

AFC – Industry-Government COVID-19 monitoring call

May 11, 2020

Noon – 1:00 PM EST

There were approximately 408 participants on the call.

Summary of the government updates are below.

Introductory remarks (Frédéric Seppey - AAFC).

- On Friday, May 8, 2020, AAFC sent an email update to industry stakeholders that included information and links on the following topics:
 - Update on Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP)
 - Workplace guidance for sector employers and employees (AAFC document)
 - Tariff relief to importers of certain medical goods
 - May 5 announcement by the Prime Minister on targeted support for the agriculture and agri-food sector
 - May 7 announcement by the Prime Minister on wage subsidy top-up
 - New guidance for the International Experience Canada (IEC) program
 - Web link for those seeking clarification on who is exempt from mandatory quarantine (self-isolation)
 - Communication lines on maintaining a stable food supply for export during COVID-19.

Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) & Other Labour issues (Tom Rosser - AAFC)

- AAFC noted that, since April 1st, there have been approximately 12,000 TFWs enter Canada and approximately 1,700 more booked on charter flights from Guatemala (4 flights), Jamaica (3 flights) and St. Vincent (1 flight) over the next week. It was noted that this flight from St. Vincent is the first charter flight to be planned from this country.
- On May 8, 2020, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) published new guidance for the [International Experience Canada](#) (IEC) program, one of the main programs youth come to work in Canada, under.
- The main change for this year is that foreign nationals currently outside Canada who hold a valid IEC work permit or Letter of Introduction will require proof of an active job offer before they can enter Canada. Upon entry, they can only start their employment after completing the 14-day isolation period.

Program (Paul Samson – AAFC)

- AAFC noted that 5,100 employers received an email invitation to apply for the new Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP) last week. AAFC noted that they are administering the MISTFWP across Canada with the exception of Prince Edward Island. Eligible [employers in the province of Prince Edward Island](#) can apply for the program through their provincial government.
- This funding is a one-time \$50-million federal investment to help with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food supply in Canada by assisting the farming, fish harvesting, and food production and processing sectors. The Program will assist Canadian employers with some of the incremental costs

associated with the mandatory 14-day quarantine period imposed under the [Quarantine Act](#) on temporary foreign workers upon entering Canada.

- It was indicated that applications can be submitted online, by email, mail or fax and must be received by AAFC by August 15th. It was also noted that the program will be eligible to expenses from March 26, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Industry was directed to notify AAFC if there were employers who did not receive the information and that there is a toll-free line available for employers to ask questions.

Next Call

- The next stakeholder call will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at noon EST.