MEMORANDUM

From: McMillan Vantage
Date: March 19, 2020
Re: COVID 19 – Government Relief Efforts To Date

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

March 11, 2020: $1 Billion COVID-19 Response Fund

- Waives, for a minimum of six months, the one-week waiting period for Employment Insurance sickness benefits, for workers in imposed quarantine or who have been directed to self-isolate – in effect as of March 15
- Support for employers and workers through the Work-Sharing program ($12 million) by doubling the length of time employers and their employees can use work-sharing from 38 to 76 weeks (for workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours as a result of developments beyond the control of an employer)
- $275 million for additional research, such as vaccine development
- $200 million for federal medical supplies, supports for Indigenous communities and education efforts.
- $500 million for provinces and territories to fund critical health care system needs and to support mitigation efforts, including access to testing, equipment and enhanced surveillance and monitoring.
- $50 million for the Public Health Agency of Canada's COVID-19 communications and public education efforts.
- $100 million to support federal public health measures such as enhanced surveillance and increased testing at the National Microbiology Laboratory.
- An additional $50 million to help vulnerable countries prepare for and respond to the virus, supporting efforts of the World Health Organization and other partners.

March 13, 2020: Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)

Under this program, BDC and EDC will enhance their cooperation with private sector lenders to coordinate financing and credit insurance solutions for Canadian businesses. This will allow BDC and EDC to provide more than $10 billion of additional support to businesses. Any creditworthy Canadian business seeking financing to support its operations and maintain jobs may apply. Canadian companies should first contact their financial institution account manager to determine how the Business Credit Availability Program applies to their situation. In some cases, they will be referred to the BDC or EDC. Companies may also contact the BDC or EDC directly if they already have an established business relationship with these organizations.

- Small Business Loan (BDC): Up to $100,000 can be obtained online. This allows quick access to funds at an affordable interest rate. Capital payments can be postponed for the first 6 months and loans can be repaid over 5 years.
Eligible if: Financing needs do not exceed $100,000; Business has been generating revenues for at least 24 months; Good credit history; Operating a Canadian company and have reached the age of majority.

- **Working capital loan** (BDC): Get extra funds to bridge cash flow gaps and support everyday operations. This will allow flexible repayment terms to protect cash flow, limit personal risk, and provide peace of mind with stable terms and conditions.
- **Purchase Order Financing** (BDC): Increase your cash flow to fulfill domestic or international orders with very flexible terms. This provides businesses with maximum PO financing, flexible terms tailored to PO terms and conditions, and a relationship of trust between clients and suppliers.
- **Export Development Canada**: During these challenging times, Export Development Canada (EDC) is working with federal partners and other Canadian financial institutions to help minimize impacts of COVID-19 on businesses, and they are working to quickly provide Canadian exporters access to needed capital.

### March 16, 2020: Revised Insured Mortgage Purchase Program (IMPP)

The government will purchase up to $50 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the CMHC said in a release on Monday. The move will provide stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders to ensure continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses.

### March 18, 2020: $82 Billion Rescue Fund

- **Individual ($27B)**
  - **Emergency Care Benefit**: up to $900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks to provide income support to workers who must stay home and do not have access to paid sick leave ($10 billion)
    - For: Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.
      - Self-employed workers, part-time workers, entrepreneurs and gig employees will be eligible.
      - Application for benefits will be available in April 2020.
  - **Emergency Support Benefit**: to provide up to $5 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment ($5 billion).
  - **Childcare Benefit** temporarily boosted for families with children by $300 per child ($2 billion).
  - **GST credit**: provide additional assistance to individuals and families with low and modest incomes with a special top-up payment ($300/adult; $150/child) under the GST credit ($5.5 billion).
  - Extend the tax filing deadline for individuals to June 1 and allow all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.
  - Provide increased flexibility to lenders to defer mortgage payments for up to 6 months on homeowner government-insured mortgage loans to borrowers who may be experiencing financial difficulties.
  - Waive the requirement for a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.
Seniors: Reduce minimum withdrawals from RRIFs by 25% for 2020.

Students: Implement a six-month, interest-free, moratorium on Canada Student Loan payments

New distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation communities ($305 million).

Vulnerable people: support women and children fleeing violence by funding women’s shelters and sexual assault centres ($50 million); fund the Reaching Home program to address the needs of Canadians experiencing homelessness ($157.5 million).

