

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 2, 2020 9:02 AM  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update: April 2  
  
**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

In his daily address to the country, the Prime Minister had little new to share. Here are the key points he highlighted:

- Over 1 million additional masks have arrived in the last day
- 3,000 companies have been added to the list of suppliers tooled up to provide PPE's
- The Prime Minister and Premiers will be talking tonight about how they can better work together
- Provinces are getting through the backlog of tests and adding to the test results that analysis can be made from
- The Prime Minister issued another strong warning to maintain diligence in following social distancing and isolation where appropriate. Too many people are still not following the guidelines and that will only contribute to the health and financial challenges in the country, not to mention the time it will take to eradicate the virus.
- He reiterated the three points to the economic plan again (previously outlined to you) as measures put in place to assist with the financial hardships of people and businesses, but didn't provide anything that we didn't already know.

Reporters questioned the Prime Minister on why the government's projections on future incidences of people contracting illness or deaths are not being released. The Prime Minister reiterated the need for the federal and provincial governments to get through their backlog of tests and to share data, but would not commit to sharing projections like this done in other countries including the US. His position seems to be that they are not yet ready to share the analysis they have developed, and that more information needs to be shared with and from the provinces along with a discussion on how the data and analysis will be collected and disseminated.

At the provincial level, Premier Horgan and Minister Ralston announced yesterday that those in the province that have been impacted by COVID-19 can apply for assistance under a new "power relief program" from BC Hydro. Specifically:

- Starting next week, people who have been laid off or can not work, as well as those who are self employed, may apply for a 3 month non-repayable credit on their Hydro bill. The program will run through to the end of June for applications.
- Starting during the week of April 14 and continuing until the end of June small businesses that have had to close down due to the pandemic will be eligible to apply for a 3 month non-repayable "payment holiday".
- Large businesses in major industries such as industrial camps, mills, and mining will be able to contact their BC Hydro Account Manager to apply to defer 50% of their payments for the next three months, subject to a small interest rate.
- All BC Hydro customers will receive a 1% reduction in rates effective April 1.

Keep well and please let CLR staff know if we can be of any assistance. If we don't have the answers, we can certainly do our best to help you get them.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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