

Tax Update: GST/HST Considerations for Canadian Businesses Affected by COVID-19

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The Department of Finance and the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced [new support for small businesses](#) on Friday, March 27, 2020. These measures come as part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan and aim to [provide direct support and tax deferrals to Canadian workers and businesses to help them in these difficult times](#):

GST/HST for Canadian Businesses

- GST/HST remittances and customs duty payments are deferred to **June 30, 2020**.
- The deferral of payment to **June 30, 2020** will extend the time that:
- [Monthly filers have to remit amounts collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods](#);
- [Quarterly filers have to remit amounts collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period](#); and
- [Annual filers, whose GST/HST return or instalment are due in March, April or May 2020, have to remit amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year](#).

Customs Duty and Sales Tax

With respect to the payment of GST and customs duties on goods imported by businesses:

- section 33.7(1) of the *Customs Act* is being used to defer payment deadlines of statements of accounts for March, April, and May until **June 30, 2020**.

The *Customs Act* is overseen by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and administered by the Canada Border Services Agency. [Typically, payments owing for customs duties and the GST on imports are due before the first day of the month following the month in which the Statements of Accounts are issued](#).

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The information contained in this article is intended to provide information and comment, in a general fashion, about recent cases and related practice points of interest. The information and views expressed are not intended to provide legal advice. For specific legal advice, please contact us.