

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 27, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - May 27

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Updates from the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA)

Two new links updated today. The first is a variation on the recently posted [Office Reopening Guidance](#). This new resource provides [Guidance for Workers who are reintegrating back to existing operations](#).

The second is a new version of the [COVID-19 Health Screening Tool](#), which takes into account some new symptoms that have been listed by the BCCDC and WorkSafeBC.

BCCSA is continuing with these LIVE Q&A sessions on Tuesday and Thursdays. All sessions are recorded and can be found [here](#). These are designed for construction Health and Safety representatives to help them practically improve health and safety on construction sites.

Regional Safety Advisors are situated throughout the Province for consultation at no cost to BCCSA members (construction sector 72, plus Aggregate CU 704008, and Ready-Mixed CU 712033). Consultation can be conducted in-person or remotely.

Finally, there are a number of COVID-19 related resources [here](#) ranging from Q&A to Signage.

WorkSafeBC announces additional support for employers impacted by COVID-19 May 26, 2020

WorkSafeBC is waiving premiums for employers who are approved to receive the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for furloughed workers (employees on leave with full or partial pay).

WorkSafeBC recognizes the challenges employers are facing during this extraordinary time, and in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will waive premiums on wages paid to furloughed workers of employers receiving CEWS subsidies. This change will be retroactive to the March 15, 2020 start date and continue for the duration of the CEWS program. Eligible employers will need to maintain documentation to identify workers that were furloughed as a result of this provincial health emergency.

This is the second measure WorkSafeBC has implemented to provide support for B.C.'s employers. Approximately 27,000 employers in the province have already opted to take advantage of the premium deferral measure implemented on March 27, 2020. Employers will not be charged a penalty or interest on first quarter premiums, up to the deferral date of June 30, 2020.

Waiving premiums for employers of furloughed workers will help support the rehiring of employees who may have already been laid off as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will help better position employers who are considering reopening in the coming weeks. WorkSafeBC is committed to providing essential services to B.C.'s workers and employers and will continue to review support measures during this time.

The following information is provided by the BC Business Council:

Mitacs Support for Small Business

I encourage you to check out a number of collaborations and funding offered by Mitacs to expand its support to Canadian business.

1) UNTIL JULY 1, MITACS IS BOOSTING ITS FUNDING FOR SMEs

For a limited time, Mitacs is increasing its funding for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) so they pay only 25% for the first four months of an innovation project done in collaboration with a post-secondary institution. The research you need to grow your business requires time, talent, and budget. Mitacs can help you maximize your investment, making your budget go further, and helping you achieve the best possible ROI. With 14,000 research collaborations and nearly 70 innovation project experts, Mitacs is a leader in Canada's innovation ecosystem. Additional details and contact: https://discover.Mitacs.ca/boost-funding-sme/?_ga=2.235622273.1643271738.1590452886-382996884.1590452886

2) MITACS and UBC SAUDER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UBC Sauder, in partnership with Mitacs have launched a new summer program called the "**Mitacs Business Strategy Internship**" program. UBC Sauder is the pilot school in a network of Canadian business schools. The program will award \$10,000 of funding to each interested and eligible undergraduate and graduate student to undertake a 4-month internship (480 hours) with a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) or not-for-profit organization. Internships will be structured to undertake a strategic analysis of an SME to help them restore or modify their business operations in a new business environment disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of eligibility, students must:

- Be an undergraduate or graduate student at UBC Sauder School of Business, returning to studies in September 2020 and currently located in Canada
- Not be a current, active participant in another Mitacs program

Employer must be:

- A Small to Mid-Sized Company with less than 500 full-time employees or a not-for-profit organization.
- Willing to contribute \$2,500 towards each internship grant

Additional details and contact information: https://www.sauder.ubc.ca/Mitacs-business-strategy-internship-program?utm_campaign=2020-bcc-q1-nh&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=bcbc&utm_content=Mitacs-bcbc&utm_term=

3) Innovate BC-Mitacs partnership drives business solutions for COVID-19

In order to fast-track solutions to COVID-19 and mitigate its adverse economic impacts, Mitacs and Innovate BC are partnering to support business in the province of British Columbia.

- Innovate BC is investing \$375,000 towards 100 Mitacs internships for **COVID-19-specific projects**. The funding infusion from Innovate BC coupled with Mitacs leveraged funds offsets the standard company-partner contribution towards the intern's stipend and increases access to research during this pandemic.
- This funding will be distributed through the Mitacs Accelerate program and will provide eligible projects with \$15,000 in total funding to support the intern's stipend.

To be eligible for Innovate BC funding, companies must:

- Be British Columbia-based small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Have projects approved by Mitacs through the Accelerate program
- Hire a graduate student for a technology-based, research internship

For additional details, contact: www.Mitacs.ca/en/contact-us/business-development

Federal Update

The National Observer is hosting a Zoom conversation with Minister McKenna and Linda Solomon Wood (CEO of the Observer Media Group) :

- What are Canada's shovel-ready green jobs? A conversation with Canada's Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.
 - Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 4:00 pm PDT
 - Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7315895720552/WN_O9tbSk6fRbmlcpoidipqxQ

In his daily address, the Prime Minister (PM) highlighted the following:

- A large focus of his address was on the state of long term care facilities across the country but specifically in Ontario following the release of that scathing report from the Canadian military about concerning conditions in 5 facilities in that province.
 - The PM said he read the report in full and said while there were concerning details in it, he was proud that the Canadian military was able to step up and improve the conditions in those facilities and help where they could in such a short amount of time
 - He plans to discuss all of this with the premiers in their regular weekly meeting. He plans to respect provincial jurisdiction but in terms of a national inquiry into the state of long term care facilities in this country, he says nothing is off the table.
- The gradual reopening of our economy will require a phasing out or ending of certain programs, with a continuation or modification of others.
 - He says we are still very much in the emergency phase of this pandemic even though we are seeing careful re-openings but we need to be careful to protect vulnerable Canadians and ensure that we are continuing to do everything to stop the spread of COVID 19. They will however look very carefully at how they end certain programs and how they modify others in order to get the economy going again.

A reporter mentioned New Zealand's idea of a 4 day work week and an extra statutory holiday post COVID -19 to try and boost the economy. The PM was asked if he would consider the same thing for Canada and if he thinks it would work for our country. The PM says that the government's focus is on getting through this particular crisis and there will be plenty of time to talk about particular creative ideas on moving forward later. He would not speculate further.

Another reporter mentioned that the Liberal government is currently engaged in an unprecedented peace time expansion of government spending and powers, and asked at what point Canadians may be allowed a vote on the choices being made and given the opportunity to say in a democratic fashion whether this is the path they want this country on. The PM responded that he hasn't heard a lot of Canadians demanding an election right now but obviously in a minority parliament, parliament gets to decide when it no longer has confidence in the government and certainly the focus we have moving forward is trying to respond to help Canadians as best the government can in the immediate term. He said that these are uncertain times for Canadians and these unprecedented investments have been made to support Canadians and get them through this challenge and future challenges.

Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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