

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: July 2, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update: July 2

Importance: High

CLR Members,

I hope everyone was able to enjoy Canada Day, but that you did it in a safe manner that protected your health and the health of those around you.

Provincial Update

Following conversations with business and worker representatives, including a great deal of advocacy work from construction associations, the Province of British Columbia has extended the temporary layoffs provisions to a maximum of 24 weeks expiring on Aug. 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The province had previously extended the usual 12 week provision to 16 weeks due to the pandemic. The extension gives employers and workers additional flexibility to support economic recovery in the province with the expectation that businesses honour their obligations to workers and reach agreement with their employees in the event a further extension is required. The provincial news release is here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020LBR0018-001174>

British Columbians are taking the next step in BC's Restart Plan with a gradual transition to Phase 3, including the safe and respectful return of travel and tourism *within* the province. The government has also formally extended the provincial state of emergency, allowing the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response. The state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on July 7, 2020, allowing government to continue to take the necessary steps to keep British Columbians safe. The government's news release is here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0033-001159>

New legislation confirms supports for people and businesses, while responding to the fiscal impacts of COVID-19 by allowing government to run deficit budgets. The amendments introduced authorize deficit budgets for the next three years, while the Province supports economic recovery from COVID-19. Additionally, the amendments allow government to continue to table supplementary estimates before the legislative assembly. The amendments also clarify the existing limits and uses of special warrants while the legislative assembly is not in session to maintain essential services and respond to provincial emergencies and disasters like a pandemic. The government's news release is here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020FIN0037-001162>

The Province is now accepting applications from local governments, community groups and First Nations for nearly \$160 million in infrastructure grants to help strengthen communities throughout British Columbia. The funding targets projects ranging from recreation and cultural centres to drinking water and wastewater facilities.

In partnership with the Government of Canada, the funds are being made available as part of the second intake of the Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) infrastructure stream and the Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) infrastructure stream, both part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The government's news release is here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020MAH0071-001167>

Take care and stay well.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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