



April 8, 2020

## **COVID-19 UPDATE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY (CEWS) BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM EXPANDED**

Today, the Federal Government announced a number of new wage support measures as a part of a \$73 billion dollar package and eased funding restrictions to help [businesses](#) keep their workers employed and hire more [students](#). The wage subsidy program is expected to launch in the next few weeks, once enabling legislation has been passed. More details surrounding this program will be provided in the coming weeks and how it affects your organization given the complexities of our industry.

Additional provincial and municipal updates of interest to UDI members included as well.

### **Federal Program Highlights:**

- Businesses can now qualify for the subsidy if their revenues dropped by 15% in March, instead of the previously proposed 30%.
- Businesses can use January and February of this year as comparison months instead of the previously proposed period of March 2019 compared to March 2020.
- Employers may use accrual accounting (as revenues are earned) or cash accounting (as they are received) to assist highly variable economic sectors in qualifying. Special rules would also be provided for corporate groups, non-arm's length entities and joint ventures.
- Charities and non-profit organizations may include or exclude government funding in their revenues for their subsidy qualification.
- The subsidy rate is 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – up to \$847 per week, per employee. The program runs for 12 weeks, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.
- The Canada Summer Jobs program will now subsidize 100% of wages, include part-time jobs and be extended until February 28, 2021.
- Employers eligible for the wage subsidy would also be entitled to receive a 100-per-cent refund for some employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan.
- The government-backed \$40,000 business loan program, which includes 25 per cent of the loan as a non-repayable grant if the loan balance is paid off by Dec. 31, 2022 — will be available Thursday through banks and credit unions.

### **Provincial News:**

- [B.C. health officials are developing plans for relaxing of some COVID-19 restrictions](#) with details expected as early as next week. UDI will keep you posted on these developments.

## Municipal News:

- The City of Port Coquitlam has [cancelled its proposed property tax increase](#) and extended its payment deadline, giving property owners until Sept. 2 to pay their 2020 taxes and utilities.
- Vancouver City Manager [Sadhu Johnston informed city council last Tuesday that its revenue is down 90%](#) this month with a larger decline expected if property owners default on property tax payments. The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs has not yet announced any expansion of property tax deferrals. UDI is continuing its work to advocate for property tax reductions in the interim.
- [The City of Vancouver moves to expand virtual access to public meetings.](#)
- For the latest municipal updates related to development at Metro municipalities, please refer to our UDI web page: [COVID-19 Municipal Updates.](#)

## Additional Resources:

- [BC Government News Release supporting Renters and Rental Providers](#)
- [Greater Vancouver Board of Trade COVID-19 tax relief bulletin](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID Action Plan](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan helps people and businesses](#)
- B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool [found online here](#)
- Latest **non-medical COVID-19 updates**, including travel recommendations, please call or text the provincial government through a newly created hotline at 1-888-268-4319 (1-888-COVID19) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily
- [Latest orders and directives from the provincial health officer](#)
- If you or a family member have symptoms or need medical advice, **call 811**
- For prevention and treatment, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) or follow [@CDCofBC](#)

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at [AMcMullin@udi.org](mailto:AMcMullin@udi.org).

Thank you,



Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI