

OPSA Brief COVID-19



Department of Public Safety

Current as of 1600hrs, April 30, 2020

Strategic Summary

Status	Today's NB Updates
<p>Days since PEOC Activation: 85</p> <p>Days since State of Emergency: 43</p> <p>Days since Inter-Provincial Borders Closed: 37</p> <p>Total Cases Overall: 118</p> <p>Total Cases Active: 4</p> <p>New Cases: 0</p> <p>Days with No New Cases: 12</p> <p>Recovered: 114</p> <p>Date of Renewed and Revised Mandatory Order: April 30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities NB to hold a webinar May 8 about economic recovery; will provide tips and answers to help businesses reopen • Public Health and UNB are working on developing a contact tracing application; if it is forthcoming, it will conform to strict privacy requirements • City of Fredericton wants to expand use of sidewalk cafes to help restaurants ensure they have adequate space for physical distancing; the city is waiving fees

Public Confidence: Hot Topics



Overall Public Sentiment: **Neutral**



Nationally and provincially, discussions on economic issues increased with the public largely supportive of disallowing temporary foreign workers.



In NB, the suggestion of a tracing application was met with skepticism due to privacy concerns.



New Brunswickers are expressing an increasing level of frustration with continued restrictions and their social/economic impacts.

Economic Impacts: Women

In 2018, NB women represented 85.3% of people working in the health care and social assistance sector, 66.3% of educational services workers and 60.9% of accommodation and food services employees. All of these sectors are significantly impacted by COVID-19 and containment measures.

Women are responsible for a larger share of care work that is paid and unpaid. Women may be forced to take time away from work to care for their children or a loved one during the pandemic. This may have long term impacts on women's economic status and resilience.

NB Economic Impacts: Women and Men

(March 2020)

Sources: StatsCan, NBjobs.ca, Women's Equality Branch

Unemployment rate

8.1% for women
9.4% for men

Labour force participation

55.4% for women
64.1% for men

Employment rate

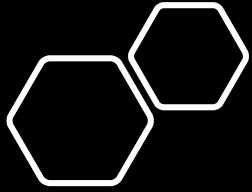
50.9% for women
58.1% for men

Feb. to Mar. declines in employment

-11,000 for women
-4,200 for men

Women represent 60.6% of all part time employment

-4,800 for women
-400 for men



Public Safety

Issue:

People with Disabilities

Issue 31

People living with disabilities experience unique challenges relating to COVID-19 and pandemic containment measures.

In Canada, **1 in 5** adults lives with one or more disabilities. The pandemic creates extra challenges:

- People dependent on friends and neighbors for support may experience difficulties having their daily needs met due to social distancing requirements.
- Daycare and school closures mean children living with disabilities experience barriers to accessing the services, therapy or treatment they need.
- Nearly **1 in 3** working age adults with a severe disability lives below the poverty line in Canada, meaning they are especially vulnerable to economic uncertainty.

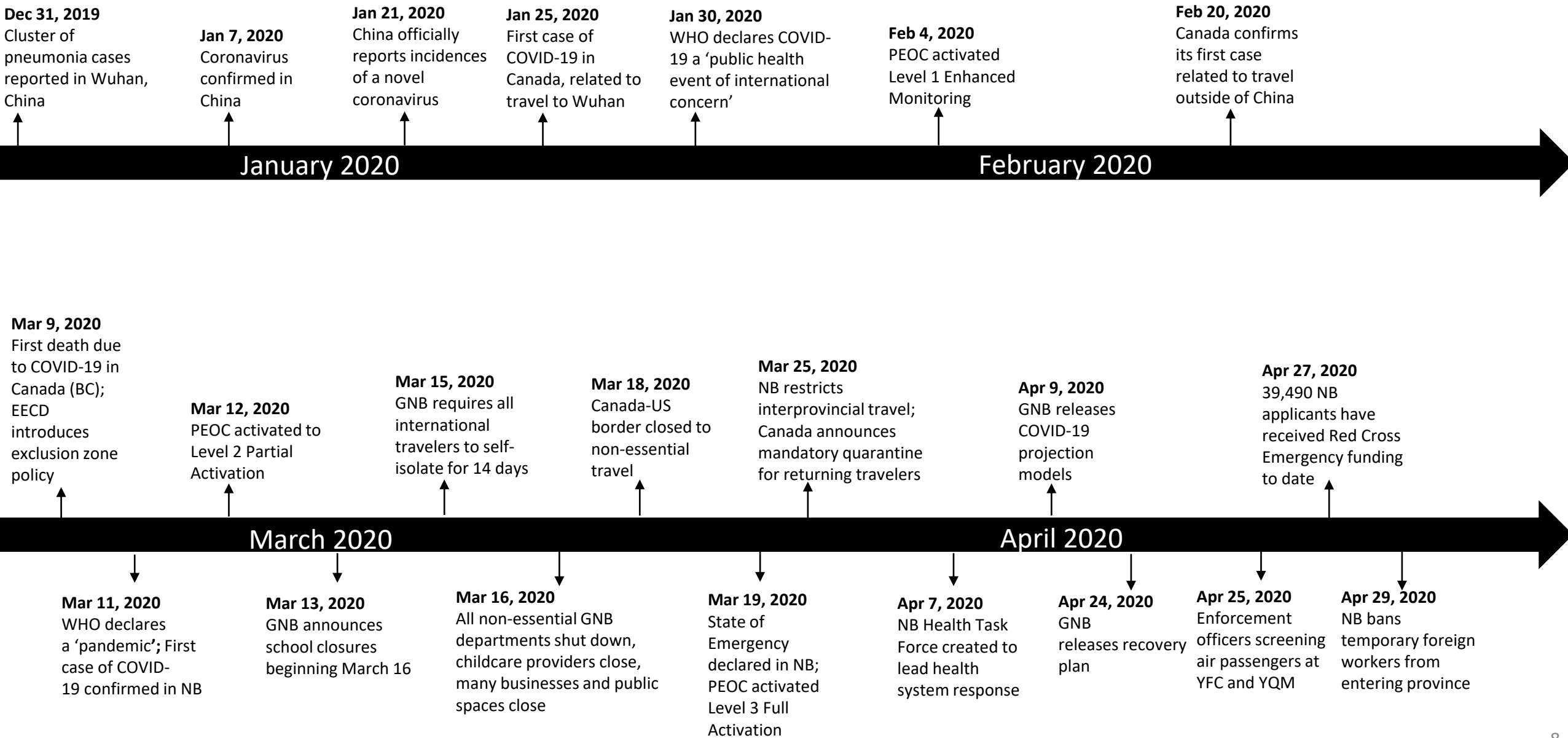
Policies often have unintended consequences. For example, facemasks make it impossible for people who are hard of hearing to read lips.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Mainstream Media

Daily Cross Jurisdictional Report

Risks Posed	Strategies to Watch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US has over 1M cases, Spain has the second highest number of confirmed cases at 236,899 • BBC reports on how decades of poverty, inequality, and lingering racial discrimination are disproportionately impacting the African American community in terms of COVID-19 infection rates and medical outcomes • 70 veterans at Massachusetts care home died of coronavirus, another 80 residents and 81 staff tested positive; these traumas have significant community impact • In Canada, 79% of all COVID-19 deaths are connected to long-term care and seniors' homes • Eurozone economy contracted 3.8% between January and March; US GDP shrank at an annual rate of 4.8% • Health and economic situation in Russia worsening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea recorded its first day with no locally transmitted cases; total confirmed cases stands at 10,765; less than 1,000 cases reported over the last month even with a national election held on April 15 • US clinical trials suggest antiviral Remdesivir cut the duration of symptoms from 15 to 11 days; could save lives and ease strain on hospitals; however, a Chinese trial of the same drug published results in Lancet medical journal finding it to be ineffective • NS created a free mental health line staffed by over 50 psychologists to help people deal with the mass shooting and pandemic • ON building a field hospital in the parking lot of Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie to prepare for second wave

