

# ISSUE IN FOCUS



## Temporary Sick Pay Coverage Under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and/or the Employment Insurance Act (EI)

### Background:

In May 2020, the Prime Minister committed to engaging with provincial counterparts about instituting a temporary sick pay program.

### Issue:

During the critical re-start phase, worker safety is paramount and continued efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 is imperative. Also important in efforts to reopen the economy is building consumer and investor confidence that COVID-19 related business risks are being managed as much as possible.

A very compelling case exists for utilizing CERB and/or EI to provide temporary sick pay coverage across the country for the COVID-19 period which, at its core, is a global pandemic and a national public health emergency.

### Recommendations:

1. Canadian business leaders support a temporary sick pay program under the CERB and/or the EI program that "sunset" once public health and emergency orders related to COVID-19 are lifted. The program should apply to workers who show symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, are required to self-isolate, and are unable to work from home.

### History:

Letter to Premier 2020