

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 8, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update: May 08

Importance: High

CLR Members,

With the focus on re-opening the BC economy and the province's Restart Plan communicated yesterday, not to mention the amazing weather we are expecting this weekend, I thought it was important to remind our members of the Provincial Health Officer's (PHO) Guidelines. With the re-opening starting, people are reminded to monitor PHO Guidelines (link below) and continue to adhere to them. Re-opening will not immediately turn into life as we knew it before the pandemic. It will take time.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

It is very difficult because we want our businesses to recover, get people back to work, visit with friends and family, and bring a sense of "normalcy" to our kids and our own lives, but I ask you all to curb your enthusiasm a little. We will get to that point, but we must do it gradually and safely. Please continue to manage your businesses and your own behaviour according to the rules and expectations of health officials and the PHO.

Federal Update

The federal Job Report showed that the unemployment rate in Canada rose by 13% in April (1,993,800 jobs lost) bringing total jobs lost since the economic shutdown to more than 3 million. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce says it could have been worse and in fact was predicted to have been worse. The creative measures taken by Canadian businesses including job sharing, moving to part time work, reducing hours, experimenting in new ways to make things, making new things, e-commerce, working from home, etc are the main reason for this. Canadian businesses in general have proven to be resilient. The Chamber also stresses that 93% of these job losses are temporary. People are furloughed and will return to work soon. The federal government stresses that the loss of jobs in April was not the result of the wage subsidy. The subsidy only started recently and 93,000 businesses have applied for over than 1.5 million position. The Chamber stresses that returning people to work must be done in a gradual and thoughtful manner with inclusive discussion and consultation between business and government.

In his daily address, the Prime Minister (PM) referred to the Job Report and stressed the measures the federal government has taken to assist Canadians including the Canadian Economic Response Benefit (CERB), the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), and the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), and more. The PM announced that the *government is extending CEWS beyond June* to help economic recovery and boost jobs. More details will be communicated next week. Businesses are encouraged if they need the subsidy and haven't already done so, to fill out the application at www.canada.ca. Businesses are asked to use the CEWS to bring employees back to work.

The PM further announced that Minister Bains (federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry) will be leading a new Industry Strategy Council that will take a deeper dive into the impacts of the pandemic on specific sectors and how best to support them. The government will be looking to existing and new industry leaders and governments to work together on this strategy.

Please keep safe and well as you enjoy the heat and sunshine expected this weekend.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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