

COVID-19 RESOURCE  
FOR CHARITIES & NFPsBILL C-20 ENACTS *TIME LIMITS*  
*AND OTHER PERIODS ACT (COVID-19)*

August 7, 2020

Last month, on July 27, 2020, Bill C-20, *An Act respecting further COVID-19 measures* (“Bill C-20”),<sup>1</sup> received Royal Assent. The House of Commons had passed Bill C-20 on July 21, 2020. The Senate — on adjournment until September 22, 2020 — was recalled to consider the bill, which they passed without amendment. The Senate then adjourned again until September 22, 2020.

Part 3 of Bill C-20 is identical to the provisions in Part 2 of Bill C-17, *An act respecting additional COVID-19 measures*,<sup>2</sup> which did not advance past first reading in the House of Commons in June. The provisions enact the *Time Limits and Other Periods Act (COVID-19)*, which suspends (or temporarily enables Ministers to suspend or extend) certain time limits and periods established by or under various Acts of Parliament, including in relation to proceedings before the courts, for a maximum of six months.

Of note, this legislation enables the Minister under certain Acts, including the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*<sup>3</sup> and *Canada Cooperatives Act*,<sup>4</sup> acting no later than September 30, 2020, to make orders

<sup>1</sup> Bill C-20, *An Act respecting further COVID-19 measures*, 1st Sess, 43rd Parl, 2020 (assented to 27 July 2020), online: <<https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-20/royal-assent>>. For further information on Bill C-20’s provisions concerning the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), see Terrance S Carter, Barry W Kwasniewski & Luis R Chacin, *COVID-19 Resource for Charities & NFPs*, “Significant amendments Proposed to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (“CEWS)” (24 July 2020) online: Carters Professional Corporation <<http://www.carters.ca/pub/bulletin/charity/2020/covid/COVID19-Resource-CEWS-Update-Bulletin-2020-07-24.pdf>>.

<sup>2</sup> Bill C-17, *An Act respecting additional COVID-19 measures*, 1st Sess, 43rd Parl, 2019 (first reading 10 June 2020), online: <<https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-17/first-reading>>. For further information on Bill C-17, see Jacqueline M Demczur, *June 2020 Charity & NFP Law Update*, “New Bill C-17, If Passed, Would Introduce New Changes Affecting Charities and NFPs” (25 June 2020) online: Carters Professional Corporation <[http://www.carters.ca/index.php?page\\_id=237](http://www.carters.ca/index.php?page_id=237)>.

<sup>3</sup> SC 2009, c 23.

<sup>4</sup> SC 1998, c 1.

to extend or suspend time limits retroactive to March 13, 2020 for: i) calling and providing notice of meetings of members; ii) placing annual financial statements before members at annual meetings, and iii) providing copies of annual financial statements to members and directors. In this regard, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry has issued an order to extend the deadlines for calling the annual general meeting and presenting financial statements for federal business and not-for-profit corporations, as well as cooperatives.<sup>5</sup>

However, a suspension must not have the effect of allowing a time limit to continue after December 31, 2020 and an extended time limit or period must end on or before that day.

To discuss how Bill C-20 may impact your charity or not-for-profit, call us toll-free at 1-877-942-0001 or email [tcarter@carters.ca](mailto:tcarter@carters.ca).



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<sup>5</sup> Government of Canada, Corporations Canada, “New order extends deadlines for federal businesses, not-for-profits and cooperatives during COVID-19” (modified 5 August 2020), online: Government of Canada <<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cd-dgc.nsf/eng/cs08730.html>>.