

MEMORANDUM

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

Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: Bi-weekly Update

SUMMARY

Over the last few weeks we've been busy focusing on helping Canadians and putting our plan in motion to build back better. We announced the creation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Group and the Niagara Ports Multimodal Trade Corridor. Our government announced new rent support for businesses, help for Veterans organizations, over \$80,000 in food security support for Niagara Centre, our plan for a green future, new supports for Canadians impacted by COVID-19, a top-up of the regional relief recovery fund, more support for women and children's organizations, new major infrastructure funding, and the criminalization of conversion therapy.

UPDATES

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Group (GLSLG):

After months of collaboration, myself along with PEI Senator Diane Griffin were pleased to announce the establishment of a new all-party, bicameral Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Taskforce by the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group. The Taskforce will informally link with and mirror the US-based Great Lakes Task Force to ensure constant and meaningful attention to all matters relating to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. The Taskforce will function like a sub-committee, with Senator Griffin and myself serving as Co-Chairs.

The Great Lakes are a binational treasure that annually pumps billions of dollars into our economy, creates thousands of jobs, provides clean water to millions, and supports an ecosystem that is vital for thousands of unique plants, animals and aquatic species.

Aside from the Throne Speech commitments to bolster the *Blue Economy*, and our government's promise to establish a Canada Water Agency, our collective efforts will turn the tide in favour of Great Lakes health and sustainability.

The mandate of the GLSLG is to focus on *Triple Bottom Line* (Economic, Environmental and Social) issues attached to Great Lakes-St. Lawrence.

The Group is eager to work with all stakeholders, municipalities, colleagues in the Senate and with our US counterparts, to help keep the Great Lakes great.



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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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CANADA

Niagara Ports Multimodal Trade Corridor:

We came together with the mayors of Port Colborne, Welland, and, Thorold, and with the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) to advance the development of three Multimodal Industrial Hubs along the Welland Canal. This initiative is a positive and practical solution to a long-held belief that many of the region's marine assets are underutilized, and could be leveraged for positive economic impact, job creation and trade facilitation.

To the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority and the cities of Port Colborne, Welland and Thorold, congratulations and thank you, for moving forward on establishing the Ports Niagara Multimodal Trade Corridor.

New Support for Businesses:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, announced the government's intention to introduce new, targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue. The government plans to introduce legislation to provide support that would help these businesses safely get through the second wave of the virus and the winter, cover costs so they can continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery, including:

- The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, which would provide simple and easy-to-access rent and mortgage support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners. The new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.
- A top-up Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25 per cent for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy. This follows a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to provide direct financial support to businesses temporarily shut down as a result of a local public health decision.

Help for Veterans Organizations:

As part of the Government's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, \$20 million will be provided to organizations supporting Veterans, including Legion branches, to ensure their important work can continue.

Our government is very grateful for the work that our community partners do for Veterans, especially as they've continued their important work throughout the pandemic. Bill C-4 allocates funding to provide financial aid to Veterans organizations that offer support to Veterans across the country, and that are in immediate need of emergency assistance. The funding must be distributed prior to the end of the year but we expect it will be distributed sooner than that.

Further details about the disbursement of funds will be shared as they become available.

Niagara Centre receives federal funding to improve food security:

Across Niagara Centre, community organizations received over \$80,000 combined. This money will help improve food security and ensure that no one needs to go hungry during these already challenging times.

Working to End Plastic Pollution:

We know that plastic pollution harms Canadians and their communities. In fact, only 9% of plastic in Canada gets recycled, with the remaining 91% contaminating our waterways with chemicals, harming our wildlife, and creating microplastics that end up in our drinking water. As we continue to grapple with the global COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in Canadians using more plastic items, like gloves and sanitizer bottles, it's become clear that we must act, and quickly.

Minister Wilkinson announced our plan to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030. Part of our strategy involves banning harmful single-use plastic items that are difficult to recycle like plastic bags, straws, six-pack rings, and plastic food containers. A full list of items is available in the discussion paper Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastic Products to Prevent Waste and Pollution, which is now open for comments from Canadians.

To ensure transparency, we will be working closely with provinces and territories to implement these measures fairly, while strengthening existing recycling and reuse programs. We are also introducing new requirements for recycled content, which will boost investments in recycling infrastructure and encourage clean innovation in sectors like the manufacturing industry.

We also announced \$2 million through the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative for 14 new plastic reduction initiatives led by communities, organizations, and institutions across Canada.

It's time to get rid of plastic pollution in Canada once and for all. By working together, we can boost our economy, keep plastic out of our communities, and secure the green and resilient future Canadians want.

Investing in Electric Vehicles:

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, announced their commitment to Ford Motor Company of Canada's investment in its Oakville Assembly Complex. This project, valued at \$1.8 billion, will include federal and provincial contributions of \$295 million each. This will help secure 5,400 well-paying middle-class jobs across Ford's production workforce in Canada and grow our green economy, especially in Southern Ontario where thousands of Canadians are employed across the auto supply chain. A repurposed battery-electric vehicle (BEV) production plant for the Oakville Assembly Complex is in line with the Government of Canada's commitment to sustainable growth. Electrification will allow us to position the innovative Canadian automotive industry as a global leader in BEV manufacturing.

