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ENVIROFOR NEWS:

Accessing Quickscribe From Home During COVID-19

As the COVID-19 Crisis continues to unfold, our most immediate priorities are the safety of colleagues and supporting our clients in any way we can.

With an increasing number of people working from home, we would like to remind those who have created a personal username and password that you can continue to make use of Quickscribe from any location. If you are unsure how to [access Quickscribe](#) off site, contact us and we will be happy to help. Please know that our thoughts are with you, your families and your employees.

Stay healthy.

CERB Application Process Now Open [April 6]

Effective April 6, Canadians who have lost income due to COVID-19 can now apply to for temporary financial support from the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks for those who qualify:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

During the PM's news briefing on Monday, April 6, the Prime Minister hinted that additional help is on the way for others who do not qualify

"If you're working reduced hours, down to 10 hours a week or less, we will soon announce how you will be able to qualify for the CERB. This is to help you if you're a gig worker, a contract worker or a volunteer firefighter. We'll also have more to say for those who are working but making less than they would with the benefit. I'm thinking in particular of home-care workers or long-term care workers looking after vulnerable seniors."

Visit the [CERB website](#) to apply or learn more about this program.

Spring Session Cut Short

The BC legislature has been adjourned until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several government bills that were tabled this session did not achieve Royal Assent. These include:

- [Bill 1](#), An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament – *First Reading*
- [Bill 2](#), Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2020 – *Second Reading*
- [Bill 4](#), Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2020 – *First Reading*
- [Bill 5](#), Employment Standards Amendment Act, 2020 – *First Reading*
- [Bill 9](#), Evidence Amendment Act, 2020 – *Second Reading*
- [Bill 11](#), Attorney General Statutes (Vehicle Insurance) Amendment Act, 2020 – *First Reading*
- [Bill 13](#), Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 – *Second Reading*

A reminder that if you would like to track the progress of these bills, or to track changes to any laws that bills

amend, please feel free to make use of our [BC Legislative Digest](#) tracking tool. Our new [Keyword Alert](#) tool can also be used to monitor legislative activity and new Orders that reference subject matter or include keywords of your choosing.

Tip: Log in to EnviroFor Online prior to clicking Reporter links.

View [PDF](#) of this Reporter.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION — For notification of federal amendments, we recommend you use our [Section Tracking](#)  tool.

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ENERGY AND MINES NEWS

Pipeline Regulation Amendments

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has amended the [Pipeline Regulation](#), effective March 9, 2020. Below are some of the changes to be aware of. Permit holders must provide post-construction plot plans to the Commission within 60 days of completing construction. These plans must show the location of the pipeline and all associated oil and gas activities. Within 90 days after construction is completed, record drawings, and pipe and component specifications must be provided. The amendment strengthens the safety aspects of a pipeline:

- Once pipeline construction is complete, the permit holder must ensure the right-of-way is kept clear of garbage, debris, and derelict equipment.
- An integrity management program, formerly required only for the operating phase of a pipeline, is now required for the entire life cycle of the pipeline.
- Prior to operating, a permit holder must have a damage prevention program in place for anticipating and preventing damage to the pipeline.
- The CSA Z662 Annex A Safety and Loss Management System is mandatory.

Read the [full BCOGC Bulletin](#) issued March 18, 2020.

Guidance to Mining and Smelting Operations during COVID-19 Updated on March 30, 2020

As challenges caused by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to shift, the BC government and Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's provincial health officer (PHO), are taking unprecedented measures to slow transmission.

On March 16, 2020, Henry issued an order under the [Public Health Act](#) prohibiting gatherings of more than 50 people.

On March 18, 2020, the chief inspector of mines (CIM) communicated to all major mines, sand and gravel, and placer operations in BC with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further to the guidance provided by the CIM that all mines must follow the public health order, the PHO is directing all mines and smelters to take additional precautions to minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission and illness to their employees. While mine sites are not considered to be gatherings of more than 50 people, the PHO has provided the following directions for day-to-day production and site operations: Read the full government [news release](#).

