

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: June 2, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - June 2

CLR Members,

The Prime Minister (PM) is calling for all Canadians to do their part to curb the current racist targeting that is being witnessed in Canada as it is in different parts of the world. We all have a role and a responsibility to recognize these injustices and to take action to show our solidarity. He plans to address this growing and very concerning issue in the House of Commons this afternoon.

Yesterday, the PM announced that \$2.2 billion in gas tax money is being designated to support municipalities earlier than anticipated so they can hire people back to help improve their economies as they start reopening. The funds are expected to be used for infrastructure projects and shortfalls caused by COVID-19. The payments will come through their yearly federal support through the gas tax fund. Normally, municipalities receive these payments in 2 installments but since the funds are needed now, the federal government is making the full 2020-21 payment available now. This is not new money, but simply an advanced payment. According to reports and in light of concerns of some municipalities saying they may have to cut essential services, municipalities have requested as much as \$6 billion. The PM made it clear that it is provincial responsibility to assist municipalities but said the federal government will continue to work with provinces and territories to help them meet that responsibility.

Today, the PM announced that as the provinces start to reopen their economies, the federal government is working around the clock to secure vital personal protection equipment (PPE). To date, Canada has received more than 100 million surgical masks and nearly 40 million gloves, and continues to send a range of supplies to all provinces and territories. The federal government has also signed a contract to secure millions of syringes to have the supplies necessary when a vaccine is ready. The goal is to make as much of the PPE as possible here in Canada. Also, over half of our face shields have been made here in Canada. Making our own PPE not only builds our capacity to make these supplies, but also supports good jobs for Canadians. The same goes for testing as 4 Canadian companies have been funded to work on break through solutions for rapid testing. Demand for supplies for all PPE will go up and Canada needs to keep up. The PM was asked how close we are to being self-sufficient with respect to PPE. He did not answer with a definitive percentage but did say that so far we are meeting demand and he plans to ensure that we will have enough across the country.

The PM reminded us that last month, the federal government set up the Industry Strategy Council to investigate the effects of COVID-19 on different industry sectors. Today, Minister Baines who leads the Council announced that 9 business leaders from across Canada and from different industry sectors have been selected and will be brought together to meet and discuss issues regularly.

The PM continues to say that his government is working with provinces and territories to get better data on all things related to COVID-19. Currently, there is insufficient data for the federal government to plan too far ahead, and too often data that is received is brought forward too late for government to act on it. Governments at all levels in Canada are working to improve this.

Finally, to all of you who have reached out and thanked the CLR for these updates, you are most welcome and we are grateful for your kind words. We are glad that you are finding these communiques helpful and we will continue to keep you informed in the coming weeks and months ahead. Some of you have mentioned the anxiety associated with all of

the COVID-19 related information that is announced in the news. We all recognize the need to stay informed but it can get overwhelming for many of us. If these emails help to minimize this anxiety and distill the information down to what is relevant to you, then it is all worth it and we are happy to offer this service to you. All we ask in exchange is that you do all that you can to adhere to the guidelines of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) both at work and in your personal lives. With the province starting to re-open it seems that many people think the pandemic is over or at the very least on the way out. There are still so many real threats we need to face before we come out the other side of this and we all need to do our part to protect ourselves and others.

Please stay safe and well. Continue to self isolate as much as you can, and if you must venture out, please continue to respect the physical distancing requirements.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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