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To: [Ken McCormack](#)
Cc: [Paul Strangway](#); [Joleen Kaminski](#)
Subject: COVID-19: UPDATE March 23, 2020
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CLR Members,

Earlier today the B.C. Government announced its \$5 billion [COVID-19 Action Plan for the Economy](#). This will complement the \$82 billion federal economic response package announced last week. The provincial plan invests in critical services such as health care, provides financial relief for workers, and earmarks \$2.2 billion specifically for businesses and recovery.

The Action Plan extends provincial tax filing and payment deadlines to September 30, 2020, which applies to the Employer Health Tax, the provincial sales tax, municipal and regional district tax, the carbon tax, the motor fuel tax, among others. Additionally, the provincial carbon tax rate increase scheduled for April 1 will be deferred and reviewed by September 30. The school tax on the business property class as well as the light- and major-industry classes will be cut in half for 2020. Finally, the province allocated \$1.5 billion to support long-term economic recovery, once the pandemic has passed.

In the meantime, we continue to advocate with the provincial government for more clarity around their position that construction is considered an essential service in BC and what that means for our member businesses. Force majeure is also a critical issue for our members where they are bound to contracts with owners/clients but most often due to factors outside of their control under this pandemic, are unable to meet deliverables and deadlines. We have asked the government to address this issue, through legislation if necessary, to protect our member businesses and have been told that an announcement will be coming out in the next day or two.

We hope that you, your families and your employees are well and will continue to keep you informed as we all work together to navigate this pandemic that is impacting us all.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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