

An Update for Congregational Treasurers and Leaders on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

On April 1, 2020, the Government of Canada announced further details for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. We hope the following will help provide a little more clarification for congregations on how to access these programs.

There are two parts to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. The first is a 10% *Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers*. This was announced earlier in March. The second is a 75% wage subsidy designed to help employers hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the key pieces of information we were waiting for was clarification about whether the announcement of the 75% subsidy cancelled out the previously announced 10% subsidy. Yesterday's announcement confirmed that 10% wage subsidy is still available.

What steps do congregations need to take to access these subsidies?

Congregations are able to apply for the 10% subsidy immediately. This subsidy is already available as a part of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) payroll remittance process. In about 3-6 weeks, you will then be able to apply for the 75% subsidy.

Further information on the 10% wage subsidy, including eligibility, and how to calculate and receive the subsidy, is available here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>.

A few things we currently know about the subsidies:

If a congregation is approved for both subsidies, the 75% subsidy will be reduced by the 10% subsidy already received through the payroll process.

The 75% wage subsidy is based on pre-crisis remuneration. Where possible, employers are expected to maintain existing employees' pre-crisis employment earnings.

Please see the Government's website for further details about eligibility, maximum benefit details and the most up-to-date information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>

Questions?

Contact your Synod Office or the ELCIC National Office.

It is our commitment to you that we will keep in communication with you and share further information when it becomes available.