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From: CLRInfo
Sent: April 24, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: 'Paul Strangway'; Joleen Kaminski (joleenk@clra-bc.com)
Subject: COVID 19 UPDATE: April 24

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Saskatchewan has announced that it will start re-opening its economy on May 4. The federal government has made it clear that this is an issue for provinces and territories to decide but has warned repeatedly that there are fears of initiating a resurgence of the virus. The Saskatchewan government has communicated that opening the economy in that province does not mean that they are open to movement of people in or out of their borders. No other province has indicated yet when they may do the same. BC Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has made it clear that BC will not be following suit anytime soon. There is more on this issue in the Prime Minister's address below.

Prime Minister (PM) Daily Address

In his daily address, the PM highlighted the need to support small businesses who are having trouble making rent due to COVID-19 and are concerned about their ability to survive and re-open when the pandemic is over.

The PM announced the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent (CECR) Program which is an agreement with all provinces and territories to lower rent by 75% for small businesses strongly affected by the pandemic for April, May and June. Under this program, the federal government will cover 50% of an eligible business' rent with property owners covering 25%. The rent obligation for small business owners who qualify will be left at 25% of the rental amount. This program is available to small businesses paying less than \$50,000/month on rent. Non-profits and NGO's will also be eligible for this program.

The PM made it clear that rent support for larger businesses will be announced soon.

The PM will be talking today to Premiers about a number of things including the gradual re-opening of the economy. Not every region in the province was hit equally as hard by the pandemic and this needs to be recognized with federal coordination when considering economic re-opening at a provincial or territorial level. Regardless of what regions may re-open before others, the governments will ensure an appropriate phase-in program so we do not lose the progress we have made in combatting the virus so far. The federal government will work with provincial and territorial governments on developing and implementing principles and guidelines that will ensure the safety of all Canadians. The PM stresses that economic recovery won't happen over night and Canadians need to remain vigilant. We have learned from other countries who opened up too soon (ie: Singapore) and witnessed a resurgence of the virus. So if one province re-opens, the rules do not change in other provinces. The PM stressed that we need to continue to follow provincial health authorities guidelines in each separate region. Overall, we need to stay home as much as we can and continue to maintain social distancing.

The PM announced that the Minister of Public Safety received requests from Ontario and Quebec for support from the armed services. With that request in hand, the federal government will send the assistance those provinces need. Armed forces personnel will be assisting in long term care facilities and where needed.

Mental Health

The following is a message From Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP):

Many people are reporting high levels of anxiety during this COVID-19 Pandemic. CIRP is here to offer support for you and your team. The impact of COVID on mental health has been widely acknowledged and much publicized during this pandemic so this is a reminder that CIRP is now running weekly webinars.

Having launched just 3 weeks ago, the webinars have clearly met a need with almost 100 people having signed up to watch and participate. The platform that CIRP is using allows us to gage the ‘temperature’ of those who sign up, with 100% of respondents stating “we need to do more to tackle mental health in the industry” and 100% voting positively on content. The types of feedback we have received so far has been impressive,

“Thank you for the great session!” GH

“ Really helpful advice.” DG

“Looking forward to the next session!” – EY

“Honestly I think this is a wonderful idea and very much in need at a time like this!” – DH

The structure for the sessions include a presentation and conversation between the presenters, and a Q&A session in which the audience members can seek answers to their questions, and receive support. Every week that we have run these webinars, we have received more and more positive feedback and each week the number of people registering has increased. Because of this, we see a real need and value in these webinars and have decided to extend them past the original 3 trial sessions!

Join us next week on Thursday at 10:00am 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. We’ll see you there!

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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