

COVID-19 BULLETIN – MAY 8, 2020

By Graeme McFarlane and Bobby Sangha

Prime Minister Trudeau and his Cabinet made two new announcements today that are intended to further assist businesses during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Federal Government announced that it will be extending the duration of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (the “CEWS”) past June. The Department of Canadian Heritage also provided further details regarding the previously announced Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations: [Canadian Heritage - News Release](#).

Extension of the CEWS

As discussed in [previous bulletins](#), the CEWS is a wage assistance program through which the Federal Government covers up to 75% of an employee’s wages, up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per employee per week, for eligible businesses.

The Federal Government first announced the subsidy would only be available until June 6, 2020. However, the Prime Minister and his cabinet announced today that eligible businesses can continue to receive the subsidy past June. The Federal Government has not yet released a new end date for the program, but the Prime Minister announced further details regarding the extension will follow in the weeks to come.

Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations

The Emergency Support Fund is intended to immediately assist culture, heritage, and sport organizations, and to assist such organizations plan for the future. The Department of Canadian Heritage will directly administer \$326.8 million with funding to be allocated as follows:

- \$198.3 million to present arts and culture beneficiaries through existing programs and to other organizations with demonstrated needs;
- \$72 million to the sport sector; and
- \$53 million to the heritage sector via the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program.

It was also announced that an additional \$174.3 billion will be administered as follows:

- \$55 million to be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts;
- \$3.5 million to be provided under the Digital Citizen Initiative for COVID-related projects; and



- \$115.8 million to support the Canadian audiovisual sector via distribution from the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm Canada.

Navigating COVID-19 in the Workplace

For further information relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it may impact your workplace, please look to our previous bulletins, which can be found on [Roper Greyell's COVID-19 resource page](#).

This memorandum is current to the morning of May 8, 2020, but the pandemic and the responses of federal and provincial governments continue to evolve, and this may impact the accuracy of the information in this bulletin. If in doubt about whether anything in this document is still current, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

[Graeme McFarlane](#) and [Bobby Sangha](#) are labour and employment lawyers at Roper Greyell LLP and practise in all areas of labour, employment and human rights law. To obtain contact information of any other lawyer at our firm, please visit <https://ropergreyell.com/our-people/>

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this update, you are urged to seek specific advice on matters of concern and not to rely solely on what is contained herein. The document is for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.