Fuel Price Transparency Act Now in Force

Effective March 9, 2020 the [Fuel Price Transparency Act](#) was brought into force by [B.C. Reg. 52/2020](#) to ensure transparency by oil and gas companies with regard to volumes and pricing. It follows a British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) report that discovered a lack of competition among fuel producers and unaccounted-for increases in pricing. The [Fuel Price Transparency Regulation](#) was also created to empower the utilities

commission for this purpose.

Mining Association of BC Issues Statement on BC Hydro Rate Deferral for Industrial Customers

Michael Goehring, President & CEO of the Mining Association of British Columbia, issued the following statement today in response to the Government of British Columbia's announcement that major BC industries, including the mining sector, will have the opportunity to defer 50% of their BC Hydro bill payments for three months: "MABC commends the Government of BC and BC Hydro for the hydro deferral program announced today as part of government's response to COVID-19.

The hydro deferral and other measures in the Province's COVID-19 Action Plan will improve liquidity and cash flow and help keep the mining sector operating and British Columbians working during this unprecedented health and economic crisis. Mining is energy intensive and electricity is one of the industry's largest costs. Read the [full article](#) on the MABC website.

BCOGC Bulletins March

The BCOGC has issued the following bulletins in the month of March:

- [INDB 2020-08 Submission of DFITs and Updates to TRG Submissions](#)
- [IB 2020-03 BC Oil and Gas Commission Offices Closed](#)
- [INDB 2020-07 Pipeline Regulation Amendments](#)
- [IB 2020-02 BC Oil and Gas Commission Offices](#)
- [INDB 2020-06 Updates to the Application Management System](#)

Visit the [BCOGC website](#) to view these and other bulletins.

ENERGY AND MINES

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Apollo Forest Products Ltd. Exemption Regulation (242/2016)	Mar. 20/20	by Reg 61/2020
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund Regulation (377/2010)	Apr. 1/20	by Reg 7/2017 and Reg 149/2018
Fuel Price Transparency Act	NEW Mar. 9/20	c. 46, SBC 2019, Bill 42 , whole Act in force by Reg 52/2020
Fuel Price Transparency Regulation (/2020)	NEW Mar. 9/20	see Reg 52/2020
Liquefied Natural Gas Facility Regulation (146/2014)	Mar. 9/20	by Reg 55/2020
Petroleum and Natural Gas Act Fee, Rental and Work Requirement Regulation (378/82)	Mar. 1/20	by Reg 33/2020
Petroleum and Natural Gas Drilling Licence and Lease Regulation (10/82)	Mar. 1/20	by Reg 33/2020
Pipeline Regulation (281/2010)	Mar. 9/20	by Reg 54/2020

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

COVID-19 and Your Environmental Obligations

In this period of uncertainty, it is not always easy to set business priorities. While certain businesses are closing or shutting down their operations, voluntarily or under compulsion, environmental obligations are ongoing. Whether your compliance obligations originate from governmental statutes and regulations, or from internal standards or agreements, it is important to identify these obligations as soon as possible in order to manage the impact of the pandemic on your business.

Multiple provinces in Canada have ordered the closure of all non-essential workplaces in order to fight the spread of COVID-19, but the list of workplaces considered essential varies by province or territory. Certain tribunals and government offices may operate with reduced capacity and in-person hearings may be postponed entirely.

In this tumultuous time when new emergency measures are enacted daily, this bulletin provides a starting point for the steps to consider in order to protect your business from consequences of non-compliance, including regulatory penalties.

While the initiative by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to suspend enforcement of some obligations in many industries has gained attention, Canadian businesses should assume monitoring, reporting and emissions control conditions remain enforceable. Requesting that regulators exercise discretion on a case-by-case basis is an option for facilities that anticipate they may be unable to comply with conditions of their approvals; however, relief from obligations cannot be presumed. Read the [full article](#) by [Julie Belley Perron, F.F. \(Rick\) Coburn, Gabrielle K. Kramer, Julie-Anne Pariseau](#) and [Barbora Grochalova](#) with Borden Ladner Gervais LLP.

A Revitalized Forest Sector with First Nations as Full Partners [Opinion] from *BC Forest Professional (Spring Edition)*

The Interior forest sector is undergoing a transition because of the impacts on mid-term timber supply caused by the mountain pine beetle epidemic (MPB) and two severe wildfire seasons. Although devastating for many communities, this provides an opportunity to revisit forest management and look for ways to manage forests differently. Meaningful inclusion of First Nations in this process has the power to facilitate a climate for investment based on sustainable resource development. With a deep connection to the land and a knowledge that goes back generations, Indigenous peoples need to be key players in the transformation of the forest sector in BC.

