



The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Regional Council 15

April 14, 2020

Dear Regional Members, Ministry Personnel, Chairs of Governing Bodies, Regional Executives and Committees:

As I have said so many times, the sand continues to shift under our feet. Last Thursday I was working on a process with the Property Committees to help the Communities of Faith (Pastoral Charges) make application for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) \$40,000.00 business account interest free loan. Today, that has changed.

Erik Mathiesen has informed us that on Saturday, Parliament passed the wage subsidy program, which has previously been discussed. There were a number of friendly amendments - including:

- revenue loss threshold for month 1 reduced to 15%
- flexibility in calculating revenue decline
- expansion of eligibility (still analyzing)

On the downside, we learned Thursday afternoon that the \$40,000 CEBA interest free loan **expressly excludes our congregations**. It is unclear whether this will be remedied, if there will be a separate program developed for charities or if this is just the way it is going to be. The United Church, through the Finance unit are actively lobbying on this matter.

With regard to the immediate 10% wage subsidy, many Pastoral Charges have requested that the GCO be authorized to process these with ADP. **The cut off for pastoral charges to provide authorization is April 20** and processing will begin with payroll runs April 27 and onwards. The government rebate will be received within 2 days of the payroll run. For those electing to do it themselves, there will be an online calculator. If you are wishing to have the General Council, through the ADP, to process this for your Pastoral Charge, please follow the process on the link: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/government-emergency-programs>

We are also in the process of having a loan program approved through the General Council Executive for Pastoral Charges; there will be more by information at the end of the week.

There is an ADP webinar today, **Tuesday April 14, 2020 at 2:00pm (ET)** and of course the Wednesday night update. Please click the link and register:

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars>.

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As we wade through these difficult times, may we do so together, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister
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