

# Support for the Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Sectors

January 10, 2022

# Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- The \$20M **Reconnect Ontario 2022** supports festivals and events that have a tourism economic impact and motivate visitors to rediscover Ontario, reconnect people with local experiences and increase tourism spending. The application window is open, and **applications are due by February 2, 2022.**
- The 2022-23 **Ontario Sport Hosting Program** provides project-based funding to help applicants deliver major national and international amateur sport events in Ontario. The application window is open, and **applications are due January 10, 2022.**
- The **Ontario Tourism Recovery Program (OTRP)** supports eligible Ontario-based, tourism businesses in the for-profit attractions and accommodations sectors that have been hardest hit by COVID-19. OTRP is a competitive, application-based grant program supporting private sector tourism businesses that are significant drivers to their regional tourism economies. The application window is now closed and funding notifications are expected in the coming weeks.
- The **Community Building Fund – Capital** (delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation) provides support for non-profits, Indigenous communities and Municipalities in the community sport and recreation sectors. The fund helps strengthen communities by supporting the repair, renovation or retrofitting of existing sport and recreation facilities or COVID-19 related public health requirements now that support future preparedness. The application window is now closed and funding notifications are expected in the very near future.

# **Ministry of Finance**

# Expanding Rebates for Property Tax and Energy Costs

- To support businesses that are most impacted by provincial public health measures, the government is expanding the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program (OBCRP).
- The new OBCRP program will support eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity due to recently announced public health measures.
- Eligible businesses will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to capacity limits. The rebate amount will be 50 per cent up to 100 per cent of these costs depending on the degree to which the business is subject to public health restrictions.
  - Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their property tax and energy costs.
  - Eligible businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs.

**The Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program was [announced](#) on December 22, 2021. Under the program, eligible businesses were to receive rebate payments equivalent to 50 per cent of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to the capacity limits at the time.**

# Overview of the Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program

## Eligibility

- A full list of eligible business types will be provided prior to the launch of the application portal.

## Applications Process

- Online applications for this program will open on January 18, with payments to eligible businesses provided retroactive to December 19, 2021.
- Businesses will be required to submit documentation including property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

# Cash-flow Supports for Businesses Through Tax Deferrals

## Six-month Interest- and Penalty-free Period

- Effective January 1, 2022, the province is also providing additional support to help improve cash flows for Ontario businesses by providing a six-month interest- and penalty-free period to make payments for most provincially administered taxes.
- This measure will provide up to \$7.5 billion in relief to help approximately 80,000 Ontario businesses. This will support businesses now, while capacity and operating restrictions are in place, and provide the flexibility Ontario businesses will need for long-term planning.

## Businesses have the option to delay payments on the following provincial taxes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employer Health Tax</li><li>• Beer, Wine &amp; Spirits Taxes</li><li>• Tobacco Tax</li><li>• Insurance Premium Tax</li><li>• Fuel Tax</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Fuel Tax Agreement</li><li>• Gas Tax</li><li>• Retail Sales Tax on Insurance Contracts &amp; Benefit Plans</li><li>• Mining Tax</li><li>• Race Tracks Tax</li></ul> |
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# **Ministry of Energy**

## Ministry of Energy Initiative: Off-Peak Time-of-Use (TOU) Rate

- On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Ontario announced plans to temporarily change the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) rates to the off-peak rate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a 21-day period from January 18, 2022 to February 7, 2022.
- RPP time-of-use and tiered customers will benefit from the low off-peak rate, which is less than half the on-peak rate and significantly less than the mid-peak rate.
- The rate will be implemented on January 18, 2022 to provide Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) with the necessary time to ensure a seamless experience for customers on both time-of-use and tiered rate plans.
- Customers do not need to apply for this rate change. It will be automatically applied to customer bills by their LDC.
- This measure is estimated to provide \$81M in support to households, small businesses and farms.

### Summary: Rate Changes

	TOU Rates			Tiered Rates	
Rate Period / Tiers	On-Peak (7am-11am, 5pm-7pm)	Mid-Peak (11am-5pm)	Off-Peak (7pm-7am)	Tier 1 (up to 1000kWh)	Tier 2 (beyond 1000kWh)
Current Rate (¢ per kWh)	17.0	11.3	8.2	9.8	11.5
Temporary Rate (¢ per kWh)	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2