



**УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ**  
**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA**

9 St. John's Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1G8  
toll-free (877) 586-3093 F (204) 582-5241 [www.uocc.ca](http://www.uocc.ca)

TO THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF  
THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

**Regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic –  
Federal Government Emergency Funding**

Your Eminence, Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, members of our parish councils – and all members and adherents:

**Khrystos Voskres! Christ is Risen!**

The world we live in changed significantly during the month of March as a result of the COVID-19 virus. This novel virus is quickly spreading and causing havoc with our health care systems, our supply chains and the world economy. Changes are occurring either on a weekly or daily basis. To help the ailing Canadian economy, both federal and provincial governments are announcing new emergency short term financial aid programs to prevent a major recession and provide basic support for the growing number of unemployed people and their families.

Our current post World War II generation(s) of Ukrainian Canadians have not lived through such a challenging period of economic and health uncertainty. We wonder when life will return to normal. Indeed, we are living through **extraordinary times or Надзвичайні часи**.

For the UOCC, its service to the faithful does not stop because of COVID-19. While Sunday liturgies, or other religious services where faithful used to gather, are temporarily suspended because of the pandemic, our church life needs to adapt in a manner that complies strictly with all government directives regarding social distancing and stay-at-home measures. Some basic pastoral services, such as telephone counselling, pastoral bulletins, virtual liturgies, and unfortunately, funeral rites, will need to be fulfilled by the clergy, using some ingenuity and in full compliance with government laws and public health regulations. For this limited purpose, your Consistory Board recognizes that its front-line responders are our clergy and as such, are an essential service and should be morally and financially supported by parishes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, as Primate, and as Chairman of the Consistory Board, along with your Presidium and the rest of our Consistory Board, **want to reassure** all of our clergy, our parish leadership, and all of our faithful members and adherents, that your Consistory

Board through our representatives, is collaborating with the Canadian Council of Churches, which we are a member of, to keep abreast of the latest government announcements regarding financial assistance. The UOCC is gathering information from the federal and provincial governments, seeking out the relevant interpretation documents from subject matter experts (law firms, accounting companies), and analyzing what is and what can be done to help the parishes and their faithful through this challenging, extraordinary time.

The UOCC is committed to providing information and counsel for parishes in determining which financial program and subsidy is appropriate. New government financial aid and policy continues to evolve. This means the UOCC like many other Canadian church organizations need to work with government representatives through the Canadian Council of Churches to influence decisions to ensure the appropriate assistance.

With respect to providing guidance to the Eparchial and individual parish councils, we've been able to determine that each parish and district area, should be filing their own application (if it hasn't done so already) to the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) program, which would then cover up to 75% of the parish priests and other parish staff wages for up to 12 weeks. The federal government amended its regulations the previous week, effectively making it easier to apply for assistance by reducing the threshold loss of gross income by at least a 15% loss during March 2020, and a threshold loss of at least 30% for the remaining 3 months. I believe this would be applicable for many parishes and district councils.

Secondly, parish treasurers may wish to look at their 2019 payroll amount and consider applying for the CEBA, Canada Emergency Business Account, which provides up to a \$40,000 interest free loan to support their operations, if their previous payroll was between \$20,000 to \$1.5 million

Additional information concerning the federal government programs can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#businesses>

For the Presidium of the Consistory Board,

(Brother) Bohdan Shumsky, Treasurer

Ottawa, ON