Update: The STA had a number of calls today with both the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and SGI. We are grateful for our working relationship with our government partners during this busy time. They have clearly indicated to us that trucking is a priority to our government in Saskatchewan. As we receive news and updates, we will ensure we relay that information to our members.

Exposure Control Measures: STA has provided a document on our website to help employers with their response measures and limiting exposure of COVID-19. Check it out.

Mental Health and COVID-19: STA has also included on our website a document on mental health in the workplace during this time. See here.

Lucky Bastard Distillery: Thank you to Lucky Bastard for bringing 6 large bottles of rubbing alcohol antiseptic to the STA today. We are grateful and make sure it gets distributed to the trucking industry.

McDonalds Canada: In an email today, McDonalds Expressed to STA their Commitment to Serve Truckers. Beginning March 26, the company will be able to provide truck drivers curbside service through the MyMcD’s App between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. McDonald’s asks truck drivers to follow these steps when ordering:

- Use the My McD’s app (available free at Apple iTunes or Google Play Store) to place your order when you arrive at the restaurant.
- Select Curbside Service and park your vehicle in an area of the lot that allows for other vehicles to easily pass.
- Complete your order by entering the curbside stall number 99 and we’ll safely bring your order to you as soon as it’s ready!

You can view their letter here and receive all the instructions.

Saskatchewan Update

Allowable Business Services: The government released a list of critical public services and business services that will be allowed to continue operating during COVID-19. The list includes transportation and logistics as well as manufacturing and the supporting supply chains. Construction, including maintenance repair is also deemed essential. You can view the news release, here. There is also a list of what a non-essential business would be—examples are flower shops, jewelry stores, boat and ATV retailers. Please see the comprehensive list, here.

Public and Private Gatherings Restricted to 10 Person Maximum: Effective March 26, public and private gatherings of more than 10 people in one room are prohibited. Exceptions are provided where two
metre distancing between people can be maintained, such as: workplaces and meeting settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings; and retail locations deemed essential. Workplaces must ensure their occupational health and safety guidelines are up to date and in force to prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses. Please read more, here.

**Business Response Team:** The province of Saskatchewan has formed a Business Response team to provide more support for businesses in Saskatchewan. They are available to assist you from 8am-8pm Monday-Friday. Email: supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca or call, toll free: 1-844-800-8688.

**Employment Standards Public Emergency Provisions:** will be hosting webinars to provide Saskatchewan business with information about recently announced provisions. The webinars are offered through GoToWebinar, an online software service that uses your computer’s internet browser. GoToWebinar will automatically download the required software onto your device when you register. There are webinars March 26 and March 27. You can register, here.

**SGI Update**

**All driver license renewals** in Saskatchewan can be renewed via phone to the SGI Call Center or a License Issuer/Local Broker in Saskatchewan. You also have the option to use MySGI online account. If you need assistance setting this up for yourself or your drivers, you can call the SGI Call Centre (1 800 667-9868) or your broker/license issuer. If you would like assistance getting drivers licenses renewed for your drivers or employees, you can contact HAL Insurance at 306 569-2150 and Jessica will assist you. – regina@halinsurance.ca or jessica@halinsurance.ca

If you have a commercial medical that is due, there is a 3-month extension to get that in.

**IRP is operational and running.** If you have a contact you normally deal with for renewals and plating within the IRP department, please use them to assist. **If you need help with your IRP Plating, our CTCI department can do that for you.** You can reach Rhonda @ info@ctci.ca or call her at either the STA number 306 569-9696 or 306 545-8400- CTCI Phone #

**SGI’s process for IRP plating is as follows:** IRP operates through the IRP@sgi.sk.ca email address. Customers email in their renewal forms, the issuer at SGI enters the data and calculates fees. The fee quote is emailed to the customer. The customer then calls in with their credit card or sends us the details of their wire payment for online banking payment. We then email the CabCards to the customer.

Again, if you need assistance, our CTCI department can help you out.

