



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# KIRSTY DUNCAN

Member of Parliament  
Etobicoke North



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Summer 2020

## HELLO AND WARM WISHES,

Know that I'm thinking of you and your families and that I am always here for you. Whether you're working on the frontlines or you're practicing physical distancing and staying home, we all have a role to play to keep Canadians healthy and prevent the spread of the virus.

What matters the most is that we continue to pull together, as citizens and communities, to get through the pandemic and keep Canadians safe. Each day, we see countless stories of neighbors helping neighbors, people giving back to the community, and random acts of kindness.

There is still more work to do, and we will continue to work to support families, communities, and businesses while we weather this storm.

## CANADA'S COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

In these extraordinary times, no Canadian should have to worry about paying their bills, rent, or putting food on the table. Our Government is unwavering in our support for all Canadians, for our healthcare system, and for our economy. Through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, we are focused on providing immediate help to those Canadians and businesses that are most in need.

Here are some of the ways our COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is supporting Canadians.

### CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY (CEWS)

Canadians should be confident that their jobs are safe and that Canadian business owners are being supported as we fight COVID-19.

#### The CEWS will provide:

- a 75% wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020, providing employers with up to \$847 per employee, per week.
- eligible employers a subsidy of up to 75% of salaries and wages paid to new employees.
- taxable corporations
- partnerships consisting of eligible employers, non-profit organizations and registered charities.
- those that see a drop of at least 15% of their revenue in March 2020 and 30% for the following months.

#### Eligible employers include:

- Individuals

#### How to Apply

Eligible employers can apply for the CEWS through the Canada Revenue Agency's *My Business Account* portal. For more information on the CEWS visit: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

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### CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

No one should need to worry about paying their bills during this difficult time. That's why we've created the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, to help Canadians across the country who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

The CERB is a taxable benefit of \$2,000, every 4 weeks for up to 16 weeks, to help cover the costs of living during these challenging times. This benefit will mean that workers, including the self-employed, seasonal, and part time employees, who are unable to work because of COVID-19 have the income support they need.

**The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the following conditions:**

- live in Canada and are at least

15 years old;

- is earning less than \$1,000 a month;
- stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- have not voluntarily quit their job; and
- had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

Canadians can expect payment in 3 business days if they signed up for direct deposit. For more information on applying for the CERB, Canadians can visit: [www.canada.ca/coronavirus](http://www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

## ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Canadians across the country are experiencing the financial impacts of COVID-19. Our Government wants Canadians to know we have their backs during this challenging time and we will continue to support them, their families, and our communities as we fight COVID-19 together.

- Temporarily boosted Canada Child Benefit payments to deliver almost \$2 billion in extra support, providing up to \$300 more per child per month.
- Implemented the EI Work Sharing Program, which provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers, by extending the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, easing eligibility requirements and streamlining the application process.
- Provided additional assistance to individuals and families with low and modest incomes with a special top-up payment under the GST credit.



## TAX MEASURES

Canadians and Canadian businesses are feeling the financial impacts of COVID-19. We have taken significant steps to provide flexibility on taxes, deadlines, and collections during this unprecedented time.

- Extended the tax filing deadline for businesses and individuals to June 1, and allow all taxpayers to defer, until September 1, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18.
- Extended the filing deadline to December 31, 2020, for all charities with a Form T3010, Registered Charity Information Return due between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020.



## SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESSES

Canadian Businesses are the backbone of our economy and employ millions of Canadians across the country. To ensure that Canadian businesses can still operate, provide jobs, and contribute to our resilient economy, we have taken quick and efficient action to ensure they can continue to pay their employees, get goods and services to market, and stabilize Canada's economy.

- Introduced a temporary 10% wage subsidy allowing eligible employers to reduce the amount of payroll deductions paid to CRA.
- Established the Business Credit Availability Program which includes Loan Guarantees and a Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, offering up to \$12.5 M in loans through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank.
- Expanding the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to provide up to \$60 million (\$80 million in the case of guarantees) of support to companies in need.
- Created the Canada Emergency Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses, which will lower rent by 75 per cent for businesses that have been the hardest hit by COVID-19.
- Invested \$675 million to give financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies.
- Created the Canada Emergency Business Account which provides partially forgivable, interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.



## ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Students are the leaders of today and the leaders of tomorrow. Canada's success depends on their success. That is why we are taking action to ensure they have the financial support they need to continue their studies, gain the critical experience for their future careers, and contribute to Canada's resilient economy.

- Passed the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which will provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students not receiving the CERB, or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.
- Introduced a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans.
- Doubled the Canada Student Grants for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-21. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents would also be doubled.

## HELPING YOUTH JOIN THE WORKFORCE

- Made changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program that will help employers hire summer staff and provide young Canadians access to the jobs they need during this unprecedented time. This program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age.
- Invested \$20.1 million in support for Futurpreneur Canada to continue to support young entrepreneurs across Canada who are facing challenges due to COVID-19.
- Expanding existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students find employment and develop valuable skills.

Find the latest information you need to get answers to your **COVID-19** questions.

[Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)



[CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

Canada



## SUPPORTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

We know that vulnerable Canadians are being impacted the most by COVID-19. That is why we took immediate action to support vulnerable Canadians and Canadian organizations that do the critical work needed to support vulnerable people, prevent outbreaks in these communities, and ensure they have access to the resources they need.

- Invested \$350 million in the Emergency Community Support Fund to support charities and nonprofits in their important work and get vulnerable Canadians the resources they need.
- Provided \$100 million to national, regional, and local organizations across Canada that are able to reach people and communities experiencing food insecurity.
- Invested up to \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual

assault centers to help with their capacity to manage or prevent an outbreak in their facilities. This includes funding for facilities in Indigenous communities.

- Provided an additional \$157.5 million to address the needs of Canadians experiencing homelessness through the Reaching Home program
- Launched a new portal dedicated to mental wellness on [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus) and the Canada COVID-19 app.

## TRAVEL ASSISTANCE & SAFETY MEASURES

We are working around the clock to ensure that Canadians who are stuck abroad can come home and that travelers entering Canada, whether for essential work or the delivery of goods, return to our country in a safe and secure way that protects the health of all Canadians.

- Repatriated approximately 15,000 Canadians to Canada as of April 14. The largest repatriation effort in Canadian history.
- Provided an emergency loan of up to \$5,000 to help Canadians abroad impacted by COVID-19 secure their timely return to Canada and to temporarily cover their life-sustaining needs while they work toward their return.
- Barred almost all foreign nationals from all countries except for essential workers. Strengthened screening measures at airports, including health screening at kiosks, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas and facilities at airports.
- Introduced new domestic transportation measures to support provincial, territorial and local efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spreading from travelling within Canada.

## HEALTH & SAFETY OF CANADIANS

Our first priority as a government will always be protecting the health and safety of Canadians. That is why we have invested in strong public health measures and capacity to ensure that Canada's response to COVID-19 is based on science and facts, and has the ability and strength to respond to this global public health crisis.

- Provided \$500 million to provinces and territories for critical health care systems that need preparedness and mitigation efforts.
- Invested \$100 million in funding to assist the Public Health Agency of Canada's current public health measures and the sustained funding of the Health Portfolio Operations Centre and the National Microbiology Laboratory. Funding will also support Health Canada's regulatory readiness.
- Invested \$50 million to support initial actions, including border and travel measures and sustained activation of the Health Portfolio Operations Centre and the National Microbiology Laboratory.

## SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

Canadians know that we must protect and support the most vulnerable people in our communities during this challenging time. That is why we have taken action to ensure that seniors have the financial support they need and the care they deserve, as we work to fight COVID-19 and protect the ones we love.

- Introduced a special one-time payment for those who receive OAS (top-up of \$300) and GIS (top-up of \$200), representing up to \$500 tax-free to seniors that receive both.
- Supporting community-based projects to improve the quality of life of seniors by mitigating social isolation through the New Horizons Program;
- Ensuring the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive benefits by temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed.
- Reduced minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25 per cent for 2020.
- Contributed \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community support.
- Provided flexibility for organizations under the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) to use funding previously received through the community-based stream to provide immediate and essential services to seniors impacted by COVID-19.