In the spring of 2019, the BC First Nations Forestry Council (the "Forestry Council") co-hosted a series of workshops alongside the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development with Interior First Nations' communities. Discussions helped identify key changes to forest policies and legislation needed to advance reconciliation and implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (the "UN Declaration") to develop a stronger, more inclusive forest sector. Read the [full article](#) by Charlene Higgins, MSc, PhD published in the *BC Forest Professional*.

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Administrative Penalties (<i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>) Regulation (64/2020)	NEW Mar. 26/20	see Reg 64/2020
Environmental Assessment Fees Regulation (246/2019)	Mar. 26/20	by Reg 66/2020
	Apr. 1/20	by Reg 66/2020

Environmental Assessment Transition Regulation (249/2019)	Mar. 26/20	by Reg 65/2020
Carbon Tax Act	Apr. 1/20	by 2018 Bill 2, c. 4, sections 6 to 10 only (in force by Reg 12/2020), Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2018
Carbon Tax Regulation (125/2008)	Apr. 1/20	by Reg 12/2020
Reviewable Projects Regulation (243/2019)	Mar. 26/20	by Reg 67/2020
	Apr. 1/20	by Reg 243/2019
Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation 89/97	Mar. 26/20	by Reg 68/2020

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Revised Workers Compensation Act – Now in Force

Effective April 6, the newly revised [Workers Compensation Act](#) came into force. According to the government, the revision is intended to make the Act easier to read and understand. For example, the [pre-revised version of the Act](#) has four parts with multiple divisions, sections, and subsections. To improve clarity, the proposed changes would rearrange the Act into eight parts. Complex provisions would be split up into individual components, creating more sections and subsections. In some sections, the government has proposed minor wording revisions expected to modernize the language and help with clarity. A [concordance](#) has been published to help navigate between sections of the old and newly revised version of the Act.

New Interim Guidelines for Industrial Camps

On March 30, the BC Centre for Disease Control issued [new interim guidelines intended](#) to highlight key communicable disease preparedness and response measures that can be taken by industrial camps in relation to COVID-19. It is independent of and does not negate WorkSafe BC or [Industrial Camps Regulation](#) requirements. This guidance is also based upon current knowledge and it should be understood that guidance is subject to change as new data become available and new developments arise with this new virus; furthermore, unique situations may require some discretion in adjusting these guidelines which are meant to be supportive, not prescriptive.

WorkSafe BC Provides Guidance to Employers During the Pandemic

WorkSafe BC has published guidelines for employers on preventing exposure to Covid-19 in the workplace. The guidelines emphasize that the Orders from the [Provincial Health Officer](#) and the [BC Centre of Disease Control](#) are the minimum standards that must be met by all employers to comply with their duty to provide a safe work environment. The guidelines urge employers to consider two key questions:

1. How are you telling workers about exposure to Covid-19 in the workplace?
2. Do you have a system in place where workers can tell you about concerns related to being exposed to Covid-19 in the workplace? This involves determining whether there are any specific tasks that concern them because of risk of being exposed to Covid-19.

The Guidelines deal with three specific areas:

1. identifying exposure hazards and developing measures to counter exposure;
2. controlling the number of people on site; and
3. prohibiting workers who are sick and those returning from outside Canada from attending work.

Read the [full article](#) by Rose Keith with Harper Grey LLP.

Looking for a Summary of Financial Supports for

Businesses and Individuals During COVID-19?

Nearly every day we are inundated with new provincial and federal initiatives that are intended to help provide health, safety and financial support to businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19. It can be a challenge to navigate these initiatives and keep up-to-date with latest information. If you want to get a handle on what financial supports are in place for yourself or for your business, this page by MLA, North Vancouver-Lonsdale Bowinn Ma provides a summary of both provincial and federal COVID-19 financial supports [in one convenient location](#).

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Gas Safety Regulation (103/2004)	Apr. 1/20	by Reg 208/2019
Workers Compensation Act	Mar. 2/20	by Reg 46/2020

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