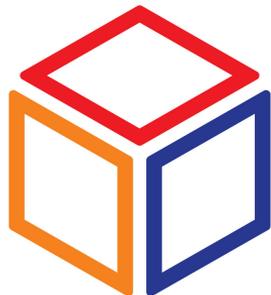


WEEKLY BRIEFING

April 3 2020



Pathway Group

Weekly Pathway Group Newsletter for Friday April 3, 2020

Pathway Group has created a round-up of news releases and articles of interest to keep you informed of the rapidly-changing federal and provincial landscape in the face of COVID-19. We will send this digest every Friday afternoon. For a complete and up-to-date look at all federal and provincial supports, visit our [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#).



News Releases

Monday March 30, 2020



[Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration to Stop the Spread of COVID-19](#)

In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people home, the Government of Ontario extended the Declaration of Emergency and associated emergency measures, including the closure of non-essential workplaces and restrictions on social gatherings. [Read More...](#)

[Ontario recommends increased distancing](#)

Ontario's chief medical officer of health, David Williams, released a statement Sunday recommending that people stay home except for accessing health services, buying groceries, and walking their pets as necessary. He also said people over 70 should self-isolate and see other people only for "essential reasons." [Read More...](#)

[Justin Trudeau promises to pay 75 per cent of wages for hundreds of thousands of Canadians](#)

The federal government promised to pay the wages of Canadian workers to help nurse the economy through the COVID-19 crisis. Any business that have seen a drop of 30 per cent in revenue will be eligible for a subsidy of 75 per cent to help keep workers on the payroll. [Read More...](#)

Tuesday March 31, 2020



[Disobeying the COVID-19 emergency law could cost you \\$100,000 and one year in jail](#)

The Government of Ontario announced that individuals who ignore emergency orders to stay out of recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and dog parks, risk fines ranging from \$750 up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. [Read More...](#)

[COVID-19 measures expected to last until July, government document says](#)

[Federal](#) measures to fight the spread of the virus are expected to continue until at least July, according to a government document obtained by the National Post. [Read More...](#)

Wednesday April 1, 2020



[Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Launch on April 6](#)

The federal government announced that Canadians will be able to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) as of April 6th online at [Canada.ca/coronavirus](#). CERB provides temporary emergency income support to workers who have stopped working and are without employment or self-employment income for reasons related to COVID-19. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit replaces the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit announced on March 18, 2020.

[Ontario Joins Forces with the Private Sector to Fight COVID-19](#)

The Government of Ontario has launched a new \$50 million Fund to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment, including gowns, coveralls, masks, face shields, testing equipment and ventilators. This new Fund will support the development of proposals submitted by businesses and individuals through the [Ontario Together web portal](#). The government is providing this one-time funding in 2020-21 during the COVID-19 outbreak. It is time-limited and will be available to companies and organizations across the province.

[Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to Help Businesses Keep Canadians in their Jobs](#)

To help Canadians and businesses get through these tough economic times, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that the Government is proposing to introduce a wage subsidy of 75 per cent for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. Details about the subsidy were released earlier this week. The Subsidy will enable employers to re-hire workers previously laid off, and to keep those who are already on payroll, so that Canada's workforce and supply chains are able to return from this crisis in a strong position. Eligible employers will be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying the [Canada Revenue Agency online portal](#). Details regarding when employers can apply have not yet been released.

[Both economic and industry experts agree](#): the federal government's wage subsidy should prevent mass layoffs across Canada. But business organizations were left in shock Wednesday at the announcement by the federal finance minister that funds for the subsidy – meant to help those laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic – may not start flowing for another six weeks. "It renders a great concept useless for so many of those most in need of it," said Rocco Rossi, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. The long wait time will mean more people applying for EI in the meantime, the exact scenario a wage subsidy is designed to avoid, Rossi pointed out. [The Canadian Chamber of Commerce agrees](#) that "[w]e urgently need to get these funds into the hands of employers. Every day that we delay these funds will lead to more businesses shutting down and more Canadians facing unemployment."

Thursday April 2, 2020



[New Toronto bylaw requires people in parks to remain two metres apart](#)

The City of Toronto has enacted a new bylaw – in effect for the next 30 days – prohibiting people who don't live together from being two metres of each other in parks and public squares. If prosecuted, they face a hefty fine up to \$5,000, but the city aims to set the fine at \$750. Mayor John Tory said he was irate to see people still crowding and socializing in parks, closed playgrounds and parking lots, resulting in more stringent enforcement.

Friday April 3, 2020



[Ontario launches online COVID-19 test results portal](#)

Ontario has launched a [new online portal](#) where members of the public can access their COVID-19 lab test results. The province says the portal will help ease pressures on public health units and frontline workers who provide the results so that they can better focus on containing the virus. Users will have to enter their health card number, first and last name, date of birth, gender and postal code. Anyone who still has a red and white health card cannot access the portal and must contact their local public health unit.

[Government of Canada provides guidance on services and functions deemed essential to Canada's critical infrastructure during COVID-19](#)

The federal government has released a document to provide "[Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)." The guidance document provides a list of services and functions across Canada's 10 critical infrastructure sectors: Energy and Utilities, Information and Communication Technologies, Finance, Health, Food, Water, Transportation, Safety, Government and Manufacturing. The document is meant to assist various jurisdictions and businesses in their decision-making around the types of employees considered essential to maintain the health, safety, security and economic well-being of Canadians throughout this health crisis. The guidance will support critical infrastructure employers in identifying and managing their workforce, while fostering alignment and harmonization across sectors. The guidance is non-binding and advisory in nature and should not be considered to be a federal directive or standard.

[Trudeau says coronavirus projections for Canada will be shared in 'coming days'](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government will release "in the coming days" its projections of how many people could die from the novel coronavirus pandemic in Canada. Trudeau has faced growing calls for the federal government to share its own modelling given the extraordinary demands being placed on Canadians to help mitigate the spread of the pandemic. But he has not committed to a specific date for that release, saying officials are still working with the provinces to get better-quality data to inform those models.

[COVID-19 could kill 3,000 to 15,000 people in Ontario, provincial modelling shows](#)

Ontario has released its coronavirus projections with officials saying the province could be dealing with the effects of COVID-19 for up to 18 months to 2 years; and that there is the potential for 1,600 Ontarians to be dead by the end of this month despite the current measures in place. The revelations were part of [modelling projections the province released Friday](#) about the spread of COVID-19 in Ontario.

[Ontario Shortens List of Essential Services](#)

Following advice from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario has updated the list of essential businesses that can remain open. The restrictions are aimed at further reducing contact between people and stopping the spread of COVID-19. The government is ordering all businesses not covered by the updated Emergency Order to close effective as of Saturday, April 4, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This list will be in effect for 14 days, with the possibility of an extension as the situation evolves. The updated essential businesses list can be found [here](#).



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