• Business ($55B)
  o Allow all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020
  o Augment credit available to farmers and the agri-food sector through Farm Credit Canada
  o Provide flexibility on the Canada Account limit, to allow the Government to provide additional support to Canadian businesses, when deemed to be in the national interest, to deal with exceptional circumstances [sector specific, to be looked at in coming days]
  o Wage subsidy: provide eligible small businesses a 10% wage subsidy for the next 90 days, up to a maximum of $1,375 per employee and $25,000 per employer
    ▪ Qualifying employers include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, not-for-profit organizations and charities.
    ▪ Businesses can benefit immediately by reducing remittances of income tax withheld on employees’ remuneration.

March 23-27, 2020: House of Commons to be Recalled

• Parliament will be recalled for legislation to free up billions in financial aid for Canadians and businesses to weather the COVID-19 crisis.

PROVINCIAL

ONTARIO

March 16, 2020: Premier Ford announces changes to budget date, Employment Standards Act

• Fiscal Update: It is announced that the Minister of Finance will release an economic and fiscal update in lieu of a full Budget on March 25.
• Labour Health & Safety: The Premier announced that changes to the Employment Standards Act will be made to introduce new measures for employees unable to work due to COVID-19. The legislation, if passed, would protect individual jobs under the following criteria if: the employee is under medical investigation, supervision, or treatment for COVID-19, in isolation or quarantine, acting in accordance with public health information or direction, employer directs the employee not to work or the employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 (school or day closure).
• The bill would apply retroactively to January 25.
• This would not reinstate paid sick leave, as it should be covered by the federal government’s EI program.
• Employers can’t force employees to provide a physician’s note if they take time off.
March 17, 2020: State of Emergency Declared

- Premier Ford announces a $300 million “first stage” relief package, which will go to funding efforts to fight COVID-19, including 75 more critical care beds, 500 more acute care beds, 75 more COVID-19 response centres and a host of new personal protective equipment and adding 1,000 more nurses and 50 more doctors to cover emergency response.

March 19, 2020: Eviction Notices, Driver’s Licence Renewals Put on Hold

- At a morning press conference, Premier Ford announced he is directing all eviction notices be put on hold.
- The Province is also suspending the need to renew your license and health card.
- Premier Ford also added that the government is working on "immediate relief measures."

BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 17, 2020: An Announcement That the Province is Working on a Stimulus Package

- The province is continuing to work on a stimulus package to help the economy during the pandemic.
- James said there are three streams to their economic plan:
  - Making sure services and supports are in place for health and safety;
  - Working with the federal government to bring in immediate relief;
  - And building B.C.’s plan for economic recovery.
    - “The government is advocating for extending the EI program and developing a plan for people who are losing their salaries, for example folks who are self employed and those who work in the hospitality sector”, said James.

March 17, 2020: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency in B.C.

- Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry made that announcement to expand her own powers and the power of the Ministry of Health.

March 18, 2020: State of Emergency Declared

- Proclamation ensures federal, provincial and local resources are delivered in a quick, joint, "co-ordinated way" to protect British Columbians during the outbreak.
- Premier announces his government will expand on the federal government’s efforts to offer immediate relief for people and businesses.

March 23, 2020: B.C. Legislature to Briefly Resume

- B.C. Legislature will briefly resume with reduced members on Monday to pass legislation that will ensure continuity of government and make amendments to the Employment Standards Act to help workers in the province during the outbreak.
ALBERTA

March 13 2020: Changes To Labour Laws

- Alberta announces it will change labour laws to provide 14 days of paid leave for full-time and part-time workers who self-isolate due to the novel coronavirus or who are caring for someone affected by it.
- Premier Jason Kenney says employees will not need doctor notes, nor will they have had to work for 90 days previously to qualify.
- The leave does not apply to self-employed individuals or contractors.

March 17 2020: State of Emergency declared

- The government announced $60 million in funding to be sent to social agencies and another $30 million devoted to supporting seniors
- Kenney announced more government spending measures to deal with the economic implications of the pandemic will be announced March 18

March 18 2020: Economic Measures Announced

- The Alberta Government is promising to help citizens through the economic repercussions of COVID-19 with:
  - **Cash for those in self-isolation:** Albertans in self-isolation due to COVID-19 not receiving Employment Insurance payment will be able to apply online for and receive $572 a week from the emergency isolation support package starting next week. This is meant to act as a backstop until federal payments come in April. Eligibility will be based on the Government of Alberta’s criteria for self-isolation, and include those who are the sole caregiver of a dependent who is in self-isolation. In total, $50 million is set aside for the payments, meaning that more than 43,000 Albertans who are in self-isolation could receive the payment.
  - **Deferral of electricity and natural gas charges for residential, farm and small commercial customers** for up to 90 days with assurance that no one’s utilities will be cut off during this period. Alberta says it has asked municipalities to offer similar protection for water charges.
  - **Deferral of loans, mortgages:** ATB Financial customers will be able to apply for deferrals on their loans, lines of credit, and mortgages for six months.
  - **Deferral of income tax:** The Province will be deferring corporate income tax balances and instalment payments between March 19 and Aug. 3
  - **Student loans:** Six-month moratorium on government student loans.
- Premier Kenney promised more announcements will be made March 19 and March 20, including details in the future on the "likely most robust counter-cyclical stimulus package in the fiscal history of this province."
- Any Albertan who has a driver’s licence or car registration that is set to expire will now have until May 15 to renew.
March 18, 2020 – Changes to Employment Standards Code

