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.

The Prime Minister announced that the government has signed new procurement agreements with Canadian companies Thornhill Medical, Medicom, and Spartan Bioscience to purchase and boost capacity to manufacture equipment and supplies including portable ventilators, surgical masks, and rapid testing kits. It has also signed letters of intent with five companies – Precision Biomonitoring, Fluid Energy Group Ltd., Irving Oil, Calko Group, and Stanfield’s – to produce additional test kits, hand sanitizer, and protective apparel including masks and gowns.

The Prime Minister thanked the businesses that have stepped up to offer assistance, specifically naming Magna, General Motors, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Ford, Linamar, Shell, Suncor, Alibaba Group, and The Home Depot for donating personal protective and safety equipment and sanitizing supplies.

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, are set to hold a press conference later on April 1 to announce the details of the Temporary Wage Subsidy. Parliament will be recalled to pass legislation to implement this program. Any additional, relevant details announced on April 1 will be provided here by April 2.

Alberta
The province has released their list of “essential services”. This includes the following categories that suggest that AEM members are to be considered essential businesses:

- Services stations and mechanical repair of motor vehicles, trucks and specialized equipment for industries, including unmanned air/ground vehicles
- Industries or services that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers (e.g. petrochemicals and precursors, fertilizers, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer)
- Businesses and services that supply products to the mining and mineral production and distribution sector
- Businesses, facilities and services that support and facilitate the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North American and global supply chains
- Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of forestry products (e.g. lumber, pulp, paper, wood fuel, etc.)
- Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of aggregates to support critical infrastructure repairs and emergency response requirements (such as gravel, cement, concrete, and asphalt)
• Businesses that support the food supply chain including assembly yards, livestock auctions, food distribution hubs, feed mills, farm equipment dealerships and suppliers, feed suppliers, food terminals and warehouses, animal slaughter plants and grain elevators, all farm input including fertilizer plants and distribution
• Motor vehicle, auto-supply, auto and motor-vehicle-repair, including bicycle repair, aircraft repair, heavy equipment repair, watercraft/marine craft repairs, car and truck dealerships and related facilities

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 Colombia
The province has listed what it considers to be essential businesses. This includes the following categories that suggest that AEM members are to be considered essential businesses:
• Manufacturing of goods necessary for the continued and immediate operation of other essential infrastructure and businesses
• Food cultivation, including:
  o Farming
  o Livestock
  o Aquaculture and fishing
  o Businesses that support the food supply chain
  o Community gardens and subsistence agriculture
• Food processing, manufacturing, storage and distribution of foods, feed products and beverages
• Workers essential to maintain or repair equipment in food processing and distribution centres
• Farming supply, including:
  o Seed
  o Fertilizer
  o Pesticides
  o Farm machinery sales and maintenance
• Manufacturers and distributors (including service centres and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging, staging and distribution operations
• Services to support and enable transportation, including highway, road, bridge maintenance and repair
• Businesses that provide materials and services for the operation, maintenance and safety of transportation systems (road, transit, rail, air and marine) including delivery of maintenance services such as clearing snow, response to collisions and completing needed repairs to transportation systems
• Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers (e.g. primary metal/steel, blow molding, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer)
• Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of primary and value-added forestry/silviculture products, for example:
  o Lumber
- Pulp
- Paper
- Wood fuel, etc.
- Soft-pulp products
- Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of mining materials and products (e.g. metals such as copper, nickel and gold) and that support supply chains, including:
  - Mining operations, production and processing
  - Mineral exploration and development, including sand, gravel and aggregates
  - Mining supply and services that support supply chains in the mining industry including maintenance of operations, health and safety

**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, with the new rules being in place as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1. 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 3 months, spreading the deferred rent amount over the rest of the lease term.

Premier Stephen McNeil announced measures of support for businesses and residents of the province. The measures of interest to AEM members include the following:

For businesses:
- The province is encouraging retail and commercial landlords to defer lease payments for the next three months for businesses forced to close due to the public health order. Landlords are not permitted to change locks or seize property of businesses, if they closed directly because of COVID-19 public health orders.
- Restaurants will be allowed to include alcohol purchases with takeout and delivery orders as long as the alcohol cost is not more than three times the value of food ordered, effective March 30.
- Veterinarians will be allowed to provide virtual care, prescription refills and in-patient urgent or emergencies services.
For people:
- Partnering with Telus to provide 100 phones and calling plans to most-vulnerable clients who have no other means of communication
- Investing $200,000 to support transition houses as well as other organizations that serve vulnerable women and children
- Investing $55,000 to support 12 smaller community food banks
- Extending the hours of its toll-free line for income assistance supports soon, including weekends

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 announced that Quebec could run out of key medical supplies in 3 to 7 days, including N95 masks, and thanked the Ontario and federal governments for collaborating in attempts to alleviate the situation.

The Premier has also 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 stain during the outbreak.

The province has launched a website for users to determine what government assistance they may qualify for.