

## **Joleen Kaminski**

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 28, 2020 9:03 AM  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update: April 28

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

### **National Day of Mourning**

Today (April 28) is the National Day of Mourning in Canada. It commemorates workers who have been killed, injured or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards and occupational exposures. Injuries and deaths in the workplace continue to be a matter of important concern across Canada and many Canadians including our own CLR members work hard each day in an effort to minimize accidents and incidents.

Today, the Canadian flag will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on all government buildings. I encourage you all to observe this day in a way that resonates with you. Some Canadians will be lighting candles, wearing ribbons and black armbands, and observing a moment of silence at 11:00 am. However you mark this day, please take time to remember and honour those lives lost or injured and to renew your own commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace. Perhaps the need has never been greater.

### **Re-Opening of the BC Economy**

In yesterday's communique, we reported that despite an effort to reopen the economies of some provinces, the BC government continued to warn people that our provincial economy will remain closed. If there is one thing that is true in these difficult times, it is that things do not stay the same. Yesterday, B.C.'s provincial health officer (PHO) says the province is making plans to ease restrictions amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. "We are getting close to the point where we can open up," Dr. Bonnie Henry said. She says that recent numbers indicate that social-distancing measures are working, and the province is going to take a "made in B.C." approach to easing restrictions. We may soon see an easing of restrictions but without a doubt, any restrictions will come with warnings and guidelines for proper behaviour to minimize the risk of escalating the rate of infection again.

The CLR will be working with the BC government on a construction sector recovery plan and we will report more on this in the coming days and weeks.

### **Prime Minister (PM) Daily Address**

Parliament will hold its first virtual sitting today on Zoom. It will not include all 338 Members of Parliament but will be the first effort to use technology in this way in Canadian government history. Considering our own experiences with using video conferencing, it is doubtful it will go smoothly, but it is a way to maintain good parliamentary governance.

The federal government is updating their models showing where the virus is going. Federal experts will provide details this afternoon. The bottom line according to the PM is that the measures taken in Canada are working and in some parts of the province, the curve is flattening. That does not however mean that we are "out of the woods". Canada will not lift restrictions too quickly. The path ahead is still up to the diligence of Canadians. Common guidelines are needed to ensure we are following what our experts tell us needs to be done.

Shared principles and criteria on restarting the economy have been developed and agreed to by federal and provincial governments. The framework will lay out what needs to happen before any further steps are taken.

There will be some differences based on the needs and circumstances of provinces and territories, but overall guidelines will dictate the most important elements of an economic plan to reopen (i.e.: health care system capacity to deal with further outbreaks as well as resuming regular surgeries, protection for students in schools, etc.). Controlling transmission is key and that requires increased testing and confidence that the virus is not prevalent where we work and live. Reporters challenged the PM on how many tests will be done and how it will be facilitated. The PM responded only that the needs will vary by region and testing protocols are expected to be appropriate to the provinces and territories. The goal is to keep Canadians as safe as possible while we start to get back to whatever “normal” is. For now, the PM says we must stay home and follow social distancing and only shop for groceries once per week. The PM cautions that returning to “normal” will still take time. This will not be a rapid process.

With respect to personal protection equipment (PPE) the federal government is shipping 6 million surgical masks to provinces and territories. Also, more than 100,000 face shields are ready and will be shipped out soon with more on the way.

### **Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP)**

The CIRP has posted videos on their website intended to assist our members and their workers who are facing mental health issues. I encourage you to share this website link to the CIRP YouTube videos. More will follow as CIRP continues to offer resources to help us through these challenging times.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRpfXJSBwE2stIJ4NmdF2ww/>

Stay safe and stay well, and on this Day of Mourning, thank you for all that you do to keep yourselves and our industry’s workers safe.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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