

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: June 12, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - June 12
Attachments: Employers Forum WSBC COVID Schedule 1 June 7 final.pdf

Importance: High

CLR Members,

Urgent Action Needed From CLR Members

I don't mean to repeat messages in my communiques but **it is very important that as many of our members as possible make a submission to WorkSafeBC** (WSBC) as a demonstration of their opposition to the government potentially adding COVID-19 to its Schedule 1 of the Worker's Compensation Act. The letter the CLR supported through its partnership with other organizations under the Employer's Forum is attached again for your reference.

Submissions can be made by email to Ms. Louise Kim at policy@worksafebc.com. It could be as simple as emailing a copy of the attached letter along with a message on behalf of your own businesses saying something like, "Through our membership in the Construction Labour Relations Association (CLR) of BC, we have received a copy of the submission of the Employers' Forum. We have read and endorse the submission which takes serious exception with the proposal to add COVID-19 to Schedule 1." If you wanted to add your own comments, you are certainly welcome to do so.

We need as many letters of support as we can. Your letter of support/submission **must be made today by 4:30 pm**.

Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your submission.

Provincial Update

The B.C. government has formally extended the provincial state of emergency through the end of the day on June 23, 2020, allowing government to continue to take the necessary steps to keep British Columbians safe. See announcement here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMB0032-001035>

WorkSafeBC has announced that it is extending the deferral period for quarterly premium payments for an additional three months, without penalty or interest. See announcement here: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/news-events/news-releases/2020/June/worksafebc-deferring-quarterly-premium-payments-for-additional-quarter>

WSBC has released an information sheet providing information to employers and occupational first aid attendants on safely treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides additional precautions to first aid attendants on following the public health directives—including physical distancing, hand hygiene, and sanitization—while treating a patient. In this resource, you can also review these protocols used in three first aid scenarios, as well as link to further COVID-19 health and safety resources. Find the information sheet here:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/information-sheets/ofaa-protocols-covid-19-pandemic?lang=en>

Federal Update

The federal government has created a hub for organizations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment (PPE). Find the news announcement here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-creates-a-hub-for-organizations-looking-to-find-resources-on-buying-and-supplying-personal-protective-equipment.html>

In his daily address, the Prime Minister (PM) highlighted the following:

- Canadian military personnel will continue to offer assistance in certain long term care facilities in Quebec and Ontario until June 26. Canadian Red Cross personnel are being trained to take over for the military after this date.
- Evidence in countries around the world are seeing the virus surge again with the restarting of their economies.
 - The PM says we must learn from this as we reopen our economy.
 - The PM continues to discuss a plan with the provincial leaders.
 - Included in what they are considering is how best to allocate the \$14 billion promised to provinces and territories towards providing sick leave for all workers, having PPE available, protecting those most vulnerable, etc. The PM continues to offer little detail on this, presumably due to lack of agreement with provincial leaders on how to invest the funds.
- In the wake of the serious unrest related to racial injustices, the PM discussed with Premiers the need to adopt body cameras as part of a broader discussion on police reforms throughout Canada.
 - The PM says that there is no question that there is systemic racism in Canada's police forces including the RCMP, and that the government will be working to address this.
- The federal government is mandating temperature screening for all air travelers in a staged approach. Anyone with a fever will not be permitted to board a flight. Employees in air transportation will also be tested.
 - The PM made it clear that temperature testing does not detect the presence or absence of the coronavirus, but is a measure of protection by identifying people with potential symptoms.

Please stay safe and well this weekend and do your part to prevent the continued spread of the coronavirus. The more the province continues to relax some restrictions in an effort to reinvigorate the economy, the greater the risk of infection to those of us who leave our homes. Of course if you need to venture out, do so, but please do so safely.

Sincerely,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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