

COVID-19 Closures and Re-Openings of Canadian Casinos and VLT Venues

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PROVINCE	CASINOS CLOSE DATE	CASINOS OPEN DATE	VLTs CLOSE DATE	VLTs OPEN DATE
British Columbia	March 16	Closed as of September 28	N/A	N/A
Alberta	March 17	June 12 (table games September 3)	March 17	June 12
Saskatchewan	March 17	July 9 (no live table games)	March 20	July 6
Manitoba	March 17	July 25 (most opened July 29)	April 1	June 21
Ontario	March 16	September 28 (not all casinos; no table games)	N/A	N/A
Quebec	March 13	July 16-August 3 (staggered)	March 13/14	July 7
New Brunswick	March 16	June 26 (Grey Rock Casino) September 28 (Casino New Brunswick; no table games)	March 15/16	May 22
Nova Scotia	March 15/16	Still Closed (anticipated October 5)	March 15/16	June 8
Prince Edward Island	March 15	June 26 (table games August 19)	March 15/16	June 26
Newfoundland & Labrador	N/A	N/A	March 15/16	June 25

British Columbia

"BCLC temporarily closed all casinos, community gaming centres and bingo halls, effective March 16, 2020. The temporary closure followed a directive issued by the Attorney General and announced by the Provincial Health Officer. Our facilities will re-open only once it is safe and appropriate to do so. We look forward to welcoming back customers at that time."

SOURCE: <https://corporate.bclc.com/alerts/covid-19.html> & <https://corporate.bclc.com/articles/our-business/2020/all-b-c--casinos-directed-to-temporarily-close.html>

Alberta

As of Thursday, September 3, table games may resume in Alberta, including at charitable casinos and Host First Nation casinos. With the reopening of table games, charitable casino events may also resume. Please refer to the Questions and Answers for Gaming Venues under Resources in the section above for the most up-to-date information. Guidance documents are also available for casino operators at alberta.ca/BizConnect.

As part of the Alberta government's relaunch strategy, on Friday, June 12, gaming facilities (casinos, racing entertainment centres (REC) and bingo halls) may reopen in Alberta, and VLT operations can commence throughout Alberta.

(March 17, 2020) Earlier today, the Government of Alberta declared a public health emergency. Effective immediately, all casinos, racing entertainment centres and bingo halls will close until further notice.

SOURCE: <https://aglc.ca/covid-19> & <https://aglc.ca/covid-19-archive>

Saskatchewan

The provincial VLT network was shutdown effective March 20 as a result of public health orders aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19. As part of the Re-open Saskatchewan plan, the VLT network will resume operation today [July 6]. At the same time, the commission paid to sites will temporarily increase from 15 per cent to 25 per cent. The temporary commission adjustment will be in effect until Jan. 3, 2021.

SOURCE: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/july/06/vlt-commissions-increasing>

On Thursday, July 9, casinos and bingo halls are able to re-open for business. The guidelines for businesses and activities re-opening on July 6 and July 9 are included in this week's update to the plan to re-open the provincial economy. Racetracks and rodeo-related activities are targeted to resume on July 16. Guidelines are being developed and will include guidance related to spectators. O

SOURCE: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/june/30/reopen-saskatchewan-phase-4>

All gyms, fitness centres, casinos and bingo halls are ordered to close until further notice.

SOURCE: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/18/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Manitoba

Manitoba's VLT network was shut down April 1, 2020 in accordance with Manitoba Public Health to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries has reopened the VLT network in accordance with the Manitoba government's Restoring Safe Services Phase 3 plan, to be implemented on June 21, 2020.

SOURCE: <https://www.mbl.ca/covid-19>

The Casinos of Winnipeg will open on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. The daily hours of operation will be 10 am to 3 am. We will not be offering extended hours (24-hours) on the weekends so that our Clean Team can effectively sanitize and disinfect our properties between business days.

