converted to a term loan at business prime annual interest rate. Effective January 1, 2023.
- The full balance must be repaid no later than December 31, 2025.
- No security is required beyond a promissory note.

CF's will focus on providing assistance to businesses affected by the pandemic such as "main street" including retail shops, restaurants, corner stores, etc., and businesses of strategic importance to the community.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are defined as having less than 500 employees and annual sales revenue of less than \$20 million, and produce goods and services for the market economy, regardless of their business structure (e.g. sole proprietorships, social enterprises, cooperatives, etc.)

The applicant is required to have attempted to access other federal support programs and deemed ineligible or rejected (including CEBA, and AFI funding).

The SME must have been a viable business as of March, 1 2020, and established before March 1, 2020.

Must be adversely impacted because of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

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