



COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

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A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

August has already begun, and despite different summer activities this year, our region is showing its creativity and shining despite the unusual conditions imposed by COVID-19.

Our businesses, municipalities and organizations have had to deal with a very different job market this summer. To support them, our government has made changes to its flagship summer program for young people. This year, the **Canada Summer Jobs** program is providing all employers with a subsidy equal to 100% of the minimum wage for approved positions.

Thanks to this program, more than \$ 820,000 has been distributed this summer across the Compton-Stanstead riding. As a result, 114 local organizations have been able to adapt and continue their activities, especially for the benefit of children, the elderly, food security and the environment.

This funding has allowed the creation of 210 quality jobs for our young people, who have rolled up their sleeves and contributed to the exceptional collective effort made necessary by the pandemic.

I invite you to watch via my Facebook page the press conference that took place yesterday to announce this investment.

As every week, through this newsletter I wish to share with you the latest information available on programs to support people and businesses affected by COVID-19. Please share it throughout your network. I also invite you to visit the CANADA.CA website for all the reliable information you need.

Please feel free to contact my team and me if you have any questions or comments.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones!

Marie-Claude Bibeau

SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT

The Government of Canada is investing **\$ 19 billion** through the **Safe Restart Agreement** to protect the health of Canadians while laying the groundwork for a safe and healthy economic recovery. The government's efforts, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, will focus on seven priority areas identified by the Premiers in order to meet the immediate needs of Canadians over the next six to eight months.

1. Screening tests, contact tracing and data management

The Government of Canada is providing **\$ 4.28 billion** to help provinces and territories meet the costs of increasing their capacity to test, trace contacts and share public health data.

The goal is to ensure that provinces and territories have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day nationwide. That way, we can follow the spread of the virus and tailor our response accordingly with the aim of saving lives.

2. Health care

The Government of Canada is investing **\$ 700 million** to support provinces and territories to strengthen their public health systems and their capacity to respond to a possible future wave of COVID-19. In this way, we protect the health and safety of Canadians while ensuring they have the health care they need during these difficult times.

3. Vulnerable populations

The Government of Canada will provide **\$ 740 million** to provinces and territories to cover one-time costs for infection control and prevention measures.

Among other things, these funds could be used to address personnel issues in long-term care, home care and palliative care facilities and services.

SAFE RESTART AGREEMENT

4. Municipalities

The Government of Canada is contributing up to **\$ 2 billion** to help municipalities cover operational costs related to COVID-19. These funds will allow municipalities to adopt appropriate precautionary measures to minimize the spread of the virus and to manage public spaces and essential services, such as public transport.

Furthermore, the Government of Canada will also match additional investments made by provinces and territories in public transit, up to a maximum of approximately **\$ 1.8 billion**.

5. Personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and other workers

The Government of Canada will set aside **\$ 4.5 billion** for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and will transfer **\$ 3 billion** to provinces and territories to support their investments in PPE. These funds will allow our essential workers to be equipped to continue their crucial work while ensuring their safety.

6. Child care

The Government of Canada is providing **\$ 625 million** to address the reduced availability of child care spaces. This will ensure that parents have access to safe and sufficient child care, and that they can return to work and thereby help revive our economy.

7. Temporary income support program

The Government of Canada will fund a new temporary income support program estimated to cost **\$ 1.1 billion**. The new program will provide support to workers who do not yet have access to paid sick leave. This way, we will be able to encourage workers to stay home and seek public health advice if they show symptoms of the virus.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/3a2vb7p>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The pandemic has disproportionately affected Canadians with disabilities. In order to help them pay for their additional expenses during the crisis, the Government of Canada will provide a tax-free payment of \$ 600.

Eligibility

This one-time payment will **automatically** be made to people with disabilities who:

1. Have a valid Disability Tax Credit (DTC) certificate issued by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or who are entitled to the DTC and are applying by September 25, 2020;
2. Are beneficiaries, as of July 1, 2020, of the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits Program or the Disability Benefits paid by the Quebec Pension Plan;
3. Are beneficiaries, as of July 1, 2020, of the support for people with disabilities offered by Veterans Affairs Canada, including one of the following:
 - Disability Pension
 - Disability Award
 - Pain and Suffering Compensation
 - Critical Injury Compensation
 - Rehabilitation Services and Vocational Assistance Program
 - Income Replacement Benefit and/or
 - Canadian Forces Income Support.

Seniors with disabilities, who were eligible for the one-time seniors payment announced on May 12, 2020, will also be eligible for the one-time payment to persons with disabilities.

If you are eligible for both payments, you will receive a total amount of \$600 separated into two payments:

- If you received the \$300 one-time seniors payment for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, you will receive an additional \$300;
- If you received the \$500 one-time seniors payment for both the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement or the Allowance, you will receive an additional \$100.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities who meet the DTC eligibility criteria, but have not yet applied to the CRA, can apply until September 25, 2020.

New DTC applicants should complete their application process immediately in order to complete and submit their form by September 25, 2020.

People with disabilities whose DTC certificate expired in 2019 should not wait to complete their 2020 tax return to apply. Such requests must be submitted to the CRA by September 25, 2020.

