



Business Credit Availability Program

Designed to improve access to financing for Canadian businesses.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

As part of Budget 2009, the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) was introduced. In an effort to assist Canadian businesses during recent economic uncertainty, the federal government hopes to improve access to financing for Canadian businesses by providing new resources and flexibilities to Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), who will work cooperatively with private sector financial institutions.

Through this program, EDC and BDC will provide at least \$5 billion in direct lending and other types of support and facilitation at market rates to businesses with viable business models. This program is intended to fill gaps in market access and lever additional lending by private sector institutions. While there are no set borrowing limits for individual companies, all institutions involved in the program will continue to utilize internal risk management practices for granting credit.

PARTICIPANTS

The following private sector lenders have committed to:

- Working with EDC and BDC to find solutions for business clients who would otherwise have insufficient access to credit.
- Ensuring that the extension of credit by EDC and BDC is incremental for Canadian business and does not displace or substitute for private credit in aggregate.

Bank of Nova Scotia	Bank of Montreal
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	HSBC Bank Canada
Toronto-Dominion Bank	Royal Bank of Canada
National Bank of Canada	Desjardins
Laurentien Bank of Canada	Credit Union Central of Canada

APPLICATION PROCESS

Credit worthy Canadian businesses should contact their financial institutions to see if BCAP applies to them. Depending on their individual circumstances, they may be referred to BDC or EDC.

Under the new program, BDC will serve companies with annual revenues of \$50 million or less, and EDC will serve larger enterprises in addition to its existing customers, regardless of their size. According to the Department of Finance, transactions in sectors such as retail, wholesale, media, communication, construction and real estate are best covered by BDC, while financial services, structured finance, foreign currency transactions, oil & gas exploration, and mining are best covered by EDC.