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From: CLRInfo
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Subject: COVID 19 Update: April 27

Importance: High

CLR Members,

COVID-19 Cases in BC

Worldwide there have been more than 3 million cases reported. More than 47,000 have tested positive in Canada.

There is a reported spike in outbreaks of COVID-19 in BC this past weekend, led by cases identified in prisons and chicken processing plants. The totals now:

- 1,948 cases in BC;
- 100 deaths;
- 96 in hospital (41 in ICU);
- 1,137 people have fully recovered.

Despite leading Canada in cases of COVID-19, the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with 14,856 and 24,107 reported cases respectively, are expected to unveil their plans to reopen their economies soon. The BC government continues to warn people that our provincial economy will remain closed.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

The \$73 billion Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CESW) program **opened today** for business owners who qualify. The CEWS will pay up to 75% of wages for up to 12 weeks, retroactive from March 15 and continuing up to June 6. Each employee is eligible for a max of \$847/week with total funding for each business capping at a max of \$58,700 over those 12 weeks. The government cautions that the funds will take a week or more (May 7) to arrive and businesses are encouraged to register with their financial institutions for direct deposit. Reminder to CLR members that the applications form and a calculator is located on the CRA's website. The calculator will assist businesses in understanding what the wage subsidy will cover and how much their employees will be eligible for.

Use this link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

Also a reminder that the BC government has a service hub for small BC businesses. Operated by Small Business BC (SBBC), the hub helps businesses struggling during the pandemic by offering a single point of contact for those looking for resources available to them during the pandemic. Advisors can be reached Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Pacific time) and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1 833 254-4357. Inquiries can also be emailed to covid@smallbusinessbc.ca, or raised on the live-chat feature available on SBBC's dedicated website. <https://covid.smallbusinessbc.ca/hc/en-us>.

The SBBC website also lists all of the supports available for small businesses from both provincial and federal governments.

Prime Minister Daily Address

In his address this morning, the Prime Minister (PM) announced the opening of the CEWS (see above). Almost 10,000 businesses have already applied this morning. Canadians are reminded that they are not eligible for both the CEWS and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). People are expected to choose the program they want to apply on. CERB is intended for people who are without wages and can not be hired back by their employers. They are different

programs intended to meet different needs of Canadians. When CERB was implemented, the CEWS was not yet announced so it is possible that some people received funding from both program. The federal government is tracking all payments under the programs and these people must be prepared to pay one of the program funds back at some point. Link to CERB: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

He also announced that Parliament will sit both virtually and in person this week, and that the federal government is working with provincial leaders on clear, coordinated plans (guidelines and principles) to gradually reopen their economies when they choose to do so. Although it is provincial jurisdiction to make such decisions, the goal is to allow reopening but in a manner that doesn't "waste" the progress made to date and protects people from further outbreaks of the virus. The federal government wants to ensure the provinces are prepared to reopen their economies. Canadians are encouraged to continue to follow the advice and guidelines of federal and provincial health officers on isolation and social distancing.

When asked about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) the PM acknowledged that while PPE priority is for the health care sector, the government wants to ensure that provinces are prepared with adequate PPE for essential workers and confirmed that shipments from China are expected daily.

Reminder of Some Resources Available for CLR Members

Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP) Mental Health Support and Seminars:

- Join CIRP this week on Thursday at 10:00 am to discuss bullying in the workplace! Register at CIRP Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/653663505201198/>) or call CIRP on 1-888-521-8611 or 1-604-521-8611.

BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) Resources and Signage:

- https://www.bccsa.ca/index.php?id=451&utm_source=BC+Construction+Association&utm_campaign=fa13c84b45-BCCA_BRIEFING_MAY_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_048e6515f7-fa13c84b45-103910409&mc_cid=fa13c84b45&mc_eid=121a240b97

Have a safe and productive week.

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