

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 21, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19 UPDATE: April 21

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

### **Federal**

There was no update from the CLR yesterday as the news was dominated by the senseless and tragic events in Nova Scotia. I am sure we are united in sending our best wishes to the family and friends of the 19 victims, and to police officers across the country who have lost one of their own members.

One announcement that was made over this past weekend, was that Canada and the US agreed to extend the border closure between our two countries to all non-essential travel by another 30 days (was previously closed until April 21).

In today's address, the Prime Minister (PM) stressed the need for all Canadians to continue to follow the guidelines issued by federal and provincial health officers, despite the "cautious optimism" that is being felt right now. This optimism comes from seeing improvements in our ability to slow the spread of the virus and limit the number of infections reported each day. There are still reports coming in, but they are slowing. He complimented Canadians for their patience and diligence in dealing with the outbreak these past 6 weeks.

The PM announced a \$350 million emergency fund to assist some of the more vulnerable in our country including charities and community organizations that support seniors and youth. Activities that will be eligible under the fund will include transportation services, volunteer training, home assistance to those in need and others.

As part of the government's constant improvements to their three point plan to protect jobs and support businesses, the PM announced more on the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). This subsidy will pay up to 75% of an employee's wages (up to \$847/week per employee) in order to keep them on the company's payroll. There is a new calculator on the CRA's website that will assist businesses in understanding what the wage subsidy will cover and how much their employees will be eligible for. Businesses can begin submitting their applications on Monday, April 27. More details will be announced soon. When questioned by reporters, the PM stressed that the government will do their best to get the funds to eligible businesses as soon as they are able (hopefully within a few days). The PM reminded businesses that the federal government also worked with lending institutions to make lines of credit available to businesses that they can lean on in the interim. Here is the link to the CRA wage subsidy calculator:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

### **BC**

This week, Premier Horgan announced that people living in remote parts of the province, including indigenous communities will have access to needed healthcare. Included in this will be:

- medical transportation to large centres
- housing options for self-isolation
- faster testing
- Virtual Doctor of the Day access
- accommodation near larger centres
- increased mental health supports

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0020-000725?utm\\_source=BC+Construction+Association&utm\\_campaign=8253725e28-BCCA BRIEFING MAY 2019 COPY 01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_048e6515f7-8253725e28-103910409&mc\\_cid=8253725e28&mc\\_eid=121a240b97](https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0020-000725?utm_source=BC+Construction+Association&utm_campaign=8253725e28-BCCA BRIEFING MAY 2019 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_048e6515f7-8253725e28-103910409&mc_cid=8253725e28&mc_eid=121a240b97)

A reminder to all CLR members that the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) has developed some informative COVID-19 related safety resources that are available on their website. BCCSA updates these resources on an ongoing basis, so it is recommended that you go on their website and look for updates regularly.

[https://www.bccsa.ca/index.php?id=451&utm\\_source=BC+Construction+Association&utm\\_campaign=8253725e28-BCCA BRIEFING MAY 2019 COPY 01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_048e6515f7-8253725e28-103910409&mc\\_cid=8253725e28&mc\\_eid=121a240b97](https://www.bccsa.ca/index.php?id=451&utm_source=BC+Construction+Association&utm_campaign=8253725e28-BCCA BRIEFING MAY 2019 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_048e6515f7-8253725e28-103910409&mc_cid=8253725e28&mc_eid=121a240b97)

### **Alberta Construction Site Outbreak**

COVID-19 has infected 12 people so far at the Kearl Lake oil sands project north of Fort McMurray. As a result, the BC Provincial Health Officer announced that anyone who travels to BC from Kearl Lake must self-isolate for 14 days after return. If individuals visited Kearl Lake recently, they are expected to follow isolation protocols and contact 811 if they or their families are showing any symptoms.

According to our federal and provincial governments, we are starting to see some positive movement in efforts to control the pandemic. This is good news, but I urge all of our members not to ease up on their due diligence. We have seen in other parts of the world how the virus took advantage of an easing in the restrictions in their countries. We need to continue to focus on adhering to the PHO's guidelines. Social distancing and self-isolation is working but we are far from through this crisis.

Stay safe and keep well.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) of BC  
97 – Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8



O 604-524-4911

C 604-968-4911 | F 604-524-3925

E [kenm@clra-bc.com](mailto:kenm@clra-bc.com) | W [www.clra-bc.com](http://www.clra-bc.com)

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