



PASTORAL CENTRE - COMMUNICATOR

October 29, 2021

*Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава На Віки!
Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Be Forever!*

It has been several months since our last newsletter, and we trust that all our of parishes continue to work together, maintaining a strong parish life despite the restrictions. We would like to share a few updates of key importance to you and your parish.

1. Insurance Renewals

We received our insurance renewal, and the premium increase is significant with the average increase being 57% from the prior year. This is truly a crisis. To help parishes with the financial burden of these increases, Bishop David directed subsidies to be provided for all parishes within our Eparchy. For this year, parishes can plan to pay their previous year's invoice amount (noting any changes during the year) + a 5% increase. The Eparchy will pay the remaining balance, which for all our parishes total over \$170,000 in subsidy support. Bishop has also asked to strike an insurance review subcommittee to evaluate options to reduce premiums in the future.

The reason for the increase is twofold: (1) general increase in insurance rates for all sectors during a "hard insurance market" and (2) major losses to church buildings attributable to vandalism and arson likely connected with the discovery of the unmarked graves at residential schools and the settlement of clergy sexual abuse lawsuits. Insurance losses for our insurance group, which is made up of 20 eparchies/dioceses in Western Canada was \$27,000,000 over the past 18 months, where the average annual loss is closer to \$3,000,000.

2. Church Vandalism and Securing Property

Vandalism and theft in our churches, particularly rural churches, is on the rise. Thieves are breaking in and stealing whatever they can, including liturgical items such as chalices, candle sticks, kadylos among other things including sound systems, tools and equipment. To make matters worse, those thieves typically strike again, returning for other items or waiting until these are replaced and stealing them again.

What can we do? Previously, we shared the importance of securing property and doing weekly onsite inspections/checks, particularly for parishes that may not have weekly services. Also consider incorporating some of the following security measures for your parish:

- **Add or upgrade your security system or security infrastructure.** This may be expensive, however some of our parishes have taken advantage of the Province's **Alberta Security Infrastructure Program Grant (ASIP)** <https://formsmgmt.gov.ab.ca/Public/PS12841.xdp> . There are two grants available one for up to \$10k for assessments and training and the other \$90k for additional infrastructure. The grant is available until November 10, 2021. Attached to this email is a supporting document from our insurance company confirming that our parishes have been the target of hate crimes, which may be helpful for the application.
- Ensure that the property has **good lighting or motion sensors** if possible.
- Install a **basic camera package that includes signage**. This may capture suspects breaking into the church and be helpful for the police. Another consideration would be to install a "nonoperational" camera as a deterrent. These can be purchased for under \$50.
- For parishes where the Divine Liturgy is celebrated only monthly or less, **consider removing all precious or valuable liturgical or other items**. This would require a parishioner to be responsible for taking the items home. The parish's insurance coverage will continue to apply to items kept offsite. Maintain a list (and pictures of the items if possible).

As mentioned in the last newsletter, please be sure to report all acts of vandalism to the local police, no matter how small. Advise our office and Capri CMW of any acts of vandalism and of any efforts to hire security, install security cameras, etc.

3. Parish Revenue Submissions for CEWS 2021

We finally received all the parish revenue submissions required for period 14 as well as for periods 15 through 17 (March 14 to July 3/21). Unfortunately, by the time we received the reports for April revenue, period 14 was closed and we were unable to secure the subsidy. We continue to remind parishes through the priests, treasurers, presidents to send in their revenue summaries on a timely basis. We cannot submit for a subsidy unless we report all revenue for the eparchy and parishes. We depend on each other.

The following subsidies were confirmed:

- Period 14 – applied but period closed therefore no subsidy realized (application was for \$31,200 or 25% base wage)
- Period 15 - \$11,523 (approximately 7.55% of base wage)
- Period 16 - \$11,750 (approximately 7.55% of base wage)
- Period 17 – did not qualify with revenue drop

It appears CEWS subsidies will be available to October 23, 2022, and that other grants may become available. We are asking that all parishes continue to provide their revenue summaries to at least the end of the year (December 31, 2021).

We are ready to apply for the next period(s) but are waiting for at least 15 parishes to report. Please send all revenue summaries from July through to September, 2021. Also be prepared to send your October revenues as soon as possible after your month end so that we can calculate the subsidy and apply all credits to your clergy payroll in December. We will then contact you with the updated payroll amount, which will be less than your usual monthly payment.

Remember, **all parishes** must participate and report their revenue. Even if you have no revenue, please report this to us. Please email your summaries to:

- Sheila (bookkeeping@edmontoneparchy.com) or
- Olya (chancery@edmontoneparchy.com)

May God bless you and keep you in good health!

З Богом! Yours in Christ,

Iryna Laschuk

Chancellor and Director of Finance

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