

April 27, 2020

Applications opened for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (“CEWS”). Employers can access the federal government’s application tool [here](#). Our overview of the CEWS can be accessed [here](#).

The Government of Ontario unveiled its three-step plan to reopen the economy following the coronavirus pandemic. The plan can be accessed [here](#).

April 25, 2020

The Government of Ontario [announced](#) that it will provide frontline staff with a temporary “pandemic payment”. The payment will increase hourly wages for qualified workers by \$4. In addition, employees working over 100 hours per month will receive lumpsum payments of \$250 per month for each of the next four months. Eligible workers include staff working in long-term care homes, retirement homes, emergency shelters, supportive housing, social services congregate care settings, correctional institutions and youth justice facilities, as well as those providing home and community care and some hospital staff.

April 24, 2020

The federal government [announced](#) an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (“CECRA”). The program will lower rent by 75% for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19.

The Government of Ontario [announced](#) that the rent assistance program will be implemented through the Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (“OCECRA”). The OCECRA will provide more than \$900 million in aid. Ontario is committing \$241 million to the program.

April 23, 2020

The Government of Ontario extended all emergency orders put into place since it declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020. The orders are extended until May 6, 2020. The list of extended orders can be found [here](#).

April 21, 2020

The Prime Minister [announced](#) a \$350 million investment to support vulnerable Canadians. The investment may affect certain businesses, as funds will be provided through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need.