Employer Support Programs – COVID-19 – Canadian Federal Government

The federal government has announced the following measures to support Canadian businesses. Please click on the title of each for further information and contacts for the administering agency of each program.

1. **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** (CEWS)
   - Administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
   - 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.
   - Applied at a rate of 75% of the first $58,700 earned by employees.
   - In place from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2020.
   - Will be accessed through a portal which is expected to be up and running in three to six weeks.

2. **Work-Sharing program for employees**
   - Administered by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).
   - Work-Sharing is an Employment Insurance (EI) program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs.
   - Extension of the maximum possible duration of an agreement from 38 week to 76 weeks.
   - Employers and employees must agree to participate in Work-Sharing and apply together.

3. **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)**
   - Administered by Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC).
   - Provides more than $65 billion in direct lending and other types of financial support at market rates to businesses whose access to financing would otherwise be restricted.
   - Businesses seeking support through BCAP should contact the financial institutions with whom they have a pre-existing relationship, so that the financial institutions may assess the client’s financial request.

4. **Increased Farm Credit Canada (FCC) lending capacity**
   - FCC has received an enhancement to its capital base that will allow for an additional $5 billion in lending capacity.
   - FCC is asking existing customers who have cash flow or other financial concerns to contact them to discuss alternatives, such as loan payment deferrals and products available to assist with cash flow needs.

5. **Deferral of Taxes and GST/HST Remittances**
   - Administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
   - The CRA will allow all businesses to defer, until the end of June 2020, any GST/HST payments or remittances that become owing on or after March 27, 2020, and before June 2020.
   - The CRA will allow all businesses to defer, until Aug. 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.

6. **Deferral of Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers**
   - Administered by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).
Payment deadlines for statements of accounts for March, April, and May are being deferred to June 30, 2020.

Businesses in need of information about their particular accounting and payment obligations on imported goods may contact the Canada Border Services Agency for more details.