

Daily Update – 21 January 2021

Governor General Julie Payette resigns

Gov.-Gen. Julie Payette has resigned after an outside workplace review of Rideau Hall found that the pair presided over a toxic work environment. Last year, an independent consulting firm was hired by the Privy Council Office (PCO) to review reports that Payette was responsible for workplace harassment at Rideau Hall.

Chief Justice of Canada Richard Wagner will serve as Governor General on an interim basis.

Ontario commercial eviction ban extended

On December 17, 2020 the Ontario government quietly passed a regulatory change (O. Reg. 763/20) under the Ontario Commercial Tenancies Act that extended the non-enforcement period on commercial evictions.

According to the Ontario website

CECRA-eligible tenants

We have extended the temporary ban on evictions of businesses eligible for the [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance \(CECRA\)](#) for small businesses program, regardless of whether or not the business previously participated in the program.

Landlords whose tenants were eligible for CECRA or would be eligible if applications were still being accepted, cannot change the locks or seize the tenant's assets. These landlords can go to court to get an eviction order, but if it is for outstanding rent, the court cannot make it enforceable before the temporary ban on evictions is lifted.

The temporary ban on commercial evictions for CECRA-eligible tenants originally ran from May 1, 2020 to October 30, 2020 and has been extended until January 31, 2021.

If this temporary ban on evictions applies to you and your landlord evicted you or seized your goods during that period, they must return any unsold goods and let you back into the unit.

If they've already sold the goods, the proceeds must go towards your unpaid rent. If they've rented the unit to a new tenant, your landlord must pay you damages.

CERS-approved tenants

We have temporarily banned evictions for tenants who have been approved for the [Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy \(CERS\)](#).

A tenant who is approved to receive CERS, and has provided their landlord proof of approval, will be protected from eviction for a 12-week period from the date of approval.

If a tenant reapplies for a new CERS payment, the 12-week ban is effectively restarted from the date of the new CERS approval. Tenants must provide their landlord proof of each new approval.

The last possible date a CERS-approved tenant could be protected from evictions is April 22, 2022.

If this temporary ban on evictions applies to you, your landlord cannot evict you or seize your goods.

Commercial tenants who can pay their rent must continue to do so. Landlords should work with their tenants to come to an agreement.

For more information [click here](#)

Statistics Canada says annual pace of inflation slowed in December to 0.7 per cent

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The agency said Wednesday the consumer price index was up 0.7 per cent in December compared with a year earlier, after posting a year-over-year increase of 1.0 per cent in November.

Prices rose in six of the eight major components on a year-over-year basis in December.

Food prices posted a year-over-year increase of 1.1 per cent in December compared with 1.9 per cent in November as the cost of fresh vegetables rose 1.1 per cent compared with 4.6 per cent in November. Prices for fresh fruit fell 6.0 per cent year over year.

Transportation prices were down 0.6 per cent as air transportation prices fell 14.5 per cent.

Statistics Canada said gasoline prices in December were down 8.5 per cent compared with a year earlier, but up 3.3 per cent compared with November as oil prices rose.

Excluding gasoline, the annual pace of inflation in December was 1.0 per cent compared 1.3 per cent in November.

The average of Canada's three measures for core inflation, which are considered better gauges of underlying price pressures and closely tracked by the Bank of Canada, was 1.57 per cent for December, down from 1.67 per cent in November.

Suspension of Limitation Periods Set to End in British Columbia on March 25, 2021

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, various governments in Canada issued orders suspending limitation periods, which are generally the deadlines by which a person must commence a proceeding in respect of a claim or forever lose their right to do so. The government of British Columbia has announced that their temporary suspension of limitation periods will end on March 25, 2021.

[Read More Here](#)

Ontario Expands Workplace Enforcement Campaigns

The Ontario government is expanding the current workplace inspection campaign to further protect workers and customers at essential businesses. Following last week's [big-box store blitz](#), provincial offences officers will now be visiting an expanded range of workplaces across Ontario to educate and ticket businesses that are not complying with COVID-19 health and safety requirements.

Sask. premier considers possibility of indefinite closure for businesses that flout health orders

Saskatchewan is not implementing new restrictions to tame the spread of COVID-19, but businesses that don't comply with public health orders could soon be facing closures.

The Premier has asked public health if there are other options, in addition to fines, that could include "closing these bad actors indefinitely to ensure that we are having compliance in our communities." That would allow the opportunity for the businesses that are following public health orders to stay open and operate safely, he said.

Schools in 7 southern Ontario regions will reopen Monday, rest will remain closed

The Ontario government has announced that students in seven public health units will be returning to the classroom on Monday, but online learning will remain in place for the rest of southern Ontario schools until further notice.

- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Health Unit
- Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
- Peterborough Public Health
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit

Number of Atlantic Canadians over age 75 will double in 20 years, report

The number of seniors in Atlantic Canada will increase by 32 per cent over the next 20 years, putting added pressure on the region's health-care system and labour market, according to a new study by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC).

By 2040, there will be three seniors for every two young people in the region, according to the independent think-tank. In 1990, there were 20 young workers entering the job market for every 10 retirees. Thirty years later, there are just seven, and APEC does not expect that number to change any time soon.

COVID-19 could shutter more than 200,000 Canadian businesses

More than 200,000 Canadian businesses could close permanently during the COVID-19 crisis, throwing millions of people out of work as the resurgence of the virus worsens across much of the country, according to new research.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business said Thursday one in six, or about 181,000, Canadian small business owners are now seriously contemplating shutting down.

The latest figures, based on a survey of its members done between Jan. 12 and 16, come on top of 58,000 businesses that became inactive in 2020.

The CFIB surveyed 4,129 of its members in an online questionnaire between Jan. 12 and 16. Because it was just of CFIB members, the poll is not statistically randomized, but a properly randomized poll of that size would be considered accurate within 1.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

An estimate by the CFIB last summer said one in seven or 158,000 businesses were at risk of going under as a result of the pandemic.

Based on the organization's updated forecast, more than 2.4 million people could be out of work — a staggering 20 per cent of private sector jobs.