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Member of Parliament
Etobicoke North



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Fall 2020

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

DEAR FRIENDS,

Hello, warm wishes, and Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe, and that you are managing during these difficult times.

Know that you and your family matter to me, that you are in my thoughts, and that my office and I are always here to serve you; and that we have been working tirelessly for you throughout the pandemic.

It's important that we keep taking COVID-19 seriously and that we stop this second wave.

We need to guard against COVID fatigue and make sure we all do our part to slow the spread of the virus by limiting our contact bubble, physical distancing, hand washing and wearing a non-medical mask or face covering as needed.

We are a strong, caring and resilient community and we will get through the pandemic together; and our government will be here every step of the way to support families and businesses.

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving filled with peace and joy.

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SAFE RETURN TO CLASS FUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for our families and our kids. As we safely restart our economy, we should all be able to go back to work and trust that our children are learning in a safe environment. That's why we're providing up to \$2 billion in support for provinces and territories through the **Safe Return to Class Fund**, to make sure that schools have what they need to keep our kids and our families safe throughout the school year.

Ontario will receive \$763 million to help with:

- Adapting learning spaces to respect physical distancing measures.
- Improving air ventilation in our classrooms.
- Purchasing personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to keep our students and teachers safe and healthy.

First Nations communities will also be receiving \$112 million in funding to ensure a safe return to school on reserves. We are collaborating with First Nations partners to ensure that Indigenous students and staff are adequately supported throughout the school year.



POST-CERB INCOME SUPPORT

The CERB was critical at the start of the pandemic to help more than 8.5 million Canadians pay their bills and put food on the table, as we asked everyone who could to stay home. As the economy begins to restart, we will transition Canadians who have been receiving the CERB to a more flexible and generous EI program for those who qualify, which will provide them additional features and tools to get back into the workforce.

The EI system is a more flexible system, and among other things:

- can offer resources to help you search for and find a new job.
- offers you the possibility of working while on claim, and keeping a bigger part of your earnings.

Here are some ways we're making EI better and more accessible:

- Freezing EI premiums for 2 years.
- One-time credit of 300 insurable hours, so you only need 120 hours to qualify for regular benefits.

SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT

This pandemic has showed that when we all work together, we're all better off. That's why we're working with the provinces and territories to ensure Canadians stay safe and healthy, and have the support they need in these challenging times. As we gradually restart the economy and take steps to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, we've invested more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and make sure our country is more resilient to possible future waves of the virus.

The Safe Restart Agreement will help with seven key priority areas:

- Increasing testing and contact tracing;
- Securing personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers and businesses;
- Supporting the most vulnerable, including seniors in long-term care facilities and nursing homes;
- Ensuring safe childcare is available so parents can return to work;
- Supporting people who do not have paid sick leave;
- Helping municipalities deliver key services, including public transit.

MADE-IN-CANADA PPE AND COVID-19 PROTECTION

To ensure our frontline workers and all Canadians had what they needed to stay safe and healthy, we launched Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19. This plan helped industries that were affected by the pandemic retool their operations to help Canada produce the Personal Protective Equipment we needed, here at home.

Among some of the companies that stepped up to help, Stanfield's in Nova Scotia started producing medical gowns, Performance BioFilaments in Vancouver started producing mask alternatives, and CAE in Montreal started producing ventilators. We also recently invested, along with the Ontario government, \$23 million in a 3M facility to secure a made-in-Canada supply of N95 respirators to protect health care workers.

Together, with Canadian industry, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure we have the supplies we need to get through this health crisis.

To ensure everyone who is looking for a job gets the support they need, we've also created three new benefits to help:

Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)

\$400 per week for up to 26 weeks to those who are not eligible for EI, and who still require income support and are available and looking for work.

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)

\$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19.

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)

\$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for:

- a child under age 12 due to the closures of schools or daycares because of COVID-19.
- a family member with a disability or a dependent because their day program or care facility is closed due to COVID-19.
- a child, a family member with a disability, or a dependent who is not attending school, daycare, or other care facilities under the advice of a medical professional due to being at high-risk if they contract COVID-19.

CEWS EXTENSION

From the start of the pandemic, we've prioritized Canadian workers and their jobs. That's why we created the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), to help employers keep their workers on the payroll and subsidizing their salaries up to 75%, so Canadians could return to work after the pandemic.

This program has helped save millions of jobs, and to continue this support while we restart the

economy, the CEWS was extended until December 19, 2020.

To help even more Canadians get back to work, we've:

- made the subsidy available to a broader range of employers,
- introduced a top-up subsidy of up to an additional 25% for employers that have been hit hardest by the crisis.

If you're a business owner, check out <https://www.canada.ca>, and type in CEWS calculator in the search bar.

