

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor & Members of City Council  
Chambers of Commerce  
Media

**Date:** May 8, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 – Update

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

### SUMMARY

This week, we announced that we will be extending the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, we provided details on the Heritage, Culture, and Sport funding, we've negotiated with the provinces to create wage boosts for low income essential workers, provided more funding for agri-businesses, invested \$50 million into sexual and domestic violence shelters, and announced additional funding for healthcare.

### UPDATES

#### Wage Boost for Essential Workers:

While many of us are being asked to stay home, millions of Canadians are being called on to go to work every day. We are relying on these workers now more than ever. That's why we are in the process of confirming plans to cost share wage top-ups for essential workers, with all provinces and territories. We will provide up to \$3 billion in support to increase the wages of low-income essential workers. Each province or territory will determine which workers would be eligible for support, and how much support they will receive. Premiers from across the country all agree that we need to support our essential workers, and we are continuing to take a collaborative approach. We are all on Team Canada.

#### Funding for Agri-businesses:

Our farmers and agri-business owners across the agri-food industry are essential to our communities and our Government is fully engaged to help them through this unprecedented period. This week we announced over \$250 million in direct funding as well as important changes to agriculture programs to support farmers, food businesses, and food processors who are working hard every day to ensure Canadians have a safe and reliable food supply:

- We are launching a national Agri-Recovery initiative of up to \$125 million in funding to help producers faced with additional costs incurred by COVID-19. This includes set-asides for cattle and hog management programs to manage livestock backed-up on farms, due to the temporary closure of food processing plants. We are changing the program, so it now covers 90% of eligible expenses, from 70%.

- We are establishing a \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund to help food processors manage new challenges: adapt to health protocols, automate or modernize their operations, and respond to emerging pressures from COVID-19 so they can better supply Canadians with food during this period.
- We are establishing a first-of-its kind Surplus Food Purchase Program with \$50M designed to help redistribute existing and unsold inventories, including potatoes and poultry products, to local food organizations who are serving vulnerable Canadians.
- In addition to these funds, we will work with all parties in the House on our proposed legislative change to increase the Canadian Dairy Commission line of credit by \$200 million in order to buy and store excess cheese and butter to avoid food waste.
- We will work with provinces and territories to allow producers to access to 75% of their AgriStability payments to help with anticipated income losses, and also to treat labour shortages as an eligible risk under producers' Agri-Insurance payments.

Producers also have access to a robust suite of business risk management tools that dispense \$1.6B annually – and farmers are encouraged to tap into those programs. This support will help food producers and processors to continue providing the food Canadians need, and help ensure food availability for all Canadians in these uncertain times.

#### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be extended beyond June. This means that businesses will continue to have support to keep their employees on the payroll. We will have more details coming out next week.

#### Heritage, Culture, and Sport Funding:

On April 17, 2020, the Prime Minister announced funding of \$500 million to establish a new COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations. A total of up to \$500 million was set aside to help maintain jobs and support business continuity for organizations whose cash flow and short-term operational viability have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The objectives of the funding are:

- to maintain jobs and support business continuity for organizations whose cash flow and short-term operational viability have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- to stabilize a sector that is a major driver of the Canadian economy.

The Fund will be administered by Canadian Heritage and divided among select departmental programs and Portfolio agencies as well as key delivery organizations. Specifically:

- Up to \$326.8 million to be distributed by Canadian Heritage, of which:
  - \$198.3 million will be provided to the beneficiaries of arts and culture funding via existing programs as well as other organizations with demonstrated needs;

- \$72 million will be provided to the sport sector;
- \$53 million will be provided to the heritage sector via the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program; and,
- \$3.5 million will be provided for COVID-related projects under the Digital Citizen Initiative.
- \$55 million to be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts to help arts organizations that support artists;
- \$115.8 million to support the Canadian audiovisual sector, to be distributed by the Canada Media Fund (\$88.8 million) and Telefilm Canada (\$27 million).

The use of the remaining funds will be assessed based on needs.

A streamlined process will minimize the application burden. At a minimum, eligible organizations will be required to attest the following in order to receive support:

- they are in need of funding to ensure a continuity of operations and to safeguard jobs;
- they remain in operation at the time of application and plan to continue contributing to their sector in the future;
- they are not receiving funding from multiple sources to cover the same costs (e.g., Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Canada Emergency Business Account, and Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance for Small Businesses); and,
- where relevant, funds will be used to support workers such as the self-employed and freelance workers, artists, and creators.

In order to accelerate the distribution of funds, a two-phased approach will be followed:

#### Phase I

For funding recipients who are projecting a significant financial impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- A formula-based top-up to recipients of the following arts and culture programs: Canada Periodical Fund, Canada Book Fund, Canada Music Fund (via FACTOR and Musicaction), Canada Arts Training Fund, Canada Arts Presentation Fund, Harbourfront Centre Funding Program, and Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program.
- Funds to certain Sport Support Program and Athlete Assistance Program eligible recipients as well as formula-based top-ups to the bilateral sport agreements with provinces and territories will ensure funding is disbursed rapidly. Emergency funding will also be available to the Aboriginal Sport Circle and the provincial and territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies. Existing agreements will allow for efficient and accelerated delivery.
- Funds will also be distributed by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm Canada to support their recipients. Measures will be in place to avoid any potential duplication of funding between the Department and these organizations.
- Phase I also includes support to the April 7, 2020, announcement of the Digital Citizen Initiative's Digital Citizen Contribution Program to help combat false and misleading COVID-19 information as well as the racism and stigmatization that are often the result.

## Phase 2

As part of the \$500 million budget envelope, the second phase will provide temporary support as follows:

- Funding for eligible organizations with heritage collections through the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program.
- Funding for other organizations, which may include some that do not currently receive funding from Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, Telefilm Canada or the Canada Media Fund (e.g., non-recipient arts and culture organizations, small broadcasters, third-language producers, organizations in live music, local news organizations, magazines and community newspapers).

Further details on Phase 2 will be announced over the coming weeks.

More information will be posted on the Department's website and interested culture, heritage and sport organizations will be able to contact Canadian Heritage.

### Funding for Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence:

We've invested \$50 million to support front line women's shelters and support agencies for victims of sexual and domestic violence centres across Canada.

### Healthcare:

We're investing over \$240 million in online healthcare to expand existing online tools, create new virtual platforms for mental health and primary care.

We are also investing \$175 million to support the Canadian company, AbCellera and their very promising research in drugs to treat COVID-19.

**Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all residents, our front-line workers, essential service providers, government partners at all levels, businesses and students, for your ongoing efforts to help in this time of crisis. We are in this together! Your daily efforts are ensuring that we will get through this together. If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.**

**To all the Moms...Happy Mother's Day. Although words alone can never express our appreciation for what you do each and every day, please recognize that your influence has made us all who we are today. We are forever grateful.**

**Enjoy your weekend.**