

## COVID-19 Update – June 3, 2020

**BC Update:** We now have 2,601 cases in BC, up 40 since last week. There have been 165 deaths due to COVID-19. Thirty-one people are in hospital due to the virus, of which only eight are in intensive care. There are now only 207 active cases in the province, the lowest level since before a public health emergency was declared. Only four are active outside the lower mainland.

**K-12 Return to Part-time In-Class:** The Government of British Columbia reopened in-class instruction to all students on Monday, June 1, 2020, with about 30% of expected enrolment in attendance. Children of essential service workers and students who need more support will continue to be offered full-time classroom instruction.

**Minimum Wage Increased:** BC's minimum wage increased to \$14.60 per hour as of June 1st, representing a 5.4% increase.

**BC Budget Consultation:** For the first time, British Columbians have the opportunity to share their priorities for the future of B.C. entirely online. Consultations are occurring virtually through video and teleconference on June 1-4, 8-12, 15-19 and 22-24, 2020, with hearings and presenters grouped into small panels based on various themes. The [survey](#) is now open, with the deadline to receive all submissions set for June 26, 2020 at 5 p.m. (Pacific time).

**Municipal Gas Tax Advance:** The federal government announced it will fast-track this year's \$2.2 billion in gas tax funding for municipal governments. While this will help Canada's cash-strapped local governments, the funding can't be used for operating costs which are in a critical state.

**Commercial Rent Program Strengthened:** B.C. businesses eligible for rent support from the federal government will be protected from evictions as the B.C. government issues a new order under the Emergency Program Act (EPA). Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines.

**State of Emergency Extended:** Premier John Horgan announced a further extension of the provincial state of emergency until June 9, 2020. Declarations last for two weeks and can be extended by two weeks at a time.

In solidarity,

Justin Schmid  
CUPE Legislative Coordinator - BC Region