SOURCE: <https://www.mbl.ca/covid-19>

South Beach Casino opened its doors to customers on July 25. "We're operating at 30 per cent capacity, which is about 445 customers and employees at a time," said Stephanie Thiessen, South Beach Casino's director of marketing. "We have just over 460 machines operating."

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7222369/manitoba-casinos-reopening-phase-4-covid-19/>

While the province's revised Phase 4 reopening strategy allowed casinos to reopen July 25, the McPhillips Station and Club Regent casinos in Winnipeg and the Aseneskak Casino in Opaskwayak are keeping their doors closed until July 29. Several casinos outside the city, however, reopened the day they could — both the Sand Hills Casino in Carberry and South Beach Casino and Resort in Scanterbury were open for business Saturday morning.

SOURCE: Abas, M. (2020, Jul 27). Rural casinos bet on reopening: South beach, sand hills welcome gamblers for first time since march 17. Winnipeg Free Press Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.uleth.ca/docview/2427197817?accountid=12063>

all casinos will close effective midnight tonight. (March 17, 2020)

SOURCE: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=47017>

Ontario

Great Canadian Gaming Corp. says it will reopen its casinos on Sept. 28 in Ontario and New Brunswick that have been closed since March 16. The Toronto-based company says 11 Ontario casinos will adhere to provincial guidelines, which include indoor limits of 50 people and no operation of table games or other amenities. Its casino in New Brunswick will also open that day, with guests limited to 25 per cent of capacity, availability of a bit more than half its slot machines and the suspension of most amenities.

SOURCE: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/great-canadian-gaming-to-reopen-casinos-in-ontario-and-new-brunswick-sept-28-1.5093608>

"Several casinos near Toronto has indicated they will reopen September 28 with no more than 50 customers."

SOURCE: <https://london.ctvnews.ca/mayors-press-premier-to-work-with-casinos-on-reopening-plans-1.5103924>

OLG STATEMENT: PHASED APPROACH TO REOPENING ONTARIO CASINOS (release Sept. 4, 2020)
OLG supports the safe reopening of casinos; service providers that reopen sites must comply with:

A maximum of 50 customers in the gaming establishment at any given time;

A requirement that all persons on-site adhere to two metre physical distancing and other safety protocols informed by public health advice; and,

No live-dealer table games at this time.

Re-opening is contingent on the casino service providers having a safety plan for each gaming site (which must include mandatory use of masks or face-coverings for customers), reviewed by an appropriate expert and submitted to the regulator, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

Re-opening dates for each casino will be set by the service providers and will be communicated by them. The specific reopening date for each gaming site will vary depending on a site's readiness and commercial viability to operate under the mandatory restrictions.

SOURCE: <https://about.olg.ca/olg-statement-phased-approach-to-reopening-ontario-casinos/>

ALL ONTARIO CASINOS TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE (release March 15, 2020)

TORONTO, ON – The health and safety of casino customers and employees is a priority for OLG and its service providers.

OLG, working with all our casino service providers, is confirming that an orderly shutdown of all casinos across Ontario has begun. We expect the closure to be complete within approximately 24 hours.

SOURCE: <https://about.olg.ca/all-ontario-casinos-to-temporarily-close/>

Quebec

Loto-Québec makes adjustments to its gaming establishments' opening hours

Montréal, September 21, 2020 – In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, Loto-Québec has decided to apply the additional measures announced by the government to all of its gaming establishments. As of 12:01 a.m. tonight and until further notice, Loto-Québec's four casinos and two gaming halls will be changing their opening hours (with midnight being the closing time).

As a reminder, these new hours are in effect as of today at the Casino de Montréal and the Salon de jeux de Québec. In addition, alcohol service, which until now has been limited to restaurants, will end a little earlier, at 11 pm.

As for video lottery terminals, they'll be shut down every day starting at midnight across the bar network, as has been the case since July 10.

These temporary measures are necessary to protect everyone's health and safety. Loto-Québec is urging the public to exercise caution and continue to protect themselves by observing the measures it has put in place.

