

Manitoba Horse Council prepared a position paper with a supporting survey and description of stable activities during the pandemic, detailing how equestrian facilities often fall through the gaps of provincial health orders and financial support, and looking for clarification on various scenarios. It was sent to the Hon. Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage, and the Hon. Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Training. Many facility owners have been in touch with their local MLAs on this topic as well.

MHC hasn't heard back directly from either Minister, but we have discovered that where previous applications for Bridge Grants were refused, the situation is now turned around, and this is a paragraph from the new response to some applicants:

"I have asked staff to review your information and I have been advised that your business is eligible to apply for MBG. When filling out your application please choose the following option under Nature of Operations - "sporting and recreational facilities/activities" and choose "Other indoor/outdoor recreational facility" under Specify Nature of Operations. Should you require additional support in filling out the application please contact Manitoba Government Inquiry at 204-945-3744 or 1-866-626-4862 (Toll-Free) or by email at mgi@gov.mb.ca."

There have also been changes to the **Back to Work in Manitoba Wage Subsidy** program so that is worth another look, even if your business didn't qualify previously.

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/programs/index.html>

The programs are on the above link and we recommend that you investigate on behalf of your business.

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/programs/federal.html>

There are also Federal Programs available which may have changed. Please check through everything and take an accountant's advice if necessary.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-rent-subsidy.html>

The above link takes you to the Federal Rent Subsidy program. It's worth noting that although it's called 'Rent Subsidy' if you own your buildings and carry a mortgage, the subsidy program may apply to you; it calculates a percentage based on loss of income, mortgage cost, property tax and insurance. This will be based on a previous year comparison similar to the wage subsidy programs.

We do recommend that all equestrian operations be put on a formal business footing; get a Manitoba Business Number, register to claim GST input costs, and use a business bank account separate from your personal account. Keep good records!

While Manitoba Horse Council distributes this information in good faith, we recognize that stable and facility operations in Manitoba are all private businesses and operate within parameters that are individual to each business. We offer the above as advice and suggestions for businesses to do their own research, and cannot guarantee any outcomes.

Addition received as part of a response from the Manitoba Emergency Coordination Centre

"At this time only businesses included on Schedule A issued with the public health orders in place may continue to offer in-person services. We can confirm that riding lessons are not included on Schedule A and therefore cannot be offered in person at this time. Businesses that board animals, including stables, are included on Schedule A therefore you may continue to offer boarding services at your business. In addition, you may continue to offer training online or through other remote means."