

A Summary of the PM's News Conference - April 21, 2020: Important Update on CEWS

Courtesy of KPMG Management Services LP

The Prime Minister announced that registration for the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** will open **on Monday, April 27th**.

Businesses are able to use a new CRA [online calculator](#) (live today) to prepare for the CEWS and determine the subsidy amount they will be eligible to receive in coming weeks.

The PM explained that the calculator is intended to help businesses plan ahead, remarking that “we hope to be able to get the money out quickly”, “within the following days.”

He stated that business should know the funds are coming so they shouldn't hesitate to borrow or take out loans (via EDC/BDC or the banks) for what is required to pay their employees now, to keep them on the payroll.

Subsequently, **Treasury Board President Jean-Yves Duclos clarified**: “We expect that 90% of applications will have been processed by May 5th and distributed by the CRA via direct deposit or cheque. Minister Duclos invited businesses to update their CRA profile online. A media briefing will be held later today.

Media: How can you confirm employers that aren't in Canada will not be able to use the CEWS for tax evasion, fraud?

PM: We have invested \$1 B in the CRA to track down businesses that take advantage of the system.

Other announcements:

- \$350 M for a new **Emergency Community Support Fund** to support charities and non-profits assisting society's most vulnerable during COVID-19.
A portion of the funds will be allocated to smaller, independent frontline organizations to adapt to the new realities of the pandemic, as well as national organizations such as the Red Cross, the United Way and Community Foundations of Canada. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/21/prime-minister-announces-further-support-help-canadians-need>
- The PM also highlighted the innovations coming out of Canada's digital superclusters, referencing DNASTack and Food-X.

Ontario Revises Projections:

- New data released yesterday found that community spread “appears to have peaked” in Ontario but long-term care cases are rising.
- The total number of cases for this wave is now likely less than 20,000, substantially lower than the expected 80,000 in Ontario's April 3 modelling update (or the worst-case scenario of 300,000).
- Experts initially anticipated a peak of community spread at some point in May.
- Premier Ford indicated the province is working on a plan to gradually reopen everything it shut down as part of its ongoing state of emergency, and that plan will be measured and safe.