



Via email:

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June 3, 2020

Hon. Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Finance  
Department of Finance  
90 Elgin St.  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

**RE: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Consultation**

Dear Minister Morneau:

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Department of Finance's consultation on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program (CEWS). On behalf of the CPA's 15,000 physiotherapy professionals and students across Canada, I would like to thank the Government of Canada for its rapid response to Canadians experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. By making a few additional changes to CEWS, this valuable program can be extended to the many physiotherapy clinics and businesses who are currently excluded and stand to be adversely impacted in the coming months and years.

Many physiotherapy clinics and businesses operate in a model which includes contractors and subcontractors. Because CEWS does not consider contract service providers as eligible employees under the program, the applicability of the program to physiotherapy clinics/businesses who operate under this model is limited. Changing the eligibility criteria of the CEWS program to include contract service providers would help improve access to the program for physiotherapy clinics and businesses. As they are resuming operations, many of these businesses are facing significant revenue decreases due to reduced capacity within clinics and fewer appointments to maintain physical distancing, for example. By allowing businesses to include contract service providers within the CEWS program, they would have access to additional funds needed to bridge this difficult time.

This would also be a measure that would help transition self-employed physiotherapists from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and get them back to work providing physiotherapy services at a time when Canadians are feeling the impacts of reduced physical activity due to quarantine, isolation and physical restrictions. The longer that physiotherapy services cannot be accessed, the greater the risk that many Canadians will experience unaddressed limitations to mobility, slower healing, reduced access to pain management and extended recovery times. Ensuring that physiotherapy services are available to support our communities as we begin to recover from the pandemic is essential.

Physiotherapy clinics and individual physiotherapists, physiotherapy assistants (PTAs) and physical rehabilitation therapists (PRTs) need access to financial supports being provided by government to ensure they remain financially viable so they can continue to serve our communities as they recover from the pandemic. We have the opportunity to adjust the CEWS now to enable physiotherapists to both continue to provide care for their patients and access the emergency income needed to get through the immediate financial hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Physiotherapists are an integral part of the health care system, provide an essential service, and they play a key role in protecting, maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of patients and in preventing the need to access



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more complex and costly care from our healthcare system. We encourage you to recognize the critical role physiotherapists play during these difficult times by adjusting the criteria of CEWS to ensure that physiotherapists and physiotherapy and health clinics providing valuable care to Canadians are not excluded.

We look forward to continuing to support the government in its efforts to deal with COVID-19 pandemic and welcome any opportunities to contribute to its decisions and actions. Please contact us with any questions or if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

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