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From: CLRInfo
Sent: April 22, 2020 9:25 AM
Subject: COVID 19 UPDATE: April 22

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Here are the latest COVID-19 numbers:

- Globally: 2.59 million cases worldwide, with 179,694 deaths, and 696,948 recoveries.
- Canada: 38,422 cases in Canada, with 1,834 deaths, and 13,188 recoveries.
- BC: There are 1,724 cases in BC, with 87 deaths, and 1,041 recoveries.

Federal

In his address this morning, the Prime Minister (PM) announced support for post secondary students which are intended to provide immediate help including:

- The creation of the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB).
 - The CESB will amount to \$9 billion, providing \$1,250/month from May to August (retroactive to May 1).
 - If a student has a disability or is caring for someone else the amount goes up to \$1,750/month.
 - Current post secondary students are eligible including those applying to attend post secondary education this coming September for the first time, as well as those who graduated in December 2019.
 - The CESB is available to students even if they have a job, but make \$1,000 or less per month.
 - Payments will be made through the CRA.
 - The government will be working with the opposition on legislation to put this benefit in place.
- The federal government is creating an additional 76,000 jobs for young people, in addition to the Canada Summer Jobs Program. These placements will be in sectors that need assistance or on the front lines. Additional supports will also be available for indigenous students.
- For student researchers and graduate students, the government will invest \$291 million to extend scholarships, fellowships and grants so they can continue their graduate work (extended by 3-4 months).
- For those students who volunteer to fight COVID-19, they will be eligible for \$1,000-\$5,000 depending on their hours through the new Canada Student Service Grant.
- Doubling the amount of student bursaries available for students in the 2020/21 school year.
- There will be an additional \$75 million in support specific for indigenous students

Reporters continue to ask the PM why the government doesn't simply make the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) available to all Canadians claiming that too many Canadians are falling through the cracks of financial assistance. The PM responded with the list of separate programs and measures the government has created to target those in most financial need. Many Canadians simply do not need the benefits and if provided, would simply be taking funds away from those in most need.

Indications are that we may be nearing the end of the first wave of the virus, signalling discussions on whether the economy should start to reopen soon. Much of that discussion centres around how that might be done in order to avoid a resurgence of the virus. Some provinces are indicating that they believe the border to the US should/will open sooner than other provinces. Experts seem to be in agreement that when the economy reopens, it will be done very slowly and people are being warned not to expect things to return to "normal" any time soon. Guidelines for social distancing and self isolation for most will continue for a long time yet. The PM's response to the reopening of the border to the US was simply to acknowledge that the impact of the virus varies by province and each province will make its own decisions in

terms of when to reopen their economy, but the opening of the border is a federal issue and those decisions will not be made by provincial governments.

Help specific to assisting seniors and those who are retired and feeling the financial pressures associated with COVID-19 will be announced soon. The measures being worked on will focus on financial aid for immediate needs as well as to protect their long term retirement investments.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

Yesterday, we reported to you that the Prime Minister (PM) announced further information on the CEWS Program including the launch of a CRA calculator to help businesses determine what the CEWS will cover, and the official opening for applications on April 27 through a business account that you must set up (unless you already have one). Alternatively, a business may apply using a separate online application form. It is strongly suggested that if a business expects to apply for the CEWS but does not already have a “My Business Account”, that you take the time now to set one up so you are ready once the applications are available. If for whatever reason you can not obtain a “My business Account”, get an online web access code so you are prepared to use the alternative application. Which ever method you plan to use when you apply, before you do so you will also need to calculate the estimated subsidy for your business. For any business applying to receive a payment of \$25 million or more, you will have to get your payment through the large value transfer system (LVTS). To do this, you have to be enrolled in direct deposit on your payroll account and be registered for the LVTS. If you are not already set up for LVTS, begin the registration process.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-calculate-subsidy-amount.html>

Caution: It is not intended to frighten businesses into not applying, but you should know that the government is taking fraudulent applications very seriously and it is expected that when the pandemic is over, those who received the CEWS but obtained it fraudulently (did not meet the CEWS subsidy requirements) will be required to repay received, and be subjected to severe penalties including fines or even imprisonment. If you artificially reduce your revenue for the purpose of claiming the wage subsidy you will be required to repay any subsidy amounts you received plus a penalty equal to 25% of the total value. It is hard to imagine that CRA will not be auditing CEWS claims when this is over, so keep all records demonstrating your eligibility and payments to employees.

Full release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

BC Construction Safety Alliance

The BCCSA is inviting you to check out a new link on their website. The BCCSA was able to secure Canuck Alumni, Brendan Morrison to voice a public service announcement (PSA) for them. He is speaking to being safe as well as giving a shout out to our industry. Please feel free to share the link with your colleagues, and anyone else you think might appreciate it.

<https://youtu.be/xE41MCRkK9w>

Stay safe and well.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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