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Good morning everyone,

Please read the email below from Katherine Henderson, Curling Canada's CEO, which provides further updates on COVID-19 and federal government programs.

Yours in sport,

Jill

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## Latest Updates:

- As of 12:00pm on April, there are 912,307 COVID-19 cases globally; in Canada there is a total of 9,017 reported cases, with the highest concentration of cases in Quebec (4,162), Ontario (2,392), British Columbia (1,013 cases), as reported on the [Government of Canada COVID-19](#) page.
- Any Canadian employer (for-profit or non-profit corporations and charities) that is not publicly owned and has lost at least 30 percent of revenue because of COVID 19 will receive a 75 per cent wage subsidy for each employee.
- The government has allocated \$2 billion for the purchase of personal protective equipment and other equipment necessary in the outbreak response.
- Ontario has also [established a new](#) \$50M fund for companies to re-tool and support COVID-19 efforts. This [follows the fiscal update](#) unveiled by the province last week.
- Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have begun setting up temporary makeshift hospitals to expand the number of available beds in anticipation of an influx of patients with COVID-19.
- Earlier today, Opposition Leader Andrew Scheer held a press conference from Regina where he called for tax relief to include stopping the government's planned increase to the carbon tax, and a refund of GST remittances paid by businesses in the past 6 month.
- Yesterday, the House of Commons Health Committee had its first virtual briefing on Canadian Response to the COVID Outbreak with briefings from officials with the Canada Border Services Agency, Global Affairs Canada, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.
- Tomorrow, the House of Commons Finance Committee will have its first briefing on the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Minister Morneau first to appear followed by senior departmental officials.

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## Are you eligible? Wage Subsidy Details Announced

Employers in all sectors of the economy have been waiting with bated breath for details to emerge about the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The program provides all companies, charities, and not-for-profit organizations with a 75 per cent subsidy if they

have incurred a 30 per cent decrease in revenue as a result of COVID 19.

Today, Finance Minister Bill Morneau unveiled the details of the Emergency Wage Subsidy program and outlined all of the key eligibility requirements.

Here is what you need to know:

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be a 3-month program backdated to March 15th.
- Any employer in Canada (for-profit or non-profit corporations and charities) that is not a public sector entity and has lost at least 30 percent of revenue because of COVID 19 will receive a 75 per cent wage subsidy for each employee.
- The wage subsidy will cover 75 percent of the first \$58,700 of salary for employees (\$847/week per employee).
- The 30 per cent decline will be calculated by comparing revenue from the same month in 2019.
- Applications will launch through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) portal soon - though an official date has not been provided.
- Employers will need to apply for the subsidy each month, demonstrate pre-COVID income of an employee, and attest to doing everything they can to pay the remaining 25 percent of wages.
- Funds will be available in approximately 6 weeks.
- There will be penalties for anyone who uses the money fraudulently.
- Companies that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced 10 per cent wage subsidy.

It is clear that the government is banking on the wage subsidy to keep as many Canadians employed to prevent an already overwhelmed EI system and Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) from further burden. The government has taken the view that it is much better use of federal resources to spend to keep Canadians on employer payrolls than to fund broad unemployment and the challenges that will bring for economic recovery. The question that remains is whether the wage subsidy will be enough for businesses to keep employees as the COVID crisis drags on.

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## Essential vs Non-Essential - That is the Question

All provinces and territories have now called a state of emergency or public health emergency with each following their own process, timelines and enforcement measures around how they deem business essential. There are a considerable number of major Canadian businesses and multinationals who work across jurisdictions so the lack of harmonization is making an already difficult environment more challenging.

There is a lack of harmonization both for which businesses are considered essential, as well as how strictly provinces are treating these closures. In some provinces (such as Ontario and Quebec), closures of non-essential businesses are mandatory, whereas other provinces are treating these closures as partial or recommended. While Ontario and Quebec have a similar approach in requiring (not encouraging) businesses to close, they've taken different paths to determining which businesses can remain open. Ontario's list is currently quite expansive, and while the government is currently entertaining making additions, the list could be reduced imminently. Meanwhile, Quebec's list is the most restrictive across the country - shutting down construction and announcing that all businesses must close on Sundays, with exemptions for gas stations, convenience stores, pharmacies and take-out restaurants.

Generally speaking, we anticipate the list of essential services will shrink everywhere, particularly if evidence suggests we've not yet flattened the curve of COVID cases in Canada. A list of all current provincial and territorial lists for essential business can be found at this [link](#).

On the federal front, we are anticipating the announcement of a federal essential services list. This list is expected to focus on those sectors that are federally regulated but could be more broad. Once that list is announced, it would primarily pertain to the border, though it could be extended across the country if the last resort Emergencies Act is invoked.

It's important to be proactive and work with the government if it makes sense to have your business and/or service on this list at the outset and provide the necessary industry protocols to instill a sense of safety and comfort for decision-makers to ensure it remains open during the crisis.

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As previously forwarded to you, there is an invitation for a webinar on Friday at 12:00 pm EST with Gowlings to hear further details about how all the above works and to find out more information about the government's programs for your club.

Acknowledging Summa Communications for some of the above content and their advice to us.

Kathy

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