- The Government formally introduces regulation to change the Employment Standards Code to specify that employers are required to give workers 14 days of unpaid leave if the worker is self-isolating due to COVID-19.
- NOTE: This was originally announced as paid leave – now government has shifted to unpaid, and expanded EI program.

Quebec

March 16, 2020 – Measures For Self-Isolators Not Eligible For EI

- The Quebec Government announced a new temporary allocation (Programme d’aide temporaire aux travailleurs touchés par le nouveau coronavirus or PATT) for self-employed workers or employees not eligible for Employment Insurance who have had to self-quarantine for fourteen days because:
  - (i) they present COVID-19 symptoms or have been diagnosed with the virus, or
  - (ii) they have travelled outside of Canada or have been in contact with an at-risk traveller.
- The PATT provides an income replacement allocation of $573 per week for the fourteen-day period, but can be extended for up to a month for individuals whose quarantine has to be extended. For full details, please consult the Quebec government’s webpage.

March 17, 2020 – Tax Filing Flexibility, Additional Budgetary Credit

- The Quebec government announced that it had amended its 2020-2021 spending budget to include an additional $500 million budgetary credit to cover the cost of the government’s COVID-19 response.
- The Quebec government and Revenu Quebec announced certain tax filing and payment flexibility measures for individuals and businesses.
  - For individuals: The deadline for producing and filing income tax returns is postponed to June 1, 2020; the deadline for paying balances owed for business income tax for the 2019 taxation year is postponed to July 31, 2020, and payment of tax instalments due June 15, 2020 is suspended until July 31, 2020.
  - For businesses: Payment of tax instalments and taxes due as of March 17, 2020 is suspended until July 31, 2020.
- The Quebec government calculates that these measures will allow $7.7 billion in liquidity to remain in the Quebec economy for the next three months at least
- Additional measures to be announced in the coming days.

Businesses

Facebook

- Facebook Small Business Grants Program: Facebook is offering $100M in cash grants and ad credits for up to 30,000 eligible small businesses in over 30 countries where we operate. We’ll share more details as they become available.
Rogers

- Automatically waiving data overage fees for home internet usage (March 14-May 31), waiving long distance charges for Rogers home phone consumers for calls to anywhere in Canada (March 16-April 30); offering all Rogers TV and Ignite TV customers free access to some popular channels (March 16-April 30).

BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 13, 2020: Bank of Canada Cuts Rate, Adjusts Market Liquidity Operations

- Bank of Canada cut the interest rate to 0.75% as a proactive measure in light of the negative shocks to Canada’s economy arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent sharp drop in oil prices.
- Bank of Canada announced that it will adjust its market liquidity operations to maintain market functioning and credit availability during the current period of uncertainty in which conditions are evolving rapidly.

March 13, 2020: OSFI lowers Domestic Stability Buffer

- The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) announced it is lowering the Domestic Stability Buffer by 1.25% of risk-weighted assets, effective immediately. This action will allow Canada’s large banks to inject $300 billion of additional lending into the economy.

March 16, 2020: Bank Of Canada Takes Further Action

- The Bank of Canada announced that it will broaden eligible collateral for its term repo facility to include the full range of collateral eligible under the Standing Liquidity Facility, with the exception of the non-mortgage loan portfolio. This expansion of eligible collateral will provide support to funding conditions for financial institutions by providing a backstop to regular private funding.
- The Bank also announced that it stands ready, as a proactive measure, to provide support to the Canada Mortgage Bond (CMB) market so that this important funding market continues to function well. This would include, as required, purchases of CMBs in the secondary market.

March 17, 2020: Commercial Banks Offer Flexible Solutions

- BMO, CIBC, National Bank of Canada, RBC, Scotiabank and TD Bank make a commitment to work with personal and small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges such as pay disruption due to COVID-19; childcare disruption due to school closures; or those facing illness from COVID-19.
- Support will include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages and the opportunity of relief on other credit products.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Government of Canada Resources for Small Business
- Shopify Small Business Government Relief Program
- Support for Albertans