



March 30, 2020

## **TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS**

Greetings:

On Friday, March 27, 2020 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced further government measures of support for businesses and workers in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Phase one of the federal governments relief plan to battle devastating impact of COVID-19 was announced March 18<sup>th</sup>. Friday's announcement is part of government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which already commits \$107 billion in support to Canadians.

To further support small businesses, the Government of Canada on Friday announced it will:

- Provide a 75 per cent wage subsidy for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. This will help businesses to keep and return workers to the payroll. More details on eligibility criteria will start with the impact of COVID-19 on sales and will be shared before the end of the month.
- Allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) payments until June, as well as customs duties owed for imports. This measure is the equivalent of providing up to \$30 billion in interest-free loans to Canadian businesses. It will help businesses so they can continue to pay their employees and their bills and help ease cash-flow challenges across the country.

Further details of the 75 per cent wage subsidy were released earlier today. Below are some of the details from today's announcement:

- Businesses, which includes non-profits and charities, whose revenue has decreased by 30% since COVID-19 will qualify for the 75 per cent wage subsidy
- There is no minimum or maximum number of employees a business must have
- This wage subsidy is backdated to March 15, 2020
- It will apply to the first \$58,700 in income per employee (max \$847 per week, per employee)
- Employers are encouraged to top up employees remaining 25% of wages if the business can afford to do so
- Employers were also encouraged to "*do the right thing*" and only apply if they meet the requirements and need the financial assistance to keep workers. Employers were sternly warned "*NOT to game the system*" as there will be serious consequences to those that do.



Please review the federal governments resource page dedicated to all things related to COVID-19 including Employment Insurance information, other support for workers, supports for business and more information on these and other measures [HERE](#).

You can stay up to date on COVID-19 information on the IBEW Canada website on our [COVID-19](#) page.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Reid".

Tom Reid  
International Vice President

TR/ln

cc: International Representatives  
IBEW, System Council #11  
IBEW, CCO