SOURCE: <https://societe.lotoquebec.com/en/media-and-partners/press-releases/2020/septembre-2020/societe-scq-heures-2020-09-21>

Loto-Québec announces the dates and conditions for the reopening of its gaming establishments, as well as the cost-saving measures affecting its operations and personnel

Montréal, June 30, 2020 – Loto-Québec will gradually reopen its establishments according to the following schedule, with operations adjusted to comply with physical distancing and hygiene standards:

Hilton Lac-Leamy: July 13

Casino de Charlevoix, Casino de Mont-Tremblant, Québec and Trois-Rivières gaming halls: July 16

Casino du Lac Leamy: July 23

Casino de Montréal: August 3

VLT and Kinzo network: July 7

Network bingo: July 3

SOURCE: <https://societe.lotoquebec.com/en/media-and-partners/press-releases/2020/juin-2020/COVID-Ouverture-Etablissements-2020-06-30>

New Brunswick

Great Canadian Gaming Corp. says it will reopen its casinos on Sept. 28 in Ontario and New Brunswick that have been closed since March 16. The Toronto-based company says 11 Ontario casinos will adhere to provincial guidelines, which include indoor limits of 50 people and no operation of table games or other amenities. Its casino in New Brunswick will also open that day, with guests limited to 25 per cent of capacity, availability of a bit more than half its slot machines and the suspension of most amenities.

SOURCE: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/great-canadian-gaming-to-reopen-casinos-in-ontario-and-new-brunswick-sept-28-1.5093608>

RE-OPENING SEPTEMBER 28: In New Brunswick, the Company will be reopening its Casino New Brunswick property on September 28, 2020 as part of New Brunswick's "COVID-19 recovery plan." The reopening of the property will be premised upon following prescriptive operational plans and protocols developed by the Company, including reduced facility guest capacity, slot machines, and the suspension of most amenities.

SOURCE: <https://www.casinonb.ca/covid-19/>

Casino New Brunswick will temporarily suspend all operations as of closing tonight Monday, March 16th at 3am

SOURCE: <https://www.casinonb.ca/health-safety-update-covid-19/>

Grey Rock Casino re-opened June 26, 2020

<https://www.gamingdirectory.com/covid-19/canada/first-nation/reopened/>

"In accordance with public health directives, Atlantic Lottery's video lottery operations (VLTs) began reactivation in those locations reopening under provincial economic recovery guidelines, effective May 22 in New Brunswick June 8 in Nova Scotia June 25 in Newfoundland and Labrador and June 26 in Prince Edward Island."

SOURCE: <https://www.alc.ca/content/alc/en/corporate/about-atlantic-lottery/ResponsetoCovid19.html>

Nova Scotia

Great Canadian Gaming Corporation announced Monday that its Casino Nova Scotia properties in Sydney and Halifax will be reopening on Oct. 5. Both properties temporarily closed on March 16 to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in the province.

SOURCE: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7333521/casino-nova-scotia-reopening-in-october-after-6-month-closure-due-to-covid-19/>

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Prince Edward Island

We’re excited to announce live table action will be returning to Red Shores #Charlottetown Casino on Wednesday, August 19th! Blackjack, Ultimate Texas Hold’em, and Baccarat will be open daily from 5pm – close, and are now located on the upper level of Red Shores Charlottetown.

SOURCE: https://twitter.com/Red_Shores/status/1295722312847839243

Red Shores Casino in Charlottetown and the gaming floor in Summerside will reopen on Friday, June 26th

SOURCE: <http://www.canadapoker.com/red-shores-casino-in-charlottetown-and-the-gaming-floor-in-summerville-will-reopen-on-friday-june-26th/>

Red Shores Racetrack & Casino at the Charlottetown Driving Park will resume hosting live harness racing, but without on track customers, on Thursday, June 4th. For full details, visit

<https://redshores.ca/racing/news/>

SOURCE: https://twitter.com/Red_Shores/status/1256635855768297474

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Newfoundland & Labrador

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