



Dear Valued Clients,

As your trusted advisors, we are committed to the safety and well-being of our clients, as we navigate through these uncertain times. We have provided some insight below as to how we will be operating moving forward with regards to deadlines and any questions you may have:

### **Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response and Support Plan**

On March 18, 2020 the Prime Minister of Canada announced a new set of measures to help Canadians and Businesses through the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19. These measures look to directly support both Canadians and Businesses through this time of uncertainty.

## **PERSONAL MEASURES**

### **Personal Tax Filing Flexibility**

The government of Canada announced the following measures to temporarily alleviate the tax burden on Canadians during the outbreak.

- The individual income tax filing deadline will be deferred until June 1, 2020.
- Any personal income tax due on or after March 18, 2020 will not be payable until after August 31, 2020. This applies to any income tax balances due for 2019 and any future instalments for 2020. No interest and penalties will be charged on the amounts due during this period.

Brownlow Partners will continue to work towards the original deadline of April 30th, 2020 and recommends filing your income tax return as soon as possible. Under the current circumstances, we understand there may be limitations in your ability to provide us with the required information to prepare your income tax return. We continue to encourage the use of electronic communication through e-mail or through our CCH electronic delivery portal. Please feel free to contact us to make special arrangements to receive your personal tax information.

### **Income Support for Workers and Partners**

The government has also announced programs for Canadians without paid sick leave, who are quarantined or are required to stay home to care for children. Further there are new guidelines for EI for Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours as a result of COVID's impact. Further details can be found at the link, located at the bottom of this document. As required, please contact us to discuss your situation.

## **BUSINESS MEASURES**

### **Business Tax Filing Flexibility**

The government of Canada announced the following measures to temporarily alleviate the tax burden on Canadian Businesses during the outbreak.

- Any corporate income tax payments that become due on or after March 18, 2020 will not be payable until after August 31, 2020. This applies to any corporate income tax balance, including instalments. No interest and penalties will be charged on the amounts due during this period.

As of today, no change related to Harmonized Sales Tax (“HST”) payments, or payroll remittances has been issued. We encourage our clients to continue to file and pay applicable HST returns, and payroll remittances as normally required by your business.

### **Helping Businesses Keep their Workers**

The government is proposing to provide eligible small businesses with a temporary wage subsidy for three months. The subsidy will equal 10% of remuneration paid during the period up to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Businesses will be able to benefit immediately from this support by reducing their remittances of income tax withheld on their employees’ remuneration. Eligible corporations include those eligible for the small business deduction, non-profit organizations and charities. If you are a business that utilizes a payroll service to process, prepare and remit your source deductions, please contact them to ensure this wage subsidy is properly claimed.

### **Ensuring Businesses have access to Credit**

Canadian banks have confirmed their commitment to provide flexible lending solutions to ensure Canadians and businesses have access to credit during this time. We encourage you to contact the Account Manager at your bank to discuss the options available to you.

The Federal Government announced on March 13, 2020 \$10 billion of additional support for businesses by establishing a Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP). This program can be accessed through BDC and EDC.

For specific information surrounding this program, please visit BDC’s website below:

[https://www.bdc.ca/en/about/mediaroom/news\\_releases/pages/bdc-announces-additional-measures-provide-relief-canadian-entrepreneurs.aspx?utm\\_source=linkedin.com&utm\\_medium=socialmedia&utm\\_campaign=bdcsocial](https://www.bdc.ca/en/about/mediaroom/news_releases/pages/bdc-announces-additional-measures-provide-relief-canadian-entrepreneurs.aspx?utm_source=linkedin.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&utm_campaign=bdcsocial)

If you are interested in accessing these funds, please contact a BDC or EDC rep to learn about the options that are available for your business. Will Deng and Mashukur Rahman are two account managers that we know in this area. We would be happy to provide their contact information upon request.

## **TRUST MEASURES**

### **Trust Tax Filing Flexibility**

The government of Canada announced the following measures to temporarily alleviate the tax burden on trusts during the outbreak.

- The filing deadline for trusts with a December 31, 2019 yearend will be deferred until May 1, 2020.
- The tax payment deadline will be deferred until after August 31, 2020 for any payments that become owing on or after March 18, 2020. This applies to any tax balances, including instalments. No interest and penalties will be charged on the amounts due during this period.

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

As this situation evolves, we will continue to keep you apprised of any additional support available to assist you and your business during this time.

Specifics details around any of the above mentioned can be found at the following on the Government of Canada website at the following link:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Helping\\_Businesses\\_Keep](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Helping_Businesses_Keep)

If you have questions about any of the above-noted items and how they may impact your business or personal tax situation, please feel free to contact any one of us for a more in-depth conversation at 905.648.0404.

**Dave Brownlow | Brad Perco | Brianne Barton | Andrew Zucker**

On behalf of the entire Brownlow Partners team, we thank you for your patience and cooperation during these unforeseeable circumstances. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your professional advisor directly. With questions concerning Human Resource or Employment Insurance issues, please contact Kendra Jaworski HR Manager at: [kendra.jaworski@brownlowcas.com](mailto:kendra.jaworski@brownlowcas.com).