

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 7, 2020 8:56 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update: April 7

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

### **Government Advocacy**

During these extraordinary times, construction contractors throughout the province are facing the realities of delays and escalating costs associated with COVID-19 that are outside of their direct control. The CLR and other construction associations are actively advocating with government to ensure that contractors are not held accountable for the financial impacts of these challenges. In those situations where COVID-19 has impacted our industry, we are asking for assistance in establishing reasonable time extensions and rescheduling. In addition, we are seeking assistance with a compensation program of some kind for COVID-19 related escalating costs. In partnership with other association partners at the provincial and federal level, we will stay on this issue until we get assistance from governments as we know how important this is to our members.

### **Federal government**

In his address this morning, the Prime Minister confirmed that hundreds of thousands of applications were made yesterday to access funds under the Canadian Emergency Benefits Program (CERB) from those born in the first three months of the year. Today, those born in April, May or June may apply starting today and as the week progresses, those born in later months of the year will be able to apply. The Prime Minister has committed that once approved, funds will be made available to applicants under the CERB within 3-5 days.

For information on the CERB and to make an application, this is the website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

Yesterday, Trudeau's government shared with the opposition parties, its plan to seek legislation in support of the 75% Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy that it has previously announced. Since such a program would fall under the Income Tax Act, it is necessary to get approval from the opposition and to draft appropriate parliamentary legislation.

### **Warning to Members**

A warning to our members in terms of how we are portraying ourselves to the public. I am hearing from other associations that they have members who are getting photos taken of their workers on job sites where the concern from those taking those photos is that the workers may not be complying with the PHO guidelines. This may be more of an issue for the residential construction sector, but regardless of where it is or is not happening, there are those in the public and among those who have been laid off and may not share the government's view that our industry is an essential service, that would like to create issues. We should take this as a serious warning that all it takes is one bad image and media story to hurt us all. Other than making sure our workers know that we are all under a microscope, I am not suggesting that we need to do anything different. The need to be diligent in social distancing and ensuring safe work sites remains a priority and we must do all that we can. Our message as an association is that we are not going to defend those in construction who do not do their best to comply with the guidelines. Again, just a warning to our members that this is happening.

Take care and stay well,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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