TruckingHR Canada

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FEDERAL TARIFF SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN WORKERS AND BUSINESSES

The Government of Canada announced $7.5 billion in new response measures to US tariffs, including supports for workers and businesses.
The list will be updated as new programs are announced or changed.

Highlights

- New $3.5 billion in **Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers**
- **For workers:**
  - One-year extension to temporary EI one-week waiting period waiver
  - One-year extension to temporary EI measure that allows workers to receive benefits without first exhausting separation payments
  - Eight-month extension to temporary EI measure that adds 20 weeks of regular benefits for long-tenured workers
  - Introduction of one-year temporary measure to allow workers who voluntarily left a job to access EI (if job loss was not their fault)
  - Help for workers to transition to new opportunities
- **For employers:**
  - A new **Workforce Retention and Retraining Program** combining existing Employment Insurance Work-Sharing program and Worker Retention Grant
  - Enhances work-sharing flexibility so businesses can avoid layoffs and retain skilled employees
  - Access up to $1,000 per employee for training and administration

- **Workforce Tariff Response** provides $570 million over three years through Employment Insurance-funded Labour Market Development Agreements to help up to 66,000 eligible workers in vulnerable industries develop skills and gain experience to transition to new work, find new opportunities in growing industries, and keep their current job by upgrading skills

- Additional $1.5 billion under the **Regional Tariff Response Initiative** for small and medium-sized businesses as grants up to $3 million

- $2 billion for the **Canada Strong Diversification Fund** (a new stream of the Strategic Response Fund) to support tariff-impacted companies with shovel-ready projects and ongoing capital maintenance, including medium-sized firms

- $1.5 billion added to the **Large Enterprise Tariff Loan facility** (LETL) to support large Canadian enterprises affected by actual and potential new tariffs and which face challenges accessing traditional financing. The liquidity term is extended from 24 to 36 months and maximum loan repayment period raised to 15 years from 10

- The **Business Development Bank of Canada** has a second $500-million liquidity stream to provide working capital support for small- and medium-sized businesses facing cash flow pressures. Companies directly impacted by tariffs can access loans from $250,000 to $5 million and make interest-only payments for 36 months

EXISTING NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Commodities Sectoral Support Program
This program provides funds to reduce rail and marine freight shipment costs for Canadian steel and steel products within Canada.

Forestry Support Program
This program provides expert advice and financing to support forestry operations amid rising trade uncertainty and economic pressures

Pivot to Grow Loan
This program provides loans to help employers counter the effects of tariffs on Canadian exports to the US

Strategic Response Fund
This program helps employers adapt and compete in a changing global economy by supporting large scale, transformative projects.
Worker Retention Grant (WRG) for Work-Sharing Employers
This program helps employers avoid layoffs of skilled employees during a temporary decrease in the normal level of business activity.

Look for more business incentive programs in THRC’s Funds for Fleets.

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