



THE HON. MARGARET DAWN ANDERSON, NWT THE HON. PAT DUNCAN, YUKON  
THE HON. DENNIS PATTERSON, NUNAVUT

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., MP  
Minister of Finance  
Delivered by email to: [Marion.Pilon-Cousineau@canada.ca](mailto:Marion.Pilon-Cousineau@canada.ca)

June 4, 2020

Dear Minister Morneau,

We are writing to you with an urgent request to consider the realities of Northern businesses in the drafting of any amendments to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program.

We recognize the significant efforts of the Governments and the civil service to address the needs of Canadians across the country in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. While these measures have been an important start, as we indicated in our letter dated April 9, 2020, they do not fully address the needs of Northerners.

The businesses operating in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut already faced a unique set of challenges pre-pandemic, including seasonal and weather-dependent transportation, community re-supply, as well as the limited availability of local, skilled workers, all of which are reflected in higher costs of operation. These issues are further heightened by the pandemic. Non-revenue generating businesses such as mineral exploration companies, junior mining companies, construction companies, the seasonal hospitality industry, and Indigenous businesses with the active resource sector are unlikely to be able to demonstrate a loss in revenues of 15% in March, and 30% in April and May of this year.

For this reason, we welcomed the announcement on May 15, 2020, that the Government of Canada intends to propose legislative amendments to the CEWS, including providing flexibility for existing employees who were not regularly employed in early 2020, such as seasonal workers.

In drafting these amendments, we recommend that in light of the potential impacts to businesses in the North, the Government of Canada waive the CEWS program requirement of 30% revenue loss for *all* Northern businesses impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

We have heard through stakeholder engagement that this recommendation, initially presented by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, is widely endorsed by various sectors across the north, including by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the NWT Member of Parliament Michael McLeod, the NWT & Nunavut Construction Association, and the NWT & Nunavut and Yukon Chambers of Mines.



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We appreciate your attention to the unique needs of Northern businesses.

Regards,

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Sen. Margaret Dawn Anderson

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Sen. Pat Duncan

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Sen. Dennis Patterson

**Cc**

The Honourable Dan Vandal, P.C., M.P., Minister of Northern Affairs

The Honourable Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P., Associate Minister of Finance

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

The Honourable Patricia Bovey, Senator, Manitoba

The Honourable Caroline Cochrane, M.L.A., Premier, Northwest Territories

The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, M.L.A., Premier, Nunavut

The Honourable Sandy Silver, M.L.A., Premier, Yukon

Mr. Larry Bagnell, M.P., Yukon

Mr. Michael McLeod, M.P., Northwest Territories

Ms. Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, M.P., Nunavut