

## **CILTNA Response to COVID-19 – The Canadian Situation**

### **1. How has the Covid-19 crisis hit the transport and logistics industry in your country and what are the key challenges?**

**Answer:** The Canada-U.S border is the longest unprotected border in the world. Travel between the two countries is now restricted to those providing essential services in the supply chain. Truckers, railways and airline cargo handlers continue to move products and merchandise between the two countries. Some truck driver shortages.

Foreign nationals may not enter Canada by **air or marine** if they are arriving from a foreign country other than the U.S.

### **2. What are the lockdown effects on business relationships and business models?**

**Answer:**

- The closure of all bars, dine-in restaurants, nightclubs, theatres and all non-essential services.
- A ban of all gatherings of 5 or more people
- Distancing of two metres between individuals in public
- The closure of all churches and other faith settings
- Self-isolation (14 days) for returnees to Canada, for those over 70 or those showing COVID-19 symptoms
- All Canadian airlines are, for the most part, limiting flights to domestic services and refusing to carry passengers who are showing symptoms of the COVID-19 virus or who have come down with the virus.
- Air Canada's Cargo division has begun using its aircraft to operate cargo-only flights to Europe, with other flights planned for Latin America and South America. The aircraft on these flights carry no passengers but move time-sensitive shipments, including medical supplies to combat COVID-19, and goods to support the global economy. Generally, cargo shares the bottom level of the plane with passengers on the upper level. The fact that the planes are now flying with just cargo in most instances as pushed Cargo charges higher as the air carrier must cover all of its costs from the cargo.
- Vacation travel operator Transat A.T. has temporarily laid off 3,600 employees making up 70 per cent of its Canadian workforce as travel restrictions due to COVID-19 erase demand for flights and hotels. The Montreal-based airline said on March 23, 2020 that it will ground Transportation's all flights between April 1 and April 30.
- Via Rail, Canada's national rail passenger provider has cut back services on several routes across the country.

- CN and CP, our two Class 1 national railways, are operating as normal however, container shipments are down considerable to and from Canada's ports
- While the country's top grocers assure Canadians they'll be able to keep up with demand amid the COVID-19 outbreak, food producers are expressing concern over the impact border restrictions could have on Canada's agricultural food production. There are emerging shortages of truck drivers to deliver goods both cross-border and within Canada.
- It is not clear when Canada will be opening its borders again, leaving producers and farmers wondering about the approximately 50,000 migrant workers Canadian they depend on annually. Efforts are underway to allow the migrant workers, mostly from Mexico, into Canada for the upcoming busy planting and pruning season.

**3. To what extent have businesses and organisations been able to change their operational response already to manage through the Covid-19 period?**

**Answer:**

Businesses that provide food takeout and delivery options are encouraged to keep those options available to continue to provide the public with food options while limiting social interactions between people.

Air Canada gate agents are reseating customers in their Economy cabin to have as few people sitting next to one another as possible. Onboard North American flights, AC is providing individual water bottles instead of the standard beverage service, along with other changes.

**4. What help and support is being given in your country by government, CILT or other trade bodies?**

**Answer:**

The Federal Government has implemented (April 6<sup>th</sup>) a **75% subsidy to employers** on wages of employees, meant to cushion the blow from the pandemic. Employers must show that their revenues have fallen by at least 30% due to Covid-19. The wages the **subsidy** covers will be capped at \$847 a week and backdated to March 15<sup>th</sup>

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) provides a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to:

- workers who must stop working due to COVID19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support.
- workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.

- workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.
- wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.

### **Canadian Federal Assistance to Other Countries**

In support of global efforts to combat COVID-19, the Government of Canada provided \$2 million to the World Health Organization to help vulnerable countries prepare and respond to coronavirus events.

The Government of Canada will provide an additional \$50 million in international assistance to the World Health Organization and other partners for potential bi-lateral support for developing countries in response to COVID-19.

Federal G7 health and finance ministers have held regular calls to share approaches and discuss responses with the aim of protecting the health of their citizens and the global population as well as mitigating other issues related to the outbreak.

The Government of Canada will also continue working with international health regulators, including the European Medicines Agency and the United States Food and Drug Administration, to support and coordinate rapid regulatory responses for potential vaccines and other medical countermeasures.

### **Support for Other Countries:**

the Government of Canada has provided China with approximately 16 tonnes of personal protective equipment—such as clothing, face shields, masks, goggles and gloves—to support China's response to the outbreak without diminishing needed supplies in Canada.

The Government continues to support other global initiatives that are helping to strengthen health systems and improve early detection of viruses such as COVID-19.

## **5. How can B2B and CILT play a role in overcoming the Covid-19 challenges?**

### **Answer:**

- “Stay at Home” and maintain a distance of two metres from one another.
- Wash hands for a minimum period of twenty seconds often
- Conduct all business-to-business activities through teleconferencing and other IT means