

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: October 14, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - October 14

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Provincial Update

The province has announced 549 cases of COVID over the long weekend, but the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) says that the high case numbers are partly the result of a testing backlog. Alarming, the province has recorded 100 or more new COVID-19 cases each day for the last 12 days. The PHO also announced 5 more deaths related to COVID bringing the provincial total to 250 deaths to date. For links to media stories see here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-covid-19-briefing-tuesday-1.5760845>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7394986/bc-coronavirus-update-october-13/>

The PHO is also asking athletes and their supporters to exercise caution as there has been an increase in community exposures to COVID-19 connected to recreational sports over the last few weeks. She warns that if you or anyone in your family are engaging in these activities (including if you are a parent sitting in the sidelines but engaging with other parents) please re-evaluate your actions, keep your distance, and check with your sports facilities and organizations to ensure they have a COVID-19 safety plan in place that allows for a safe return to sport. Media report can be found here:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7395454/bc-covid-19-rec-sports-bonnie-henry/>

The BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) has issued an updated document outlining general best practices on what to do when someone who has been on a job site is presumed to have COVID-19. The new best practice document includes the most up to date info from their hygienist. While the document is helpful, BCCSA warns that ultimately the decision as to whether a case is compensable is at the behest of WorkSafeBC (or the extended health care provider).

<https://www.bccsa.ca/customelements/uploadedResources/COVID19CaseonSiteProceduresOct13th20.pdf>

As you know, BC is heading to the polls on October 24. Until the election is complete, the provincial government is essentially “on hold” with little or no decisions being made until the results of the election are known. The CLR continues to do its best to advocate for your needs, but we expect little to come of our efforts between now and the election. So that we remain non-partisan, CLR will not report (at least at this time) on any party platforms. There will be a great deal of information readily available on campaign debates and promises to voters in the days ahead through all media channels.

National Update

The COVID-19 Response Measures Act (formerly Bill C-4) has received Royal Assent. This legislation creates three new temporary recovery benefits to support Canadians who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19. These benefits will be in place for one year beginning September 27, 2020. Applications for two of the new programs were being accepted starting on October 5 and other starting on October 12 through CRA. More information on the programs can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/legislation-to-support-new-recovery-benefits-for-canadians-unable-to-work-due-to-covid-19.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/10/the-government-of-canada-launches-applications-for-the-canada-recovery-sickness-benefit-and-the-canada-recovery-caregiving-benefit.html>

On October 2, the Government of Canada announced that Western Economic Diversification Canada will receive an additional \$263.7 million to help western businesses through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. This flows from \$600 million in new national RRRF funding announced by the Prime Minister. More information on the programs can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-expands-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-to-support-more-western-businesses.html>

Stay safe, stay well and please continue to follow all PHO guidelines.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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