

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 25, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - May 25

Importance: High

CLR Members,

CLR Office

Please be advised that the CLR offices have reopened with limited access. Our staff will continue to work full time with a few days a week in the office and the rest of the time working remotely. We will not be permitting any access to our offices unless prior approval has been received. Some of our members and partners stop in once in a while and while we always appreciate seeing you, I am asking you all to help protect our CLR staff members by making an appointment first. Face-to-face meetings for now will be avoided as much as we can. As always, our staff can be reached during work hours by email or on their cell phones. Thanks you for your help and consideration during these challenging times.

CLR Communication

The CLR has done its best to keep you informed during these difficult times. We will continue to do so, but it is not my intention to send communiques that offer little important information that is relevant to you and your business. The communiques will still be sent, but there may be days when there is no relevant news to share. Just a heads-up in case you notice some days there is no email from CLR. I hope you are finding these communiques of value.

Industry Survey – Very Important

I also wanted to remind you that the CLR is participating in a survey along with other construction associations. Sentis is the consultant that has contacted you and will be reminding you how important your input is. The responses will be kept confidential. The goal is to learn of the impacts of COVID-19 on your business to date and into the future so that we can serve you better and advocate that much better on your behalf. Please take the 5 minutes it takes to fill in the survey before the *deadline of May 31*. The communication on the survey from the consultant will come from BC's Construction Industry <constructionsurvey@sentis.ca>. All respondents will be entered into a draw to win 1 grand prize of \$500 and 3 prizes of \$100 each.

Federal Update

In his daily address, the Prime Minister reminded everyone that we are still in the midst of a pandemic and people are expected to stay informed and follow the guidelines issued by health authorities. Businesses must ensure they are maintaining healthy work environments.

The PM highlighted the following topics:

- The **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Program** is now open as of today to receive applications from BC landlords with up to 10 eligible tenants (apply at: www.cmhc.ca).
 - Landlords with more than 10 tenants can apply later this week.
 - The PM encouraged landlords to apply, and encouraged small businesses to do their part and to use the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) to hire back employees.
 - For the federal government news release on this: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/25/canada-emergency-commercial-rent-assistance-now-open-applications>

- According to the PM, the federal government will be continuing discussions with provinces to ensure that during the recovery period of this pandemic, every worker who doesn't have sick leave should have **up to 10 days of paid sick leave per year**.
 - The PM did not provide any details on how this would be administered and who would pay. He would only say that the "mechanisms" for delivery are not easy to work through.
 - Media asked for more details and all the PM would say in response is that the governments will have to work with businesses to support workers as we come out of this pandemic.
 - The purpose of this is to encourage anyone who is sick to stay at home without fear of losing money to pay their bills. This is not necessarily targeting COVID-19, but sickness for any reason.
 - Some provinces, including BC, have been asking the PM to support sick leave due to COVID-19 through Employment Insurance (EI) recognizing that this is a federal pandemic. To date, there has been no communicated response from the PM until this general statement in the news.
- The PM responded to a reporter's question to say that **personal protection equipment (PPE)** is coming to Canada every day from international suppliers while at the same time, domestic production has been ramped up significantly. He says Canada will be ready for the second wave of the pandemic.

Stay safe and have a great week.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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