Canada Activities

Federal Activities
On June 5, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that the federal government is negotiating with the provinces and territories concerning their offer of $14 billion for measures to keep COVID-19 at bay as the economy restarts. Provinces such as Ontario have stated that the support offered is too low, with that province suggesting it alone requires over $20 billion in federal support.

Statistics Canada released the labour force survey for May, which showed the economy added 289,600 jobs in May. Despite this increase the unemployment rate rose to 13.7 per cent, the highest level in more than four decades of comparable data.

On June 4, the Prime Minister announced that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) will receive their special one-time, tax-free payment during the week of July 6.

On June 3, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Karen Hogan as Canada’s new Auditor General. This appointment is effective June 8, 2020.

On June 2, Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced the names of nine business leaders who will join Monique Leroux on the recently announced Industry Strategy Council. Dr. Mona Nemer, Canada’s Chief Science Advisor, also joins as an ex-officio member to provide an important perspective on science and research.

Alberta
On June 5, the province announced up to $1 million to help beekeepers offset the costs of increased colony replacements due to COVID-19. The program, available this summer, will be retroactive to cover issues faced in spring 2020.

The province also announced additional supports to help small and medium-sized businesses during economic relaunch.

On June 3, the province introduced the Real Estate Amendment Act, 2020 which, if adopted, will restructure and refocus the Real Estate Council of Alberta (RECA) with a mandate on licensing and regulating Alberta’s real estate sector, after an independent report cited major concerns with the regulator.

The province also announced it has removed Fusarium graminearum (fusarium) from the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, bringing Alberta in line with best practices from other provinces.
British Colombia
AEM continues to follow developments in the province closely.

Manitoba
On June 3, the province announced it is investing $33 million, an additional 10 per cent top up, in damage prevention and climate resiliency projects to support municipalities across the province.

The province also announced it is making an increased investment of $5.7 million in the Canada-Manitoba Job Grant program this year to better assist businesses with staff training costs as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Brunswick
AEM continues to follow developments in the province closely.

Newfoundland and Labrador
On June 8, the province announced measures to assist the mining, mineral exploration, and quarry industries, including deferring rental and fee payments and waiving mineral expenditure requirements for 2020.

On June 4, the province announced a new regional assessment process that significantly shortening timelines for exploration drilling program approval.

Nova Scotia
On June 4, the province announced, in partnership with the federal government, assistance for farmers which includes a new COVID-19 Response and Mitigation Program, funded under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The program will help food producers with the costs of meeting extra health requirements, help producers get their crops to market, fund projects aimed at maintaining competitiveness, productivity, profitability, and support abattoir efficiency and development.

On June 2, the province announced that licensed child care centres and family daycare homes will reopen June 15.

Ontario
On June 8, the province announced that it is moving forward with a regional approach to Stage 2 of reopening the province. Effective June 12 at 12:01 a.m., the province will increase the limit on social gatherings from five to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2.

On June 6, the province announced it has extended all emergency orders currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until June 19.
On June 4, the Ontario government announced the Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity, a new advisory group that will provide advice on how young people can overcome social and economic barriers and achieve success. The council will also advise government on long-term actions that can be taken to support youth during the COVID-19 outbreak.

On June 3, the province announced it will be investing $150 million in reliable broadband and cellular service. This funding will help create even more economic and educational opportunities in rural, remote and underserved areas of the province.

On June 2, the province extended the provincial Declaration of Emergency to June 30.

The province also announced that the Ontario government is moving forward with the next step in building the Ontario Line. The government is issuing the first two public-private partnership (P3) Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) to identify and qualify those who will design, build and maintain the subway line. The Ontario Line is being built under three separate P3 contracts.

The province highlighted that it continues investing in more local manufacturers in order to keep frontline workers and communities safe during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Prince Edward Island**
AEM continues to follow developments in the province closely.

**Quebec**
On June 8, the province announced that it intends to compensate landlords who subscribe to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for 50% of their losses.

**Saskatchewan**
On June 5, the province announced amendments to The Mineral Tenure Registry Regulations that grant relief to the mining sector in response to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. These amendments will provide mining exploration companies more time to raise necessary capital and access mine sites to carry out exploration activities, work programs and engage with local and First Nations communities.

The province also announced temporary commercial eviction protection for small business tenants during the COVID-19 emergency. The moratorium on evictions applies to landlords that are eligible to apply for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program but choose not to.

On June 4, the province highlighted that it plans to invest $52 million in 2020-21 to replace or extend the life of highway bridges and culverts in the province. These projects are part of Saskatchewan’s $7.5 billion two-year capital plan to stimulate the economic recovery.
On June 2, the province announced it is investing $28 million to improve rural roads in Saskatchewan Rural Municipalities (RMs). Thirty-six RMs will receive funding this year, which will cover up to 50 per cent of total projects costs to a maximum of $500,000.