VACCINES

Recently, our government created the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force to draw on the expertise of vaccine and immunology experts, and industry leaders, to provide advice on developing and securing vaccines for Canadians. So far, we've signed agreements for millions of doses of the leading vaccine-candidates from four vaccine makers: Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, Pfizer and Moderna.

These agreements are in addition to funding a new biomanufacturing facility at the Human Health Therapeutics Research Centre in Montréal. This facility will be built in partnership with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) to increase vaccine manufacturing to up to two million doses per month by next year.

We want to make sure that eventual vaccines are available to those who need them most, such as front-line workers, long-term care workers, and those at risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19, like seniors and those with other medical conditions.



CANADA CHILD BENEFIT (CCB)

We know the cost of raising kids in any given year is high, but during these unprecedented times, it can be even more so. That's why we provided families with a one-time payment of \$300 as part of their May CCB payment. As part of our ongoing commitment to families, we increased the CCB again in July to keep up with the cost of living. Families with children under the age of 6 now receive a maximum benefit of \$6,765, and \$5,708 for those with children between 6 and 17.

Through the CCB,
our government invested

\$10,718,000

in

24,760

families in

Etobicoke North



SENIORS IN LONG-TERM CARE

Seniors living in long-term care homes and assisted care facilities are the most vulnerable to COVID-19's devastating effects, and we are taking action to protect their health and safety. We can't let what happened ever happen again.

At the beginning of the pandemic, members of the Canadian Armed Forces were deployed, at the request of the provinces, to over 50 facilities in Quebec and Ontario to mitigate the spread of the virus and care for seniors in need.

As part of our efforts to control spread of COVID-19 in long-term care homes, we:

- Redirected **federal infrastructure funding to update long-term care homes**, through the new COVID-19 Resilience funding stream.
- Provided **\$740 million for measures to control and prevent infections** in long-term care homes and other vulnerable populations through the Safe Restart Agreement.
- Invested billions to purchase **personal protective equipment (PPE)** for health workers, including long-term care workers.
- Launched the new **Essential Services Contingency Reserve**, which will ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies will always be available to those caring for Canadians.
- Provided \$3 billion to provinces and territories to **increase the wages of low-income essential workers**, such as long-term care workers.

SENIORS & COVID

Seniors have helped to build the Canada we all know and love, and we've taken steps to improve seniors' quality of life, and to get them the care and the benefits they deserve. COVID-19 has been particularly hard on seniors, as they're among the most vulnerable to its effects.

To help seniors during the ongoing pandemic we've:

- offered low and middle-income seniors a **GST Credit top-up**—worth an average of \$375 for single seniors and \$510 for senior couples.
- provided seniors a one-time tax-free payment of **\$300 for seniors eligible for OAS and a further \$200 for seniors eligible for the GIS**.
- helped seniors and others **get essential services and supplies**, such as the delivery of groceries by investing half a billion dollars through partners like the United Way, food banks, and charities.
- helped seniors who have lost their jobs access the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit**, regardless of their pension benefits.
- **reduced the mandatory minimum withdrawals from RRIFs** by 25 per cent for 2020 to ease the strain due to market volatility.
- **temporarily extended GIS and Allowances payments** for seniors who couldn't file their income information on time.
- invested an additional \$20 million through the **New Horizons for Seniors Program** to invest in community projects that reduce isolation, improve seniors' quality of life, and help them maintain a social support network.
- created a new online portal, **Wellness Together Canada** (ca.portal.gs), to connect Canadians to peer support workers, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals for confidential support, and to make it easier to find credible mental health help.



INFRASTRUCTURE

As we navigate through the pandemic, we recognize that getting the economy up and running again through infrastructure investments is one of the best ways to encourage growth in the economy, create jobs, and boost wages. Now is the time that we continue investing in Canadians and in our communities.

Through our investments in infrastructure projects from coast to coast to coast, we're helping to build roads, bridges, and the next generation of green infrastructure, like public transit and renewable energy projects.

We will continue to invest in our communities so that we can come back stronger than ever.



TOGETHER, WE WILL BUILD A MORE RESILIENT CANADA — ONE THAT IS HEALTHIER AND SAFER, CLEANER AND MORE COMPETITIVE, AND FAIRER AND MORE INCLUSIVE FOR EVERYONE.

OUR OFFICE CAN ASSIST YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
- Child Disability Benefit (CDB)
- National Student Loans (NSLSC)
- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passports and Consular Affairs
- Federal Funding for Organizations

- Canadian Citizenship
- Permanent Residency (PR)
- Familial/Spousal Sponsorship
- Visitor Visas (TRV)
- Work and Study Permits
- Veterans' Affairs
- Status Cards

Call our Constituency office at: 416.747.6003 to book an appointment with our specialized staff.