



**GTSWCA**  
Greater Toronto Sewer & Watermain  
Contractors Association

## MEMBER BULLETIN

April 29, 2020

### **Request from 793 Members for “Top-Up” Letter**

In recent days, GTSWCA members may have been approached by their operators on staff who are presently on layoff regarding a letter required to gain access to a “Top-Up Fund.” This request is in reference to the Local 793 Emergency Relief Grant Program for members that are receiving Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB) payments from the federal government. This is a taxable payment from Local 793 to top-up CERB payments the employee is receiving from the government.

It is the advice of Norton Rose Fulbright law firm that there is nothing wrong with a contractor writing a letter for the employee to provide to Local 793 to establish that they are eligible for the CERB top-up payment, as long as the representations and statements made in the letter are accurate. It is recommended that contractors indicate in the letter that the employee returned to work in the 2020 season and was laid off due to COVID-19 restrictions (again, as long as this is true and accurate). You may also wish to note that the employee will be eligible to return to work once it is legal and safe to do so.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or [patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org](mailto:patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org)).