

Business Manager Update - April 28, 2020

Good Afternoon Business Managers and Council Reps,

PHO Update

The Provincial Health Officer announced 55 new cases [today](#). For a total of 2,053 cases in BC. 94 people are currently hospitalized | 37 in ICU. 2 additional deaths were announced [today](#). 1,190 people have recovered.

Source: From Dr. Henry's daily televised briefing. The printed update has not yet been posted on the government's page.

Federal Government Update

Canada had 49,014 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of April 28, 11:00am EDT. 740,859 people have been tested and 2,766 people have died. The Prime Minister [today](#) announced that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have come together and agreed to a set of common principles for restarting the Canadian economy. The statement (linked below) identifies the criteria that need to be in place before we can go back to work and school.

Source: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/28/prime-minister-releases-joint-statement-first-ministers-restarting?fbclid=IwAR1qNEGIMor9x345XuLihD06rHCx8cB0LDtGpPSxSMWRCT6tQ6buWGYUKsq>

WCB Implements Email Communication

WCB is now enabling workers and employers to use email to communicate with them. Starting this week, WorkSafeBC will give workers an option – with their written consent – to use email during the claims process to share information such as completed forms and return-to-work plans. They expect to make the email option available to all workers by early May. Our Workers Advocate, Merrill O'Donnell has more information if you would like to review it.

More Workers Test Positive From Kearl Lake

Another four cases were linked to workers at Alberta's Kearl Lake Project. There are now 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases in B.C. associated with that project. The Provincial Health Officer is still requiring workers on that project to self isolate for 14 days.

BC Businesses Likely To Get \$300 Million Through CECRA

B.C.'s Ministry of Finance expects small businesses in the province will receive more than \$300 million from the federal government's Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. BC will contribute about \$80 million to the program, which will provide commercial property owners with forgivable loans on the condition that they reduce their tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent. Applications are expected to be available by mid-May.

Site C Update

BC Hydro reported the following workforce numbers for April 28th on the Site C project. 898 people are currently in camp. 4 people are in self-isolation in camp. BC Hydro says they have not been notified of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Site C.

Source: <https://www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19>