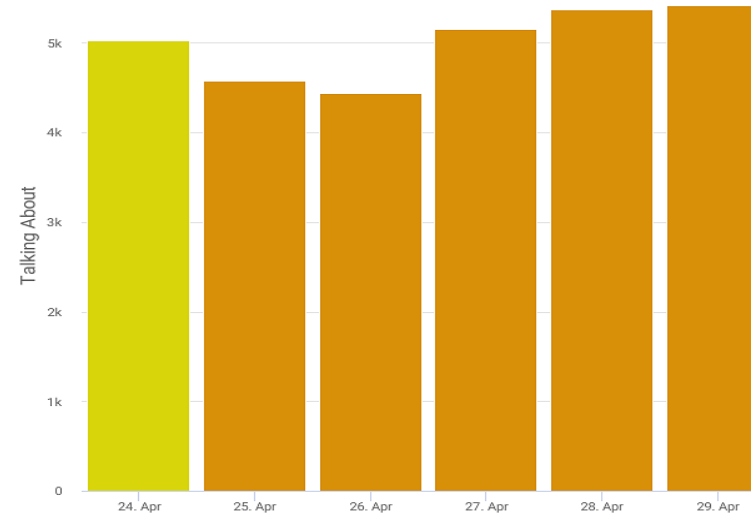
Timeline of Events



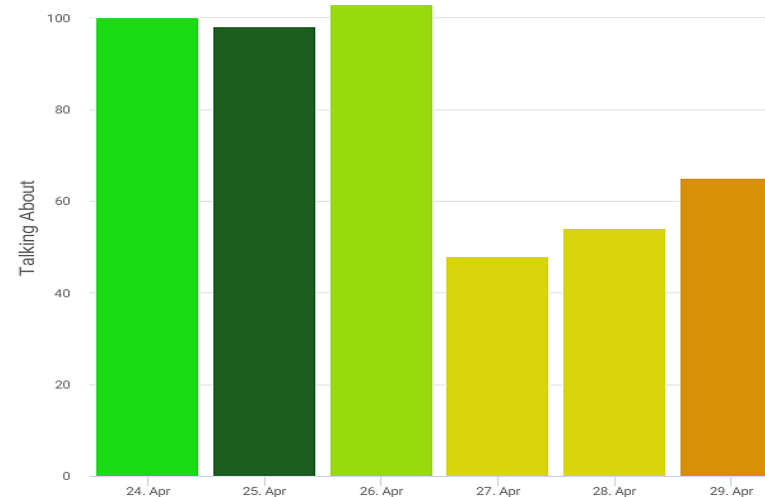
Trend Tracker: Public Sentiment

- Economic issues continued to be the most discussed topic both nationally and provincially, with no change in sentiment at the national level while NB experienced a 5 point increase. Most comments focused on temporary foreign workers.
- As NB continues to report no new cases, there has been a slight increase in comments expressing frustration with continued restrictions and their social/economic impacts.

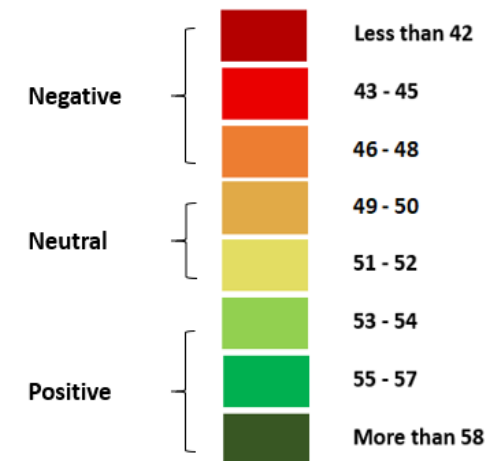
Public sentiment in Canada



Public sentiment about GNB



Legend



Source: EyesOver