



April 15, 2020

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and with the approval of the Ontario legislature, the Ontario government has extended the Declaration of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act for a further 28 days. The end date for this declaration is May 12, 2020. The Provincial Government has the ability to extend the declaration after May 12, 2020 provided they assemble the legislature as they did in this case.

What does this mean for us? Our current procedures, social distancing, hand sanitizer, PPE and washroom facilities will remain in place until at least May 12, 2020 and depending on the effectiveness of the recommendations and laws enacted to combat COVID 19 may be increased if the outbreak doesn't subside by then.

We have fielded numerous calls on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the reasoning behind our Supplementary Unemployment Benefit not being paid while on CERB. There is a question and answer section on the CERB website. It can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>

We have requested the Federal Government to allow all locals who have a SUB plans to top up CERB payments. This morning they announced that anyone making employment income up to \$1000.00 a month can apply and receive CERB payments. As SUB is a benefit and not employment income we have asked for clarity on whether we can or cannot top up CERB with SUB. The last thing we would want to do is endanger a members entitlement because of a misinterpretation of the announcement. We will continue to inquire and report on it as soon as possible.

Please also take notice that **all May unit meetings are canceled** given the extension of the Declaration of Emergency by the Provincial Government. As such correspondence has been sent to all active member regarding Local Union and Convention Elections slated for May and June of this year.

I would also like to remind everyone of the upcoming Teletown Hall meeting we will be having regarding our benefit and pension plans. It will be held on April 21, 2020 between the 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Both Cameron Hunter and Charlene Milton will be in attendance to assist in answering your questions on the plans. I hope you can join us. We will contact you at the phone number on file with TEIBAS. Log into myteibas.com to verify your phone number on file is correct.

Finally, we have had questions on whether anyone has been granted allowances under the shift Memorandum of Agreement. The short answer is none have been approved to date. What has been approved is staggered start times on some jobs to allow separation in hoist-ways, lunchrooms and entrances to and from the site. Should you be told that your site has been approved please contact the union office as soon as possible.

Fraternally,
Steven Martin

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