

## Changes to Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – Better for Residential Construction

Important changes were announced today to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that will make it easier for businesses, including many more in the residential construction sector and our HBAs, to qualify for its 75% wage subsidy for their employees. CHBA had been actively engaged with the Minister's office to get such adjustments made since the first details were announced last week, especially regarding flexibility with the 30% revenue decline test to better suit our industry.

With the changes announced today, which align well with some of CHBA's recommendations for our industry, many more of our organizations should now be able to access the subsidy.

Key changes include:

- being able to use January/February 2020 revenues (rather than last year's) for comparison to show a drop in revenue
- being able to use the cash method versus the accrual method for accounting to show a drop in revenue

Full details on the new elements of the Subsidy, along with along with CHBA's initial assessment and how it applies to residential construction and HBAs (with examples) can be found **here**. It is not perfect, but it goes a long way compared to the previous qualification criteria, and most importantly should be accessible to many more of our members.