

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: October 22, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: CLR Member Communique - October 22

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Provincial Update

Despite BC government claims that BC was in better condition than others in terms of reported cases of COVID 19, it seems that the virus is catching up to us as cases reported in BC hit an all time high. As of yesterday, our total number of cases as a province was increased to 12,057, with a total 256 confirmed deaths. This week, one school in Kelowna has quarantined its students and staff until November 4 after an outbreak in the school.

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/covid-19-five-long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-declared-in-fraser-health-region>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-covid-19-update-wednesday-1.5771723>

Some researchers and media are now saying that as we enter the second wave, things are worse than they have been to date. Some are calling for a mandatory and universal requirement to wear masks.

<https://www.citynews1130.com/2020/10/22/bc-covid-19-projections-february/>

If you are unclear on how to keep yourself and your families safe, the CDC site may be of help:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Federal Update

Previously, we informed you that the federal government had extended the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) through to June 2021. The government has confirmed this intention and has now provided details on the parameters of the CEWS that will apply until December 19, 2020. Other enhancements are also being proposed that will compliment the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS). Click here for more details:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/10/extending-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

According to the government of Canada, many people continue to feel the impacts of COVID-19 and require temporary income support. To ensure that Canadians continue to receive the help they need the federal government has introduced three new benefits, delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA): the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB).

The Minister of National Revenue opened the application process for the CRB on October 12 while applications for the CRSB and the CRCB opened on October 5, 2020.

- The CRB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who have stopped working or had their employment/self-employment income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19 and who are not eligible for EI.
- The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit provides \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19, or have underlying conditions that would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.
- The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible people unable to work because they must care for a child under 12 years old or other family member requiring supervised care, who is unable to attend their school or regular care facility, due to COVID-19.

For more information on the programs, click here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/10/the-government-of-canada-launches-applications-for-the-canada-recovery-benefit.html>

On October 9, the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister announced the government's intention to introduce new, targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue. The government plans to introduce legislation to provide support that would help these businesses safely get through the second wave of the virus and the winter, cover costs so they can continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery, including:

- The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, which would provide simple and easy-to-access rent and mortgage support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners. The new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.
- A top-up Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25% for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy. This follows a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to provide direct financial support to businesses temporarily shut down as a result of a local public health decision.
- The extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until June 2021, which would continue to protect jobs by helping businesses keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to re-hire their workers. The subsidy would remain at the current subsidy rate of up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible wages until December 19, 2020. This measure is part of the government's commitment to create over 1 million jobs and restore employment to the level it was before the pandemic.
- An expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), which would enable businesses, and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans—and that continue to be seriously impacted by the pandemic—to access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000. Half of this additional financing would be forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022. Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020. Further details, including the launch date and application process will be announced in the coming days. An attestation of the impact of COVID-19 on the business will be required to access the additional financing.

For more information, click here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/10/government-announces-new-targeted-support-to-help-businesses-through-pandemic.html>

Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) of BC
97 – Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8



O 604-524-4911

C 604-968-4911 | F 604-524-3925

E kenm@clra-bc.com | W www.clra-bc.com

CONFIDENTIALITY DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information. It is intended for review only by the person(s) named above. Dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited by all recipients unless expressly authorized otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.