Canada Activities

Federal Activities
On September 8, the government announced the extension of rent relief for small businesses by one month, to help eligible small business cover rent in September. As of September 7, 2020, the program has supported over 106,000 small business tenants, representing 994,000 employees, for a total of over $1.32 billion in rent support.

On September 4, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced a number of initial projects funded under the $77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund. This fund is focused on projects to help companies respond to the urgent health and safety needs of workers in agri-food sectors impacted by COVID-19, with an emphasis on supporting meat processing facilities.

On September 4, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced up to $763.34 million in support for Ontario through the Safe Return to Class Fund.

The Canada Border Services Agencies have sent a notice reminding travelers that travel restrictions at all Canadian international border crossings still remain in place during the Labor Day long weekend.

On September 1, Labor Minister Filomena Tassi announced the coming into force of changes to federal labor standards related to interns. As of that day, interns in federally regulated workplaces are recognized in two ways and entitled to new protections:

- Interns: individuals seeking to obtain knowledge or experience through a temporary placement in a workplace that is not part of an educational program. They will have the same labor standards protections as employees, including the right to be paid at least the minimum wage.
- Student interns: students undertaking a temporary placement in a workplace that fulfills the requirements of an educational program. They may be unpaid and will be entitled to certain labor standards protections set out in the new regulations.

Alberta
On September 3, Premier Kenney met with new federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Leblanc. Kenney raised Alberta’s concerns with federal regulations on the province’s natural resources sector, as well as the proposed new Clean Fuel Standards.
On September 2, the province highlighted $262 million in federal funding coming to Alberta to support the safe reopening of schools in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**British Colombia**
On September 9, a [three-day mining summit opened virtually in BC](#). It will focus on the opportunity B.C. has to play an important role in the global movement to responsible sourcing of raw materials and the transition to a low-carbon economy. It also addresses the importance of environmental, social, and corporate governance in the future of mining. The summit will continue with sessions on September 15 and September 30.

On September 8, with 429 new cases of COVID-19 reported over the long weekend, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer made a joint statement, including recommending that “Now is the time for all of us to go back to our smaller, safer social interactions, especially if our households are increasing our interactions in other ways.”

On September 4, the province responded to the August Labour Force results, with 15,300 jobs created in British Columbia – 87% of which were full-time jobs. Added to the employment gains in May, June and July, B.C. has now recovered 246,900 jobs, and total employment now stands at 94% of the pre-pandemic level in February.

On September 2, the province announced that it is delaying implementation dates to April 2021 for changes to provincial sales tax (PST) and B.C.’s carbon tax, to help businesses and families through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

On September 2, the province announced that its temporary layoff extensions have protected jobs and workers impacted by COVID-19 with an online variance application that simplified the process to extend temporary layoffs, resulting in the approval of more than 500 variances that protect more than 9,100 jobs across a variety of economic sectors.

The province has [extended the state of emergency](#) through the end of the day on September 15.

**Manitoba**
On September 4, the province responded to the August Labour Force results, indicating Manitoba’s employment numbers increased by 8,100 from July to August. Since the province’s recovery began in April, it has added 62,500 jobs, which accounts for close to seventy per cent of the job losses in March and April.

**New Brunswick**
AEM continues to monitor updates in the province.

**Newfoundland and Labrador**
AEM continues to monitor updates in the province.

**Nova Scotia**
On September 4, the province announced that the state of emergency was renewed until noon on September 20.

**Ontario**
On September 8, the province announced that it was pausing its reopening plan for four weeks as COVID-19 cases spiked.

On September 4, the province marked its third straight month of employment growth, with the Labour Force Survey showing an increase of 141,800 jobs in August.

On September 3, the province announced that it was protecting jobs and businesses by extending protection to prevent temporary layoffs from automatically becoming permanent job losses. Although Ontario is now in Phase 3 of reopening, this extension will give businesses more time to reopen and return to full operations. This extension will last until January 2, 2021.

On September 3, the province announced that it is providing $37 million to help people train for new jobs and upgrade their skills. The funding will support 86 projects and provide training in high-demand skills like information technology, advanced manufacturing, truck driving, construction, and horticulture. The programs include internships and other hands-on learning experiences, and in most cases, the training is provided at no charge.

On September 2, the province announced that it has distributed comprehensive health and safety guidance documents and is providing significant funding to cover lost revenue, enhanced cleaning, and other costs incurred because of COVID-19 for public transit operators across the province.

**Prince Edward Island**
On September 8, the province announced new drop-in testing sites to increase access to COVID-19 screening.

**Quebec**
On September 8, Minister of Health and Social Services Christian Dubé unveiled the alert system and regional interventions developed by Public Health which will specify, for each region of Quebec, the additional measures to be deployed to ensure the health and safety of
Quebecers over the coming months, if necessary, for a potential second wave of COVID-19. Four possible levels of alert and intervention are planned: Vigilance (green), Early warning (yellow), Moderate alert (orange), and Maximum alert (red).

On September 4, the Labour Force Survey indicated that employment was up by 54,200 in August compared to July. Employment has grown by 630,200 over the past four months, which is equivalent to more than three-quarters (76.8%) of the 820,500 jobs lost between February and April 2020.

On September 1, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Jonatan Julien announced total financial assistance of $7.4 million for research in the mining sector. Twenty-one projects, spread across establishments in five regions of Quebec, benefit from this investment.

On September 1, the province announced the establishment of a new recovery phase in combat sports. Thus, from September 2, clashes in a training context in all combat sports, such as karate, taekwondo, boxing, or judo, may resume, as long as the submitted plans are in accordance and recommendations from public health authorities are followed rigorously.

Saskatchewan
On September 4, the Labour Force Survey indicated 4,700 more jobs in the province in August compared to July. Saskatchewan’s unemployment rate in August was 7.9 percent (seasonally adjusted), the lowest among the provinces and well below the national rate of 10.2 percent.

On September 1, the province announced its largest ever fall tender for highway projects, at $437 million.