**SGI’s Customer Service Centre** can be reached at 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744) to renew driver’s licence or vehicle registration over the phone. **Note:** This only applies to customers with an existing driver’s licence or vehicle registration. SGI is not able to issue new licences or registrations over the phone. You must call an issuer office to set up an appointment or contact SGI directly to do this.
National Update

Federal Hours of Service: a federal Hours of Service (HOS) exemption has been made, termed the Essential Freight Transportation Exemption. The exemption is solely for federally regulated carriers only who are engaged in the transport of essential supplies and equipment in direct assistance to emergency relief efforts during COVID-19. See below for the interpretation of “direct assistance”

Interpretation

For the purposes of this exemption the expression “direct assistance to the emergency relief efforts during the response to COVID-19” means transportation and other relief services provided by a motor carrier or its driver(s) related to the emergency relief efforts during the response to COVID-19 outbreaks including transportation to meet immediate needs for:

1. medical supplies and equipment related to the testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19;
2. supplies and equipment necessary for community safety, sanitation, and prevention of community transmission of COVID-19 such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfectants;
3. food, paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores;
4. immediate precursor raw materials—such as paper, plastic or alcohol—that are required and to be used for the manufacture of items in categories (1), (2) or (3);
5. fuel;
6. equipment, supplies and persons necessary to establish and manage temporary housing, quarantine, and isolation facilities related to COVID-19;
7. persons designated by Federal, Provincial/Territorial or local authorities for medical, isolation, or quarantine purposes; and,
8. persons necessary to provide other medical or emergency services, the supply of which may be affected by the COVID-19 response.

Carriers operating with this exemption will also be required to meet several other conditions. Prior to commencement of operations, the federal carriers must notify in writing the provincial hours of service director of the base jurisdiction as well as provide a host of information that we strongly encourage you to review. Lastly, while operating under the exemption, both carrier and driver will be responsible to maintain open communication with your base jurisdiction and carry all important and requested documents, including a copy of the Essential Freight Transportation Exemption, found here.

All information the carrier and driver is responsible to provide can be directed to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (Provincial HOS Director) @MHITrucking@gov.sk.ca

Emergency Response Benefit: This benefit will provide people up to $2,000 a month for up to 4 months for workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19. This will cover workers who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick at home or because of school or daycare
closures. This would also apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals (owner operators) who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI). More information, here.

**Self-Isolation:** although an announcement today ruling the mandatory isolation of travellers returning to Canada was made, this will not impact commercial trucking activity. Truck drivers are not required to self-isolate/quarantine for 14-days upon arriving into Canada from the U.S. as they have been deemed essential workers nation wide:

- Healthy workers in the trade and transportation sector who are important for the movement of goods and people across the border, such as truck drivers and crew on any plane, train or marine vessel crossing the border;
- Healthy people who have to cross the border to go to work, including health care providers and critical infrastructure workers;

You can read an article from CTA here.

**Canadian trucking alliance (CTA) Update**

CTA, Insurers Confirm Independent Owner-Operator Plans Covered for US Medical Coverage:
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) have made a second announcement, confirming that existing insurance plans for independent owner-operators’ out-of-country medical coverage will continue uninterrupted. Specifically, measures announced today will allow insurers to take steps so that routine exclusion clauses tied to a Government of Canada “Avoid non-essential travel” advisory will not apply to those employed as commercial truckers. Please read more, here.

**Province(s) Update**

**Ontario:** Blue Water Bridge going cashless; The removal of cash collection is due to COVID-19 concerns and reduced access to banking services. BWB has stated that credit and debit card transactions will still be permitted, along with continued payment via commercial account card holders. BWB officials have indicated that cash transactions make up roughly 15% of the transactions completed at the bridge and have been in steady decline in the past few years.

**Trucking Community**

KFC: KFC in Weyburn, Estevan and Moosomin are offering a 10% discount to all truck drivers when they do carry-out or we bring it out to their truck. Please see their shared image with the STA with contact details, here. Additionally, Truckers can receive the same deal at Eddie Websters in Estevan, SK – 122 4th Street (306) 634-5656. See their post, here.