

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease causing severe acute respiratory syndrome and was first identified in Wuhan, China. On January 15th, 2020 the first case of the virus was reported in Canada and on March 12th the first case was confirmed in Saskatchewan. As of April 9th, Saskatchewan has 278 cases of the virus and 3 people have died. A provincial state of emergency was declared on March 18th. Below is a non-exhaustive list of restricting public health orders affecting our residents;

- Schools K-12, public and private suspended indefinitely as of 20 March.
- Gatherings are limited to 10 people, with a 2 meter distance to be maintained between people.
- All non-essential services shall close, but may provide online sales.
- Restaurants are only permitted to serve take out or delivery.
- Childcare facilities are under restrictions.
- Only urgent care being provided by medical clinics such as dentists.
- All personal service facilities shall close.
- A mandatory 14 day isolation for anyone who has tested positively for COVID-19 and any international travelers.

Along with restrictions the Federal government has created emergency benefits and spending of over \$1 billion during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Statistics Canada the unemployment rate for March was 7.8% with over 1 million jobs lost, another 2.1 million people still formally employed worked less than their regular schedule.

The pandemic has created a chain of worldwide events causing oil prices to reach an 18 year low as the benchmark price for Canada, Western Canadian Select dipped down to US \$3.82 per barrel. This is a hit on an already volatile oil industry in Canada.