

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** Joleen Kaminski  
**Sent:** March 30, 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update: March 30 (2)

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

The Prime Minister today expressed concerns that while continued isolation is necessary, the impact is that things have slowed down more than anticipated and are impacting people and businesses more than previously expected.

He announced today a Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to keep people impacted by COVID-19 on their employer's payroll. The subsidy raises the previously announced 10% wage subsidy to 75% of wages for qualifying businesses on the first \$58,700 of an employee's earning (therefore up to \$847/week). The subsidy is backdated to March 15. To qualify, a business must have a 30% reduction in revenue, regardless of the number of employees a business has. The subsidy is available to all businesses, non-profits and charities. The government recognizes that people need to keep their jobs to keep the economy going, keep businesses going and limit the number of people on EI.

The caution provided by the Prime Minister to businesses is to "do the right thing". If employers facing hardship have the means to pay their employees anything above the 10% subsidy already announced, they are expected to do so. Any business that takes advantage of the subsidy may face "serious consequences". Every dollar approved under the subsidy is to go to workers. They also expect that employers will hire back those employees laid off if possible.

This is one of a three point plan the government has announced to help the economy.

1. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for employers and employees
2. Canada Emergency Response Benefit – for those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 or are self-employed
3. A number of measures to help people with cash flow problems (including postponement to June the payment of duties and taxes on imports as well as GST/HST payments)

In response to a question from a reporter, the Prime Minister mentioned that his government is reviewing federal construction projects including TransCanada and making further decisions if necessary in terms of keeping projects going. He expects to announce more tomorrow. Keep in mind that the Prime Minister will be referring to federal infrastructure projects.

We will continue to keep you posted as things unfold.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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