

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan Update

Yesterday, Tuesday April 21st, 2020, the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, along with Treasury Board President Jean-Yves Duclos, made some announcements regarding the economic stimulus packages the government is planning to provide to Canadians. Below are a few important details that were released.

Important details regarding the **Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**

- **Applications** for the **CEWS** will become **available** on **April 27, 2020**
- **Applications** will **start** to be **processed** on **May 4, 2020** which they plan to do in **bulk**
- **Payments** are targeted to **begin** on **May 5, 2020**
- **3,000 auditors** have been assigned to **manually review certain claims**
- The reviews will be **based on the size of the claims, or the size of employers.**
 - For example, **100%** of claims made by **large employers** are **expected to be reviewed.**
- **Most CEWS** applications will be **automatically processed**
- Reviews are **intended** to be **completed in 72 hours**
- **2,000 agents** will be assigned to **answer questions** on the program
- A revised **CEWS website** and **new calculator** is available [here](#)

The government also announced they intend to set up a **\$350 million Emergency Community Support Fund to help charities and non-profits** keep up their work **assisting Canada's most vulnerable** through the COVID-19 pandemic. They support will be **targeted towards** the following **activities**

- Increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications
- Providing transportation services, like accompanying or driving seniors or persons with disabilities to appointments
- Scaling up help lines that provide information and support
- Helping vulnerable Canadians access government benefits
- Providing training, supplies, and other required supports to volunteers so they can continue to make their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 response
- Replacing in-person, one-on-one contact and social gatherings with virtual contact through phone calls, texts, teleconferences, or the Internet

The official news release can be found [here](#)

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