The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for compliance professionals around the world, including those in Canada. The following is a selection of federal and provincial legislative and regulatory actions as well as news and analysis articles compiled by the Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence editorial staff. The selection includes Regulatory Intelligence and Reuters news coverage. More COVID-19 news and information can be found via the TRRI platform’s search facility.

Additional COVID-19 resources are also available on the Thomson Reuters COVID-19 Resource Center. For a regularly updated list of U.S. federal regulations related to the COVID-19/novel coronavirus update, please visit the Skopos Labs Coronavirus Policy Tracker.

You can create your own custom My Updates through the Create a Custom My Updates link on the Regulatory Intelligence homepage. Select your geography and/or content types you would like resources from and include the following keyword search: covid! or coronavirus.

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¹ This COVID-19 Coverage was compiled by Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence editorial staff and other contributors.
COVID-19 COVERAGE - CANADA

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL COVID-19 LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Federal Regulations

Regulations Amending the Income Tax Regulations (COVID-19 – Wage and Rent Subsidies), SOR/2020-284

On October 9, 2020, the Government of Canada announced the extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) until June 2021 and the introduction of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS). The CERS is the successor to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program and will also be available until June 2021.

CEWS initially received royal assent on April 11, 2020, through the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2. It is a wage subsidy provided through the Income Tax Act (the Act) that offers support to those eligible employers that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. CEWS provides a strong incentive for employers to pay employees who have been sent home (i.e. furloughed employees) for health and safety reasons or due to lack of work while also enabling employers to retain employees (i.e. active employees) who are still on the payroll and to hire workers previously laid off.

The amendments to the Income Tax Regulations (the Regulations) prescribe three additional four-week periods under which eligible organizations can receive continued support through the CEWS and CERS: from December 20, 2020, to January 16, 2021 (Period 11); from January 17, 2021, to February 13, 2021 (Period 12); and from February 14, 2021 to March 13, 2021 (Period 13).

These regulations are deemed to have come into force December 20, 2020.

SROs, EXCHANGES AND SECURITIES REGULATORS

Alberta Securities Commission (ASC)

Alberta Securities Commission Highlights Top Investment Risks for 2021 (January 7, 2021)

The ASC has released its list of the top investment risks and possible scams to look out for in 2021. The list, based on investor complaints, ongoing investigations and current enforcement trends, details numerous COVID-19 pandemic related scams on the rise. For more information see the link here.

Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC)

IIROC Notice #21-0003 – Covid-19 Related Exemptive Relief Applications Received and Exemptions Granted to December 31, 2020 (January 5, 2021)

The IIROC Board of Directors have approved the offering of exemptive relief in a number of areas relating to hardships Dealer Members are experiencing in complying with related IIROC Dealer Member Rules (DMRs) as a result of the their preparation for, or in
response to, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board has approved an extension of staff’s authority to provide relief until March 31, 2021. The Board has also authorized staff to extend existing exemptions until June 30, 2021. For more information see the link here.

**IIROC Notice #20-0270 – Business locations - Registration and Compliance approach to work from home arrangements** (December 21, 2021)

IIROC has published a Guidance Notice to clarify its approach and expectations relating to work from home (WFH) arrangements, particularly given the move to more permanent WFH arrangements by different types of Approved Persons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information see the link here.

**OTHER NEWS AND SUMMARIES**

**Canadian Manufacturing Activity Increases at a Record Pace in December**
(Reuters) - Canadian factory activity expanded at its fastest pace on record in December as new orders and production climbed, while manufacturers grew more optimistic that output would continue to rise in 2021, data showed on Monday.²

The IHS Markit Canada Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ index (PMI) rose to a seasonally adjusted 57.9 in December from 55.8 in November, the sixth straight month that the PMI was above the 50 threshold that marks expansion in the sector.

It was the highest level for the index since the survey began in October 2010.

The data “indicated the Canadian manufacturing sector concluded 2020 with a record month-on-month improvement in business conditions,” Shreeya Patel, an economist at IHS Markit, said in a statement. “New orders and output supported the latest rise with robust increases registered.”

Demand conditions continued to improve in both domestic and foreign markets, said IHS Markit, adding that the rise in new work from abroad was attributed by purchasing managers to rising demand from clients in the U.S. and Asia.

Increased manufacturing workloads contributed to the strongest job creation in over two years, IHS Markit said. Less encouraging was mounting capacity and supply chain pressures, with the latter often linked by manufacturers to coronavirus-related restrictions.

“Relatively high virus case numbers still pose a threat to the industry should restrictions tighten again,” said Patel.

A number of Canadian provinces have announced tighter economic restrictions as a second wave of coronavirus sweeps across Canada.

Still, the data showed that Canadian manufacturers remain upbeat about their prospects for growth over the next 12 months. The measure of future output rose to a three-month high of 64.1 from 62.9 in November.

**Vacations Abroad Cost Canadian Politicians' Jobs Amid COVID-19 Travel Curbs**

(Reuters) - Eight Canadian politicians resigned or were demoted on Monday after travelling internationally over the Christmas holidays despite urgings from government officials to avoid non-essential trips during the COVID-19 pandemic.3

Conservative member of parliament David Sweet resigned as chair of the House of Commons’ ethics committee after he travelled to the United States to deal with a “property issue” but stayed on for leisure, federal opposition Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole’s office said in a statement.

In the western province of Alberta, Premier Jason Kenney said on social media he accepted the resignation of Municipal Affairs Minister Tracy Allard and asked his chief of staff Jamie Huckabay to step down after they travelled to Hawaii and the United Kingdom respectively.

“I have listened to Albertans who are sending a clear message that they want real consequences for these actions,” Kenney said. “By travelling abroad over the holidays, these individuals demonstrated extremely poor judgment.”

Pictures on social media showed a large banner reading “Welcome Home, Aloha Allard” hung outside Allard’s constituency office in Grand Prairie. Local media reported angry constituents had put it there.

Five other legislative assembly members of Alberta’s ruling United Conservative Party have been demoted for travelling abroad over the holidays, violating coronavirus travel warnings issued by federal and provincial governments.

Scott Moe, premier of Saskatchewan, said in a statement he accepted the resignation of Highways Minister Joe Hargrave, who visited California. Hargrave’s claim that he travelled to finalize a home sale was questioned by the opposition party.

Last week, Ontario’s Finance Minister Rod Phillips resigned after public outrage over a Caribbean vacation he took in December.

As of Jan. 3, Canada had reported 601,663 COVID-19 cases, up 6,578 on the day, and 15,865 deaths, up 41 on the day.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spent Christmas at home with his family over the holidays and no federal cabinet ministers travelled either, a government official said.

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