

*\*As of April 2, at 2:00pm ET\**

### **Canada Activities**

On March 31, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided an update on the federal government's progress in [partnering with manufacturers and private sector businesses to secure necessary medical equipment and personal protective equipment](#). The government is investing \$2 billion to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment, including for bulk purchases with provinces and territories. Further, \$50 million has been made available in funding for members of the Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster to develop and scale-up new, in-demand technologies, equipment, and medical products.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau, alongside the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng, and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Navdeep Bains, announced details of the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#). Eligible employers include those of all sizes and across all sectors who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 30 percent in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019. The subsidy would apply at a rate of 75 percent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week. The program would be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020. Parliament will be recalled to pass legislation to implement this program, and further administrative details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Of particular note, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is:

- Available to employers of all sizes and sectors, except for the public sector.
- Applicable to the self-employed, partnerships and private corporations.
- Available to employers that have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 30 percent in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019.
- The subsidy is applied at a rate of 75% of the first \$58,700 earned by employees.
- In place from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2020.
- Accessible via a web portal administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (expected to be up and running in three to six weeks).

### **Alberta**

The province has released its list of [“essential services.”](#) This includes a number of categories that suggest that AEM members are to be considered essential businesses.

The province has [launched a survey for businesses who wish to assist](#) in the province's outbreak response efforts, or bid on provincial government contracts for services needed in relation to the outbreak.

### **British Columbia**

Premier Horgan has announced [an Economic Recovery Task Force to help ensure the province's economic response to COVID-19 is effective and responsive](#) to the needs of British Columbians. The task force will take the form of a weekly conference call between Premier Horgan; Carole James, Minister of Finance; Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness; other members of cabinet and leaders from business organizations, including the Business Council of B.C., BC Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Board of Trade, Surrey Board of Trade, the BC Federation of Labour,

First Nations organizations and the not-for-profit sector. Its tasks include exploring issues around the designation of essential and critical services; child care and other supports for essential workers, and safe workplace operations for businesses operating now, as well as those restarting after the crisis.

The province has [listed what it considers to be essential businesses](#). The list suggests that AEM members are to be considered essential businesses.

### **Manitoba**

Premier Brian Pallister announced that the province is [suspending classroom learning for kindergarten to Grade 12 students indefinitely for this school year](#). Child care centres located in schools will continue to operate under the current conditions set out by the chief provincial public health officer.

The Premier has also [unveiled the province's list of essential workplaces](#). All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must close between April 1 and April 14.

### **New Brunswick**

As Premier Blaine Higgs had previously announced on March 24, workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to COVID-19 are eligible to receive a [one-time income benefit of \\$900](#).

The province has stated that [manufacturers are allowed to stay open](#), however they are expected to reduce in-person sales activities and apply all social distancing and hygiene recommendations.

### **Nova Scotia**

The province announced that they have updated the guidelines for the [COVID-19 Rent Deferral Support Program for small and medium businesses](#). The program aims to encourage landlords to defer rent payments from their commercial tenants for three months, spreading the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term.

Premier Stephen McNeil has also announced [measures of support for businesses and residents of the province](#). The measures of interest to AEM members include the following:

### **Ontario**

Premier Doug Ford issued a [new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to close all outdoor recreational amenities](#), such as sports fields and playgrounds. He also announced that Ontario's state of emergency and emergency orders have been extended and will be in effect until April 13, 2020.

The Premier also announced that [schools and child care centres will remain closed to students until Monday, May 4, 2020](#). As these dates come closer, this decision will be re-evaluated based on public health advice. Select centres designated to support frontline health care workers and first responders will remain open.

The province has announced a [\\$50 million Ontario Together Fund](#) to help businesses retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment, including gowns, coveralls, masks, face shields, testing equipment and ventilators. This new Fund will support the

development of proposals submitted by businesses and individuals through the [Ontario Together web portal](#).

Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer announced [updated guidance regarding construction sites to help employers better understand their responsibilities](#) and what is needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the job site.

### **Quebec**

Premier Francois Legault has announced that in April all businesses, with the exception of gas stations, pharmacies, convenience stores and takeout restaurants, will be closed on Sundays. He framed the announcement as a measure to provide a break for grocery store employees and others who have been placed under strain during the outbreak.

The province has launched a [website for users to determine what government assistance they may qualify for](#).