Canada Activities

Federal Activities
On May 5, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced important measures within agriculture programs. He announced an investment of more than $252 million to support farmers, food businesses, and food processors who provide essential services to Canadians every day by ensuring a safe and reliable food supply. He also said that the government intends to propose an additional $200 million in borrowing capacity for the sector.

On May 3, the Prime Minister announced that families receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will get $300 extra per child in May to help them deal with the added pressures of COVID-19.

On May 1, the government announced that Tiff Macklem will be appointed Governor of the Bank of Canada, effective June 3, 2020. Mr. Macklem will replace Stephen S. Poloz, who has led the Bank since 2013, and will be completing his seven-year term at its helm in early June.

Bill C-15, An Act respecting Canada Emergency student benefits (coronavirus disease 2019), which provides for the creation of the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), passed through the Senate and received Royal Assent.

On April 28, the Prime Minister announced a set of common guidelines agreed upon in principle by the provinces and the federal government on how to reopen the economy in a phased approach.

Alberta
On May 4 and 5, the province highlighted some of the infrastructure investments it is making in southern Alberta, Red Deer, Fort McMurray and north central Alberta, improving access to wood fiber for the forestry sector, and new school construction.

The province has also released the details of its Alberta's Relaunch Strategy, a staged process to rollback public health measures.

The province has also launched ABTraceTogether, a voluntary mobile contact tracing app that helps to let you know if you've been exposed to COVID-19, or if you've exposed others.

On April 30, the province announced a plan to gradually reopen closed businesses and services and get people back to work.
British Columbia
On May 4, the province announced the extension of the temporary layoff period to 16 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons. This change to the Employment Standards Act aligns B.C.’s temporary layoff provisions with the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit period.

On May 1, the province announced that applications have opened for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers.

On April 30, the province announced that it is deferring Stumpage fees it charges to help people, communities, and forest companies navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

On April 29, the province announced that the provincial state of emergency is being extended for the third time, through the end of the day on May 12, 2020.

Manitoba
On May 1, the province announced the provincial government’s online portal to facilitate business applications to the Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP) is now live. Eligible businesses will receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of $6,000, electronically deposited into their business bank account.

On April 29, Premier Brian Pallister unveiled a plan to gradually restore services, open some businesses, and increase recreational opportunities, while maintaining social distancing advice.

As of May 4, a variety of non-essential health-care and retail businesses will have the option to reopen under strict guidelines.

New Brunswick
On April 30, the province announced that the state of emergency has been extended to May 14.

On April 29, the province has announced that it is transitioning to the orange phase of the province’s recently announced recovery plan, which is aimed at reopening social and economic settings while preventing a resurgence of transmission.

Businesses in the province are encouraged to review the Guidance Document of General Public Health Measures during COVID-19 Recovery, which includes pre-screening tools, signage templates, and other information.

On April 28, the province announced that it has updated its mandatory order under the state of emergency to restrict temporary foreign workers from entering New Brunswick. This restriction does not affect the status of temporary foreign workers currently in the province.
Newfoundland and Labrador
On May 6, the province announced further supports for certain businesses impacted by COVID-19, including the deferral of certain loan payments, and increasing the criteria and contribution levels for R&D programs.

On April 30, the province announced its plan to gradually remove public health measures as a part of their NLife with COVID-19 strategy. As a part of this announcement, the province announced that households may now choose to spend time with one other household.

On April 29, the province announced compensation for private sector employers for continuation of pay to employees who were required to self-isolate for 14-days due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Nova Scotia
On May 1, the province announced that the province is renewing the state of emergency for another two weeks under the authority of the Emergency Management Act. The order will take effect at noon May 3 and extend to noon May 17.

The province also announced the easing of some public health restrictions around COVID-19. A phased plan to further lift public health restrictions is under development.

On April 28, Premier Stephen McNeil announced that schools and licensed childcare facilities will remain closed until at least May 19.

Ontario
On May 6, the province announced it is extending all emergency orders that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until May 19. The province is also extending emergency electricity rate relief to families, farms and small businesses until May 31 during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Premier Doug Ford also announced that the province is allowing all retail stores with a street entrance to provide curbside pickup and delivery, as well as in-store payment and purchases at garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores, and safety supply stores. These changes will come into effect over the coming week.

On May 1, the province announced that it is allowing certain businesses and workplaces to reopen as long as they comply with strict public health measures and operate safely during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those permitted to start up include seasonal businesses and some essential construction projects.

The province also announced it is taking steps to defer a portion of Global Adjustment (GA) charges for industrial and commercial electricity consumers that do not participate in the Regulated Price Plan for the period starting from April 2020. This initiative is intended to
provide companies with temporary immediate relief on their monthly electricity bills in April, May and June 2020.

On April 30, the province has released new safety guidelines to provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector. These measures build on more than 60 guidelines developed by Ontario's health and safety associations in response to COVID-19 for various sectors such as retail, health care, construction, transportation, police services, firefighters, and transit employees.

On April 28, the province launched the COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers website to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic. The province is prepared to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain.

Prince Edward Island
On May 5, the province announced the COVID-19 Agriculture Labour Support Initiative (ALSI) allows individuals who are interested in working on a farm to register with WorkPEI and be connected with agricultural businesses who have registered their job openings.

On April 28, Premier Dennis King and Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Heather Morrison outlined the province’s plan to ease public health restrictions related to COVID-19. The plan will be implemented in four distinct phases with a progressive lifting of public health measures on individuals, communities and organizations over three-week periods. The first phase will begin Friday, May 1.

Quebec
On May 4, Premier François Legault announced that the planned reopening of certain businesses in the Montreal metropolitan area will be delayed by a week, to May 18.

On April 30, the province has announced that, beginning on May 4, it will begin to dismantle restrictions imposed on movements between regions of the province for non-essential reasons. The province also announced that it will grant employers a credit on contributions to the Health Services Fund for employees on forced leaved.

On April 28, the province announced that the construction industry will reopen as of May 11, 2020. Jobsites will resume activity in every sector of the construction industry, namely public transportation and roadworks, residential, institutional, commercial and industrial. Overall, three types of businesses will be allowed to reopen in May:

- Stores not including those in shopping malls.
- Construction and civil engineering businesses.
- Manufacturing businesses.
Saskatchewan
On April 30, the province announced that anyone working now or returning to work under Phase I and Phase II of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan will have access to licensed child care services located within Saskatchewan schools.