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From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 5, 2020 9:43 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 - Update: May 5

Importance: High

CLR Members,

This week (Wednesday), Premier Horgan is expected to make announcements concerning the re-opening of the BC economy. I will report more on this when the announcement is made, but it is important to manage our expectations.

The Premier has indicated that with the provincial plan to reopen, focus will be on balancing the protective measures necessary to safeguard lives while attempts are made to let some people safely return to work. Regardless of whether a person is part of the labour pool returning to work or not, social/physical distancing will still be expected for everyone. Employers must put in place the controls necessary to ensure the safety of their workers (ie: plexiglass barriers, hand sanitizers, room redesign to ensure distancing, wearing masks (not medical variety) when distancing can not be guaranteed, limited travel, etc). Limiting the number of people with access to an office or building will still be in effect and appropriate signage must be in place. Overall, every employer and worker is expected to continue to follow the orders of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO).

CLR members are encouraged to ensure they are informed and following the PHO guidelines. Construction remains an essential service and we must protect that designation to keep our people safe and continue to keep our job sites and construction projects active and expanding. So far, you are all to be congratulated for the work you have done to meet expectations under this pandemic. To date, there has not been a case of COVID-19 reported to have originated from a construction project in BC.

As you consider your plans going forward, please remember that there are resources available to you (including signage) on the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) and Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan (CIRP) websites. Here are the links:

<https://www.bccsa.ca/index.php?id=451>

<https://www.constructionrehabplan.com/>

In addition, the BCCSA has informed the CLR that they have Regional Safety Advisors (RSA) available to assist construction companies in ensuring they are meeting the health and safety requirements to operate under the pandemic. This service is offered free of charge and CLR members are encouraged to reach out to the BCCSA if they could use this assistance. Here is the link to finding the RSA's:

<https://www.bccsa.ca/Regional-Safety-Advisors.html?>

During these challenging times, the level of cooperation and collaboration among BC construction industry associations has been unparalleled. In some cases, we have already reported on progress and outcomes of the advocacy work we are doing and in other cases details we will be communicating to you once we have something to report. The following is a list of issues we are working together on (not an exhaustive list but includes the main things):

- WorkSafeBC – Through the Council of Construction Associations (COCA) we are communicating with WSBC on their position that changes are necessary to assist anyone seeking insurance benefits with claims that they have contracted COVID-19 through work related activities. Under the changes, applicants will be approved (presumptive) and any adjudication process will happen after the fact.
- Return to Work – With the assistance of the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA), we are working on developing guidance to office and other workers as they transition back into a re-opened economy.
- Together, the associations have been communicating with governments on ensuring we are prepared with access to adequate non-medical related PPE necessary to our industry in the short, medium and longer term.
- Industry survey – The associations are working together on an industry survey to better understand the impacts of the pandemic on your businesses (watch for this next week).
- Employment Standards – A lot of advocacy work was conducted that helped encourage the government to extend the layoff period under the pandemic from 13 weeks to 16 weeks.
- ... and more

Keep following our communiques and we will continue to update you on progress on these efforts and more.

Federal Update

In his daily address, the Prime Minister (PM) announced a \$250 million subsidy program dedicated to supporting the agriculture sector. Within this program:

- \$77 million will be targeted to assist food processors. The funds will be used to help protect workers and enable them to buy personal protection equipment (PPE) and comply with the necessary sanitary measures and social distancing. The funds will also enable them to make adjustments to their factories so they can expand or adapt the number and variety of food products made domestically.
- \$125 million will be used to help animal producers (beef and pork) adjust to new realities where animals must remain on the farm longer since supply is too high.
- Too much food is being produced in Canada and there is no capacity to expand distribution. To avoid having food thrown out and wasted, the PM announced a new Surplus Food Purchase Program with \$50 million in funding which will enable government to buy surplus food products and distribute them around the country to where they are needed.

In addition, dairy producers will receive \$200 million in a credit line distributed by the Canadian Milk Board. Farmers across the country still have longer term concerns regarding their supply of labour and PPE. Government will continue to monitor and make improvements to this program.

Reporters pointed out that this is only about 10% of what the agriculture, food and aquaculture sectors have asked for, doesn't cover everything they requested, and doesn't include all elements of the food chain. The PM responded that the government will adjust support measures as needed. Funds under the program will not be available until the program has been approved by Parliament.

Stay safe and well and please continue to practice self isolation as much as you are able, and proper social distancing in all appropriate circumstances.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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