Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
DÉPUTÉE COMPTON • STANSTEAD M.P.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

COVID-19: AVAILABLE RESOURCES

We're here for you!

A WORD FROM YOUR M.P.

Hello,

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our local organizations have been on the front line and have dealt with the impact of COVID-19 on their activities and community services. To support them, the federal government launched the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) so that organizations could adapt their services to meet the needs of vulnerable people. This support has been of great benefit to our region.

With representatives from Centraide Estrie and the Estrie Community Foundation, I was proud to recently announce that the ECSF has funded 69 projects in the Eastern Townships for a total of over $1.3 million. Thanks to this funding, cultural, community and educational organizations have been able to continue helping our community in this difficult time.

Right here in our Compton-Stanstead community, 13 organizations benefited from the ECSF for a total of over $210,000. Help for the elderly, mental health support or even assistance with basic needs, our local organizations are there!

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

Support for individuals- p.2

Support for businesses and organizations - p.7

Sectoral support - p.8

Information on other federal programs that are currently open - p.9

Best sanitary practices - p.10

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

RE-OPENING OF THE SERVICE CANADA BRANCH OFFICES IN COATICOOK AND MAGOG

Service Canada centres are gradually re-opening their doors for essential services involving Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, as well as issues concerning social insurance numbers and passports for mandatory travel.

The **Service Canada offices in Coaticook and Magog will be open starting mid-September**. Please make an appointment by filling out a request form at the following site: https://eservices.canada.ca/en/service/. A Service Canada agent will be in contact with you within two business days.

Once you arrive at the Service Canada office, you will be greeted by an agent and asked to respect social distancing guidelines. Masks are highly encouraged, and disinfecting hand sanitizer will be available.

For more information: **https://bit.ly/3hAs4GP.**

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Have any questions about our program and services?
We invite you to find out more online or by phone.

CANADIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

For general information about the CERB or to apply online : **Canada.ca/coronavirus-CERB**

If you applied through Service Canada: **1-833-699-0299**

If you applied through the Canada Revenue Agency : **1-833-966-2099**

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

for general information about Employment Insurance or to apply online:
Canada.ca/EI
1-800-808-6352

OLD AGE SECURITY AND CANADA PENSION PLAN

For general information on the programs or to apply online:
Canada.ca/public-pensions
1-800-277-9915

PASSPORTS

For general information about Canadian passports:
Canada.ca/passport
1-800-567-6868

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN)

For more information on SIN or to apply online:
Canada.ca/social-insurance-number
1-88-274-6627

BIOMÉTRIE ET IMMIGRATION

For more information on biometrics collection or for any information related to immigration:
Canada.ca/biometrics

You can access our online services at **Canada.ca/service-canada-home**

For additional assistance or request and in-person appointement for service, complete an online service request form at **Canada.ca/service-canada-e-service**

A Service Canada officer will contact you within **2 business days.**

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

NEW POLICY ON TEMPORARY WORK PERMIT

The Government of Canada has announced a temporary policy change that will support Canadian employers who are still struggling to find the workers they need and will also help temporary workers looking for work as Canada recovers from the pandemic.

Visitors who are currently in Canada and have a valid job offer will now be able to apply for a special work permit linked to their future employer and, if approved, receive the permit without having to leave the country.

To be accepted, an applicant must:

- Have valid visitor status in Canada on the day of their request;
- Have resided in Canada on August 24, 2020 and have remained in Canada since then;
- Have an active job offer;
- Submit an employer-specific work permit application no later than March 31st, 2021, supported by a Labor Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or an LMIA-exempt job offer;
- Meet all other standard eligibility criteria.

For more information: **https://bit.ly/3gXzyCC.**

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

GREEN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM-SCIENCE HORIZONS

The **Science Horizons program** provides wage subsidies to eligible employers across Canada to enable them to hire recent college and university graduates for internships in the cleantech and environment sectors.

The Government of Canada is partnering with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) employers across Canada to create 900 green internship opportunities for students under the program.

Employers may receive up to $15,000 in program funding for each intern they hire, and interns will have the opportunity to gain work experience on environmental projects lasting six to twelve months. About 90% of interns find full-time employment or return to school after their internship.

Program funding is targeted at employers in the environment and cleantech sectors.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and how to hire an intern, please visit this site: **https://bit.ly/2Z1H3lV.**

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

THE CURVE: A PAN-CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) has kicked off its online project ***The Curve***, an ongoing account of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project brings together 40 talented artists who give a voice to a population affected by the pandemic. A collection of 30 works presents pan-Canadian perspectives from coast to coast to coast, and as far as the Far North.

The episodes will follow one another throughout the season and will create a unique resource for anyone wishing to discover different stories about social distancing.

Three Northwest Studio short documentaries were the highlight of the official launch: In the Garden of the Farm by Kristin Catherwood, K'i Tah Amongst the Birch by Melaw Nakehk'o, and Thursday by Galen Johnson.

To discover these productions: **https://bit.ly/2QQgxal**.

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

The **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)** provides interest-free loans of up to $40,000 to small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the pandemic to help them cover their operation costs.

As the economic recovery continues, the CEBA has been **extended until October 31st**, 2020 so that Canadians can benefit from it longer.

In order to respond to businesses and organizations that have submitted an application, Export and Development Canada (EDC) has set up a new call centre. This way, applicants who have questions about the status of their application, the reasons why the request was refused, or the reasons why a submitted document was not accepted can dial **1-888-324-4201** for more information.

The call centre is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, please consult the following link: **https://ceba-cuec.ca/**

SECTORAL SUPPORT

SECURING THE SUPPLY OF VACCINES AND TREATMENTS TO COMBAT COVID-19

The Government of Canada is working closely with researchers and scientists to better understand the COVID-19 virus and protect the health of Canadians. For example, the Government of Canada recently announced agreements in principle with Johnson & Johnson and Novavax to reserve millions of doses of experimental COVID-19 vaccines. These agreements are in addition to those already registered with Pfizer and Moderna.

The federal government will continue to negotiate and sign other similar agreements with a number of leading pharmaceutical companies to secure the supply of potential vaccines in Canada.

For more information: **https://bit.ly/2QPha4i.**

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BIOFRABRICATION FACILITY

The Government of Canada has announced funding to create a new biofabrication facility at the Human Health Therapeutics Research Center in Montreal. Through a public-private partnership, the new building will make it possible for the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) to scale up vaccine manufacturing to two million doses per month by next year.

This will help ensure our country's ability to produce enough vaccine doses for Canadians who need them, such as front-line workers, workers in long-term care facilities and those at risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19.

For more information: **https://bit.ly/2QPha4i.**

INFORMATION ON OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY 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 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 Business Account (https://ceba-cuec.ca/): Open until October 31, 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 or 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.**