

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: September 29, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - September 29

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Apologies for my absence the past week and therefore a gap in my communications to you. While I was away for a week, a few key things have happened, some (or all) of which you may already be aware. Regardless, here is a brief summary of events to date.

Provincial Update

Despite a fixed election date law in BC, and an agreement with the Green Party, Premier Horgan has called a provincial election for October 24. With the election now called, government moves into “caretaker” mode meaning no further announcements on programs, policies, legislation/regulation, etc will be made until after the election. Advanced polling starts October 15 and voters can apply for mail in ballots at the following link so you can avoid polling stations during this COVID period:

<https://elections.bc.ca/voting/register-to-vote/>

You may also be aware that the Executive Director for the BC Building Trades, Andrew Mercier, has announced that he will be seeking to run as the NDP candidate for Langley.

Regarding COVID-19, 267 more cases were confirmed over this past weekend. Included in this figure were 3 more lives lost (total death toll to date in BC at 267). Below are links to two media stories covering this latest news.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-19-update-bc-september-28-1.5742236>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7364698/bc-coronavirus-september-28/>

Some people just aren't getting the message and taking too many risks. Dr. Henry has stated that "The best thing we can do is — all of us — is to take a step back from our social interactions... We can stand together, by staying apart".

Prior to the announcement of an election, the Premier and Finance Minister released the BC government's Pandemic Recovery Plan. They say this \$1.5 billion plan which is largely funded by federal money is expected to support businesses, the economy and get people back to work. A link to the plan is below but highlights include a temporary 100% PST tax rebate on select machinery and equipment for businesses that qualify; a 15% payroll credit intended to encourage more hiring; \$100 million in infrastructure grants; funding to assist small businesses to scale up; and more.

<https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

National Update

The Canada-US border will remain closed to non-essential travel through another extension through October 21.

In the Governor General's throne speech on September 23, the federal government outlined its plans to help Canadians through the COVID pandemic. Highlights include:

- 1 million jobs will be created through investment in the social sector, infrastructure, new employer incentives, and skills training and youth employment programs.

- Among other things, infrastructure investment will focus on public transportation systems, retrofitting and clean energy.
- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be extended through the Summer of 2021.
- A new first time home buyer incentive which will stimulate construction jobs as well as assist home buyers.
- Targeted financial support will be available to businesses that must close due to health and safety protocols related to pandemic.
- The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will be expanded to help businesses with fixed costs.
- The CERB will not be extended. The “improved” Employment Insurance (EI) program will be the only delivery mechanism for benefits.

A link to the throne speech is below:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/campaigns/speech-throne/2020/speech-from-the-throne.html>

In case you have not reviewed it previously, I am including a link to Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan for your information and in case there is anything in the Plan that might assist you:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

As always, please stay safe and healthy and continue to promote the best standards and protocols at work, your job sites and at home. We are leaders in the provincial economy, and with that and our essential service status comes the responsibility to demonstrate the most responsible approaches during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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