

Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums

Dear Senator,

Yesterday you heard from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on Bill C-9, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act. As a member of the Chamber, I am writing you today to add our support to yesterday's presentation.

Our member accredited zoos and aquariums have made extensive use (95%) of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, while 35% have made use of rent relief measures. In addition to asks below, Canada's 29 accredited zoos and aquariums ask that municipally-owned facilities be eligible for the CEWS.

To reiterate what was presented:

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) should be maintained at 75%, as was provided during the first wave of the pandemic. As businesses become increasingly stretched during the second wave, it is not reasonable to begin decreasing this crucial support, especially for hardest-hit sectors.
- CEWS changes now require employers to provide salary top-ups, which was previously not the case. This puts further pressure on businesses that will increasingly be unable to keep their employees on the payroll.

On the new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) Program:

- The removal of the revenue cap from the problematic CECRA program is appreciated, however, it has been replaced with a similarly unhelpful cap, just in a different form: multi-unit corporate operators cannot claim more than 65% of \$300,000 (which is \$195,000). This significantly reduces the amount of support provided to medium-sized businesses simply based on their ownership structure, versus support being provided to their direct competitors.
- Businesses operating under strict capacity limitations ought to be able to qualify for the lockdown top-ups. For example, as the legislation is currently designed, a restaurant does not qualify for the top-up if they are allowed to open indoor dining at all, even if their capacity is restricted to 10% or less.
- Businesses that fell through the cracks of the CECRA program should be able to retroactively apply for rent support back to when the pandemic began, not just October 1.
- There is no guarantee of when money will flow from CERS. For businesses that were able to access CECRA, it ended six weeks ago. Still more businesses have been without any rent support since March. Money under the CERS program must flow by the end of the month.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C., President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce