



## ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

May 1, 2020

### Re: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Dear clergy and wardens,

On April 1<sup>st</sup> I shared with you the news that Diocesan Council had approved a relief package for parishes that included the Diocese paying clergy stipends for the month of April, and the suspension of parish assessments from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30, 2020. I also noted that the government was in the process of introducing an emergency wage subsidy for employers (with payroll accounts) who had seen a decrease in their income as compared to the same period in 2019.

*Full criteria for the CEWS can be found on the Government of Canada webpage:*

*<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>.*

This week, the government opened its portal for application to the CEWS.

The Government of Canada has set up 3 periods for qualification for which the Diocese can apply for the subsidy. We only qualify for 2 periods and will be applying for April (claiming period April 12 to May 9) and May (claiming period May 10 to June 6). This means that with this subsidy, the Diocese will be able to cover salary for **clergy on payroll** until June 14<sup>th</sup>.

As of today, the government has not announced any intention to extend this subsidy past June 6<sup>th</sup>.

For parishes with **lay employees on the Diocesan payroll**, your corporation will have needed to decide the status of employment for your lay employees. Parishes are responsible for 100% of lay employee salaries until April 11<sup>th</sup>. If you chose to keep your lay employees on staff and have not given any revised direction to Sophie Bertrand (Human Resources; [sbertrand@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:sbertrand@montreal.anglican.ca)) and Stephen Tam (Finance; [stam@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:stam@montreal.anglican.ca)) about your lay employee's status, the Diocese will apply for the subsidy for your lay employees and the parish will be responsible for 25% of those salaries from April 12 to June 6<sup>th</sup>. After that the parish will resume 100% of the employee costs.

If you have any questions about the CEWS, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Archdeacon Robert Camara ([vicar.general@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:vicar.general@montreal.anglican.ca)) or Stephen Tam at Synod Office.

These are difficult times for all of us as we face the uncertainty of when the pandemic will abate. I am grateful for the fellowship of love and faith which binds us together, especially in this time. I also appreciate the hard work and adapting that you have had to do in order to live out the Marks of Mission: our service and love of Christ and one another in the world and in your parish. God is with us and our Christian witness is more important – and more needed – than ever!

Please be in touch with the people on your parish list as well as with those who have begun to engage with God and the Church in this time. Even though we are not meeting regularly in our church buildings, I hope that you will make it easy for people to participate in and to support the work of the church in your area. We have some wonderful resources to support your efforts. The Rev. Neil Mancor ([nmancor@gmail.com](mailto:nmancor@gmail.com)) has a video series entitled [Beyond the Plate](#), and for parishes which have no website or Facebook presence, Lee Ann Matthews ([lmattthews@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:lmattthews@montreal.anglican.ca)) has been offering support and training.


I am personally convinced that God is using this time to enliven our commitment to his mission.

Here is a wonderful prayer which Bishop Bruce Myers of the Diocese of Quebec used at their Synod last Fall. Although written long ago, it has encouraged me that God is with us and will never leave us.

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Eric Milner-White, 1884-1963)**

You are always in my prayers.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Mary". The plus sign is small and positioned to the left of the name.

The Right Reverend Mary-Irwin-Gibson  
Bishop of Montreal