Together, we continue to help build a Canada that is healthier and safer, cleaner and more competitive, and fairer and more inclusive for future generations. Our recovery from COVID-19 will help us create more economic opportunities for Canadians while meeting our ambition of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We will do so by working with industry to attract ZEV manufacturing facilities through large-scale investments. The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario are committed to working with Canada's automotive partners, including Ford and Unifor, to attract investment, including in zero-emissions technologies, and to ensure that our automotive industry remains one of the most competitive in the world.

For more details, please see the following [news release](#).

Creating a Green and Sustainable Future:

We believe that a strong economy goes hand in hand with a healthy environment. That's why we've been working diligently since the beginning of 2015 to invest in projects that protect our natural environment while also creating good, well-paying jobs for Canadians. While we have made significant progress in fighting climate change, there is still much work ahead of us, and climate action is one of the foundations of our plan to build a healthier, greener, and more competitive Canada.

To help us get there, we will bring forward a strategy to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal and legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. We will also support investments in innovative renewable solutions and launch a new fund to attract investments in zero-emission products while cutting the corporate tax rate in half for these companies.

To help Canadians go green, we will be retrofitting homes and buildings to cut costs for businesses and families, while making zero-emission vehicles and charging stations more accessible across the country. To further support the needs of our communities, our government will be expanding urban parks, planting more trees, and delivering additional public transit options.

Working with provinces and territories, we will also move forward with a new \$5-billion Clean Power Fund that supports the electrification of Canadian industries, which will create some of the cleanest mills, mines, and factories in the world. And to support the hard-working people of our energy sectors, in places like Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, we will be assisting in their transition to good-paying and long-lasting jobs in clean technology.

Finally, we will continue our plan to put a price on pollution while putting money back in the pockets of Canadians. We will modernize Canada's Environmental Protection Act, and we will move forward with our plan to ban single-use plastics.

As we rebuild our economy, we must ensure that we build a better future for our children and grandchildren. By working together, we can create a Canada that is both sustainable and prosperous.

Supporting Canadians Impacted by COVID-19:

Over the last 7 months, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to do whatever it takes to support Canadians through the COVID-19 crisis. Although many Canadians have gone back to work, others are still struggling to find employment and put food on the table for their families. That's why our government made changes to the EI program and introduced three new temporary benefits to support those who continue to face hardship due to the pandemic, and who depended on the CERB.

Ministers Leboutheillier and Qualtrough opened the application period for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB). Applications for the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) will open on October 12, 2020.

To make life easier on Canadians, the CRA is providing a simple application process similar to that for the CERB, and applicants can apply either by phone or online through the CRA's My Account Profile. The CRA will also implement additional verification and security measures upfront, to help ensure that we deliver benefit payments only to people who need them. All benefits will be available to Canadians for one year beginning September 27, 2020.

As we transition into our new reality, these flexible programs will help get Canadians get back to work and prevent further labour market disruptions due to the pandemic. They will also help prevent Canadians who do not have sickness benefits through their employers from having to make the impossible choice between going to work sick or staying home without pay.

Together, we can keep Canadians safe and healthy and build back better.

For more details, please see the following [news release](#).

Top-up of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund:

On Friday, the Prime Minister and Minister Joly announced a \$600 million top-up of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund initially announced in April. This investment will help small and medium sized businesses survive the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will support the Community Futures Network and five regional development agencies and is aimed at several sectors, including the technology, manufacturing and tourism industries.

For more details, please see the following [news release](#).

More Support for Women and Children's Organizations:

Canada would not be the country it is today without the countless contributions of Canadian women throughout our history. On Friday, the Prime Minister announced an additional \$50 million to support organizations that provide services for women and children facing violence. This includes \$10 million for women's shelters and sexual assault centres across Canada, \$10 million for gender-based violence services that support Indigenous women and children living off reserve, and \$30 million for organizations that combat gender-based violence.

For more details, please see the following [news release](#).

New Major Infrastructure Funds:

the Prime Minister announced new major infrastructure initiatives through the Canada Infrastructure Bank. As we begin to restart our economy to build back better, this \$10 billion plan will help connect more households and small businesses to high-speed Internet, strengthen Canadian agriculture, and help build a low-carbon economy. It will also help Canadians get back to work and create approximately 60,000 jobs across the nation. This historic investment is part of our commitment to create over one million jobs to rebuild from the pandemic. It is also part of our \$180 billion Investing in Canada Plan.

For more details, including a breakdown of funding, please see the following [news release](#).

Criminalizing Conversion Therapy:

Ministers Lametti and Chagger reintroduced proposed legislative amendments to the criminal code that would ensure the criminalization of Conversion Therapy in Canada. Our government is determined to protect LGBTQ2 persons and promote their rights and freedoms. By introducing these criminal code offences, we are helping create a Canada where everyone, regardless of their gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation – can be their happiest and most authentic selves.

For more details, see the following [news release](#).

At a glance, for September 2020:

	Total Jobs Gained/Lost	Full-Time Jobs Gained/Lost	Unemployment Rate (Change from August)
Ontario	+167,600	+182,400	9.5% (-1.1% percentage points)

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!

We are now into a second wave. Therefore, your daily discipline is extremely important to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Let's ensure that we continue to be diligent in crushing the curve. If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Happy Thanksgiving – enjoy your weekend.