



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
In Mission for Others

June 11, 2020

Dear ELCIC Congregational Treasurers and Leaders,

It's been several months since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic and very deliberate and international steps were taken here in Canada to ensure we flatten the curve and protect those most vulnerable.

Since that time, ELCIC National and Synod Treasurers have shared several updates with you. We continue to meet on a regular basis to review and discuss how COVID-19 directives have impacted our congregations financially and what programs are available to assist in these challenging times.

At our last meeting, we felt it was time for another letter as there have been several developments and new resources made available relating to the pandemic.

We hope the following may be of interest to you and your congregation.

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) business account log-in Info

The National and Synod Treasurers have developed a document to assist you with some of the common questions that come up as you establish and navigate through your congregation's My Business Account. It is important to ensure that you have access to your MyCRA account for your congregation and that the information is up-to-date (i.e. such as ensuring your congregational directors' information is current). Several government programs require that you apply online or through the CRA platform, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

Access this tip sheet here: <https://elcic.ca/publichealth/documents/HowtologintoMyCRAssteps.pdf>

Information on how to change a claim via MyCRA

You now have the ability to make changes to Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) applications that have been submitted. This can be done in the My Business Account or Represent a Client areas or by telephone. More information is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-after-apply.html#change>

Extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

The CEWS program has been extended from the initial three month period to six months, ending on August 29th. Although it appears as if the primary elements of this program will remain intact for the June to August period, i.e. the 75% subsidy, some aspects are currently under review. We will communicate further information when details are announced.

For more information, refer to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-extends-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)

The federal government has introduced a new program to provide relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The program provides unsecured, forgivable loans to eligible property owners, including churches, who rent to commercial tenants who have experienced at least a 70% drop from pre covid-19 revenues. The property owner must be willing to forgive 25% of the rental income. This program is administered by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Further information on the program is available here:

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/covid19-cecra-small-business>

Canadian Emergency Business Account attestation

The Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) provides an interest-free loan of \$40,000 to eligible businesses and non-for-profits. A maximum of \$10,000 (or 25% of the loan) of this is forgivable if the remainder of the loan is fully repaid on or before December 31, 2022. Applications for this loan are made through your financial institution. While this is not a new program, the National/Synod Treasurers want to ensure that congregations fully understand that this application requires someone from your church to sign an attestation. Please make sure you read all of the items on the attestation carefully. In particular, please note the line about deriving a part of your revenue from sales of goods or services which would not include rentals and fundraising. You may wish to check your prior T3010 Charity Information Returns to see if revenue was reported on line 4640.

Temporary Wage Subsidy program ending

Note that the eligibility period for the temporary 10% wage subsidy will be coming to an end June 19, 2020. To the extent that the income taxes you have deducted and not remitted prior to June 19 are insufficient to offset the value of the subsidy, you can continue to reduce future payroll remittances beyond June 19.

T3010 Charitable Return Filing Deadline

The deadline for the T3010 Charitable Returns that were to be filed between March 18 and December 31, 2020, now have a deadline of December 31, 2020.

While we may be in many different phases across the country in response to reopening, what is very clear is that our continued efforts in preventing the spread of COVID-19 mean long-term implications. As National and Synod Treasurers, it is our commitment to you that we keep in communication with you and share further information as it becomes available.

Please know that we are here for you. If you have any questions about the above information, contact your Synod Office or the ELCIC National Office. As we have said before, this may be uncharted territory but you do not have to navigate it alone.

We continue to pray for the leadership you bring to your congregations as we journey together through these times.

Blessings on your ministry.

Gene Blishen, Treasurer

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada National Office

Jerry Nieman, Treasurer

British Columbia Synod

Paul Ellison, Treasurer

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Monica Johnson, Finance Manager

Saskatchewan Synod

Neil Miller, Treasurer

Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod

Keith Myra, Treasurer

Eastern Synod