



March 18, 2020

**TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS**

Greetings:

Earlier today the Federal Government announced Phase 1 of their measures taken to combat COVID-19 and the massive impact it will have on workers and businesses. The Federal Government has announced \$82 Billion dollars in support, with over \$27 Billion earmarked for direct payments to Canadians and businesses across the country, with the remaining \$55 Billion earmarked for tax payment deferrals.

Some of the measures in today's announcement will require legislation to be enacted and could take a few weeks to roll out. The Government will be recalling the House of Commons to deal with these measures in the very near future.

The following is an outline of some of the areas identified in Phase 1 of the measures taken to help stabilize the economy for both workers and businesses;

**Some highlights from today's announcement:**

- Canada and the US are temporarily restricting all non-essential travel across the border. Supply lines, especially for essential services, will not be impacted. This includes trucking.
- The Federal Government is recommending that Canadians work from home, buy only what you need, avoid public space and be empathetic and caring for others.
- The Federal Government will waive the one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim EI sickness benefits. This temporary measure is in effect as of March 15, 2020.

**Support for Canadians**

- Temporary Income Support for Workers and Parents
- Longer-Term Income Support for Workers
  - Implementing the EI Work Sharing Program
- Income Support for Individuals Who Need it Most
- Flexibility for Taxpayers
- Mortgage Default Management Tools
- Role of Financial Institutions



### **Support for Businesses**

- Supporting Canadian Businesses Through the Canada Account
- Helping Businesses Keep Their Workers
- Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes
- Ensuring Businesses have Access to Credit
- Supporting Financial Market Liquidity

For more information on today's announcement including detailed information for the measures listed above, please visit the Government of Canada website [HERE](#).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please stay safe and healthy during this unprecedented time.

Best Wishes.

In solidarity,

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

Tom Reid  
International Vice President

TR/ln

cc: First District Representatives  
IBEW, System Council #11  
IBEW, CCO