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Member Memo #3- COVID-19

Dear Members:

March 26, 2020

To ensure that you are kept up to date on new developments we have pulled together additional resources and recent information to help support your needs at this time.

Many of our members have been doing an excellent job of adapting their practices to ensure health and safety for their families, staff, employees and customers and I encourage you to research how fellow members are adapting to our current situation.

As the situation evolves, so do the resources that are available to support Canadians.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit

The Prime Minister announced the passing of an emergency bill to help Canadians as quickly as possible. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will replace the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit—to simplify the process.

For the next four months, the CERB will provide \$2,000 a month to workers who lost their income because of COVID-19. An online portal will be ready shortly and funds will start to flow within 10 days of applying. For more information click [here](#) to be redirected.

Work-Sharing Program - Temporary special measures for the downturn in business for the forestry and steel and aluminum sector

The Government of Canada has put in place Work-Sharing (WS) temporary special measures for employers affected by the downturn in business due to COVID-19. Other measures are still in place for the forestry and steel and aluminum sectors.

These measures extend the duration of Work-Sharing agreements by an additional 38 weeks, for a total of 76 weeks. The mandatory waiting period has also been waived so that employers with a recently expired agreement may immediately apply for a new agreement, without waiting between applications and ease Recovery Plan requirements for the duration of the WS agreement. For application information click [here](#).

Covid-19 Employment and Social Development Canada

For up to date resources on Employment Insurance, Canada Child Benefit, Canada Student Loans etc., please click [here](#) to access this information.

Financial support for exporters

The global economy is deep in turbulent waters, with coronavirus disrupting the flow of global trade and international supply chains. Export Development Canada (EDC) is committed to helping Canadian businesses through this with our products and services.

EDC's capacity to help Canadian entrepreneurs expanded in mid-March with the launch of the \$10-billion federal Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP). For more information click [here](#) to access EDC's website and contact information.

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

Effective March 18, 2020, new relief measures for qualified businesses include:

- Working capital loans of up to \$2 million with flexible repayment terms such as principal postponements for qualifying businesses;
- Flexible repayment terms, such as postponement of principal payments for up to 6 months, for existing BDC clients with total BDC loan commitment of \$1 million or less;
- Reduced rates on new eligible loans;
- Additional details regarding Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) measures, including industry specific support, to be announced in the coming days.
- Businesses seeking support through Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) should first contact their financial institutions for an assessment of their situation.
- Financial institutions will refer to EDC and BDC their existing clients whose needs extend beyond what is available through the private sector alone.

These new measures aim to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on business activity and complement services offered by other financial institutions, with whom BDC will continue working. For BDC, eligible businesses needed to be financially viable entities prior to the impact of the coronavirus. Click [here](#) for more information.

Funding Opportunities for Small Business - Non-COVID Related

Not all business owners are aware of the funding opportunities that are available to them throughout the year. To help our members access additional funds we have included a link which provides a listing of the Canadian Government Grants and Loans for Small Businesses

Please click [here](#) to find out more information on the grants that you may be eligible to apply for!

Additional Links

Provincial Government Resources

1. [Alberta](#)
2. [British Columbia](#)
3. [Manitoba](#)
4. [North Western Territories](#)
5. [Nunavut](#)
6. [Saskatchewan](#)
7. [Northwestern Ontario](#)

Federal Government

1. [Resource for Canadian Businesses](#)
2. [Public Health Updates](#)
3. [Canada Border Information Service - 1-800-461-9999](#)

We are here to support you, if you have any questions or information you would like us to share with membership, please call or email me. Our team and board of directors is here to support you!

Best regards,

Liz Kovach

WRLA President

Director of Prairie Provinces, Building Materials Council of Canada

Cc: WRLA board