



COVID-19: Status Update

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

PM Justin Trudeau announced the federal government's latest measures it will enact to combat the spread of COVID-19. It included significant changes that will impact your business decisions. They include:

- **New border and travel restrictions will not apply to trade or commerce. Essential goods allowed to move freely at the border, something CME has strongly advocated for.**
- Borders will be closed to non-Canadian citizens or permanent residents with exceptions for aircrews, diplomats, and US citizens. This raises concerns about businesses' ability to welcome temporary foreign workers.
- Airlines will receive formal orders to ban all travelers exhibiting symptoms.
- Only 4 Canadian airports to receive flights: Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver. Domestic flights, flights coming from US, Mexico, Caribbean will not be banned.

More measures to be announced tomorrow. Changes and enhancements to EI could be announced then.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Ontario announced it will introduce legislation to provide job-protected leave to employees who:

- Are in isolation or quarantine,
- Are acting in accordance with public health information or,
- That need to be away from work due to school or daycare closures will also be eligible.

The Government is also reviewing current access and eligibility for emergency assistance which is available through the Ontario Works (OW) program to support individuals who are impacted by the coronavirus and who are not able to meet their basic living expenses.

CME POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: [Click for more](#)

CME has developed a series of public policy recommendations based on member feedback to help the manufacturing sector. CME's plan for all of government levels focuses on:

- Temporary cuts to payroll tax and other government fees
- Helping manufacturers stay afloat through grants
- Universal access to support programs with minimal red-tape