



Vance Badawey
Member of Parliament
Niagara Centre

Constituency Office

136 East Main St.
Welland, Ontario
L3B 3W6

Phone: 905-788-2204
Fax: 905-788-0071

vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca

Parliament Hill Office

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Phone: 613-995-0988
Fax: 613-995-5245



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Members of City Council
Chambers of Commerce
Media

Date: September 11, 2020

Subject: Bi-weekly Update

SUMMARY

In the last two weeks, we have made Canada's first ever contribution to supporting black business owners and entrepreneurs, extended the Commercial Rent Assistance Program, extended the Canada Emergency Business Account and Business Credit Availability Program application deadline. As well, we have announced that we are accepting calls for proposals for the 2020-21 New Horizons for Seniors Program and we unveiled over 1,100 new projects to help seniors through COVID-19.

UPDATES

Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Relief Extended:

We know that thousands of small businesses were forced to close or were especially hard hit because of COVID-19. That's why we responded and created the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance in partnership with the provinces and territories. As of September 7, 2020, over 106,000 small business tenants have been supported, representing 994,000 employees, for a total of over \$1.32 billion in rent support.

We are extending CECRA by one month to help eligible businesses continue to pay rent for September. This will be the final extension of the program. Our Government is exploring other options to support the hardest hit small businesses – including to address challenges of fixed costs, such as rent. We will continue to ensure small businesses have the support they need.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-ottawa-to-extend-small-business-rent-relief-program-as-officials/>

Helping Schools Reopen Safely:

We announced the new Safe Return to Class Fund, which will provide \$2 billion to help the provinces and territories keep students and teachers safe as schools reopen, while also allowing parents to go back to work with fewer worries. The funds can be used for anything from purchasing hand sanitizer, personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, to adapting learning spaces. In addition to this funding, we also announced an additional \$112 million for First Nations to ensure a safe return to school on reserves.

Supporting Black business owners and entrepreneurs amid COVID-19:

Black entrepreneurs and business owners make important contributions to Canada's economy every day and make our communities more vibrant and welcoming places to call home.

Many Black entrepreneurs and business owners continue to face systemic barriers to equal economic participation and success and have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program is an investment of up to nearly \$221 million, including up to \$93 million from our government and up to \$128 million committed in lending capital from financial institutions.

There are 3 main components to the Program:

- a new National Ecosystem Fund to support Black-led business organizations across the country in their capacity to provide funding and capital, mentorship, financial planning services, and business training for Black entrepreneurs.
- a new Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund that will provide loans for Black entrepreneurs via Black-led business organizations, which includes commitments from partnering financial institutions to make up to \$128 million available in lending capital.
- a new Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub that will collect data on the state of Black entrepreneurship in Canada to better inform policy-making.

Together, along with Black-led business organizations, Canada's Black Entrepreneurship Program will provide targeted support for thousands of Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country – helping them recover from COVID-19 and thrive for years to come.

For more information, please see the following news release:

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/09/09/prime-minister-announces-support-black-entrepreneurs-and-business>

Support for seniors impacted by COVID-19:

While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Canadians of all ages and backgrounds, fear of infection and guidelines to isolate are leaving older Canadians feeling particularly anxious and lonely. We cannot allow physical distancing to become social distancing, which is why our government is providing additional support to reduce seniors' social isolation and improve their quality of life.

Minister Schulte and Gagan Sikand, Member of Parliament for Mississauga—Streetsville, announced over 1,000 new projects delivered by community organizations across the country to support seniors during the pandemic.

The projects are funded through the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) and will offer virtual activities such as training on how to use personal equipment, virtual computer literacy classes and exercise classes to bring seniors together safely during the pandemic.

We will continue to take concrete action to support Canadian seniors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and help keep them safe as we move forward with the restart of our economy.

For more details, please see the news release

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/x.html>

Canada Emergency Business Account Extended:

Yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, announced the extension of the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) from August 31 to October 31, 2020. Our government is working closely with financial institutions to make CEBA available to those with qualifying payroll or non-deferrable expenses that have so far been unable to apply due to not operating from a business banking account. Further details on these changes will be released in coming days.

For more information, please see the following news release

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-announces-greater-flexibility-and-extension-of-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

Business Credit Availability Program Extended:

Minister Freeland also announced that the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) will be extended until June 2021. Through BCAP, the government is supporting the flow of additional credit that businesses need to maintain operations and keep employees on the payroll. This will improve access to the capital needed by businesses to pay workers' salaries and cover expenses until Canada returns to normal borrowing circumstances.

For more information, please see the following news release:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/08/government-announces-greater-flexibility-and-extension-of-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

New Horizons for Seniors Program 2020-21 Calls for Proposals:

Minister Schulte announced the launch of the 2020–21 New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) Call for Proposals for community-based projects. Seniors have experienced significant negative impacts as a result of COVID-19, and this year, organizations will be able to apply for funding to support seniors dealing with the pandemic by submitting project proposals that include specific COVID-19 relief and recovery activities. Organizations are also welcomed to submit proposals for more traditional NHSP projects.

For more details, please see the following news release:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-for-community-based-projects-that-support-seniors.html>

May I, once again, express my sincere appreciation to all residents, our front-line workers, essential service providers, government partners at all levels, businesses and students, for your ongoing efforts to help throughout these challenging times. We are in this together! Your daily efforts are ensuring that we will get through this together. Let's ensure that we continue our discipline to crush the curve. We do not need to experience a second wave! If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Let us all reflect on September 11th – 19 years ago at 8:46 a.m. – a day that changed our lives forever. For those directly affected with a loss of a family member, friend or colleague, our hearts continue to be with you. To all those who came to the aid of so many in need...first responders, medical professionals, volunteers and so many others – THANK YOU – we continue to appreciate your commitment and dedication to keeping us all safe and healthy.

Enjoy your weekend.

Stay safe