Payment

Individuals eligible for the above programs do not have to apply to receive payment. The payment is a one-time, non-taxable, non-reportable amount of \$ 600.

The maximum payment of \$ 600 will be automatically issued via cheque or direct deposit starting this fall.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2Xth8Cl>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

COVID ALERT

As Canada begins to gradually lift restrictions, the Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to ensure that Canadians are informed of their exposure to COVID-19 through a smart app.

Indeed, the **COVID Alert app** was designed to notify users of possible exposure to people who have tested positive for COVID-19. It is free, completely voluntary, and it uses strict measures to protect all data collected. Users who test positive for COVID-19 will receive a single-use code from their health authority that they can enter into the app. Ontario is the first province to have its health system connected to the app, and we are working closely with the other provinces and territories to implement COVID Alert across the country so that all Canadians can benefit from the exposure notification app.

The app is available in the App Store here: <https://apple.co/3gz9FcX>.

The app is also available for Android here: <https://bit.ly/30wmFdC>.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

PASSPORT REQUESTS

While travel advisories and travel restrictions remain in place, the Government of Canada recognizes that many Canadians require passports for their compulsory travel.

As of July 31, Canadians can once again apply for a passport by mail.

For an urgent passport application or for travel taking place in less than 30 days (with proof of travel), it is possible to request an appointment in person.

Our constituency office can help you with your passport applications. Please do not hesitate to contact us by phone at 819-347-2598 or by email at marie-claude.bibeau@parl.gc.ca.

For more information, please see the following link: <https://bit.ly/33unfuA>.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE

The **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)** provides support to small businesses, non-profits and charities that are struggling financially due to COVID-19. CECRA offers forgivable loans to business owners that cover 50% of the gross monthly rent payable by small businesses and non-profit tenants affected by the pandemic.

Since CECRA's implementation, more than 63,000 small business tenants have been aided by the program, representing over 616,000 employees and over \$ 613 million in rent support.

To help eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations pay their rent for August, **CECRA will be extended by an additional month**. This extension will help provide the Canadian small businesses most impacted by the shutdown with an extended bridge to recovery.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/33tfDIE>.

SECTORAL SUPPORT

STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS

Temporary foreign workers allow our farmers to continue providing quality produce to Canadians and ensure Canada's food security. It is for this reason that steps have been taken to protect the health and safety of Canadian and migrant farm workers. Despite all of these efforts, there have been outbreaks of COVID-19 on several Canadian farms, which have had a significant impact on the health and safety of workers.

In an effort to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 outbreaks on farms, the Government of Canada is taking further action through an investment of **\$ 58.6 million**. This funding will:

- Inject \$ 7.4 million to increase support for temporary foreign workers, including \$ 6 million for direct outreach to employees by migrant worker support organizations;
- Invest \$ 16.2 million to strengthen the employer inspection regime, particularly on farms, and improve the way tips and allegations of employer non-compliance are addressed;
- Spend \$ 35 million to increase health and safety on farms and in employees' living quarters to prevent and limit the spread of the virus. This will go toward direct infrastructure improvements to living quarters, temporary or emergency housing (on- or off-farm), as well as PPE, sanitary stations, and any other health and safety measures. Non-repayable contributions will be cost-shared 50:50 with the applicants.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2Pv04b2>.

INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN

Canada Emergency Business Account (<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>): Open

Local Food Infrastructure Fund (<https://bit.ly/2W0ltg1>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages (<https://bit.ly/2ZaY7GI>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Study projects (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until funds are exhausted

Canada Periodical Fund - Special Measures for Journalism component (<https://bit.ly/3gBSJIG>): Open until August 7, 2020

Investments in Forest Industry Transformation - Capital investment projects (<https://bit.ly/2W1uV2V>) : Open until August 13, 2020

Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (<https://bit.ly/2VimgbO>): Open until August 31, 2020

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (<https://bit.ly/3dFe8c1>): Open until August 31, 2020

Canada Emergency Student Benefit (<https://bit.ly/2NqLvEJ>): Open until September 30, 2020

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (<https://bit.ly/2YvHLYI>): Open until October 3rd, 2020

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (<https://bit.ly/2Vk7JfN>): Open until December 2020

BEST SANITARY PRACTICES

To have up-to-date information concerning the coronavirus, we invite you to contact:

- The Canadian Government Website : <https://bit.ly/2QFBAwY>
- Phone **1-833-347-4397** (toll free).

If ever you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing), contact **1-877-644-4545** (toll free).

For more information on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the **workplace**, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/3adWvz3>.



Public health experts recommend that we:

- Limit our contact with other people by practicing social distancing;
- Frequently wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if we don't have access to water and soap;
- Cough and sneeze in a tissue or in the crux of our arm
- Avoid touching our eyes, nose or mouth if we haven't previously washed our hands;
- Use approved sanitizers to clean hard surfaces;
- Clean surfaces that are frequently touched (telephones, door handles, etc...)

To learn more on risk prevention, consult the following link: <https://bit.ly/2Uv9d5M> or send an email to phac.inof.aspc@canada.ca.