

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: September 1, 2020 8:27 AM
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update: September 1

CLR Members,

Please keep the morning of September 17 open for the annual CLR AGM and Council meeting. It is important that our members take the time to attend so that we can conduct the annual business of the association, but also so you can stay informed of what your association is doing on your behalf. I understand that the meetings can be a challenge for you to attend given how busy we all are, but we really would appreciate you signing on to our first virtual AGM. More information will be sent to you shortly from our office. For now, please mark it in your calendar.

I look forward to the day when I can report that COVID-19 is a thing of the past and that armed with a vaccine, our health authorities have the virus under control. Unfortunately, that time has not yet come. Instead, as you are likely already aware, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and Minister of Health announced 294 new cases in BC over this past weekend bringing active infections to a record high of 1,107. Even worse, 4 new deaths from the virus occurred in our province over the weekend bringing the total number of BC deaths to 208. Provincial authorities are saying that the spike we are seeing in new cases is greater than they expected it would be when the province entered Phase 3 of the recovery plan. The PHO is warning British Columbians that we are entering the season that is synonymous with respiratory illness. Now that summer is winding down, she is asking people once again to return to the basics from the spring and have fewer social interactions. We must once again flatten the curve.

Please continue to be vigilant in your attention to proper COVID prevention protocols and actions on your job sites, in your offices and at home. We need to re-emphasize to our employees and workers how important it is to pay attention to handwashing, keeping social circles small and especially staying at home when they are feeling ill.

Federal Update

As we reported to you previously, the Canadian Federal Government announced on August 20 that it will be extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for a further four weeks to a maximum of 28 weeks, and will be making changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) regime. The changes to the EI regime are expected to cost around \$37 billion, and will be in place for one year. The CLR's legal counsel (Harris) has written an article on it that you may find useful. The article can be found here: <https://harrisco.com/federal-government-announces-cerb-extension-ei-changes-and-new-recovery-benefits/>

Provincial Update

The BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) has developed a Covid-focussed psychological offering for the industry in conjunction with the BC Municipal Safety Association. This is how they are describing it:

Covid 19 has redefined the workplace. Organizations and workers are feeling the unprecedented psychological and psycho-social impacts. To help, the BC Construction Safety Alliance is collaborating with the BC Municipal Safety Association and Work to Wellness to provide all construction workers with a free multimedia interactive platform for mental health. You can access the Psychological Support Tool Kit, the Virtual Summit Series with industry experts, and so much more.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.bccsa.ca/customelements/uploadedResources/BCCSAInitiativeProgram.pdf>

Stay safe and keep well.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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