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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

MEMORANDUM

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

Date: July 17, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 – Update

SUMMARY

This week, we've reached agreements with the Provinces and Territories to provide an over \$19 billion fund to help restart their economies, we announced an update to our shared border with the United States, we've made progress on human trials for a COVID-19 vaccine, Quebec has made masks mandatory in all public places, we've added health officials at the border crossings to screen for COVID, and were helping the forestry industry with added costs due to COVID-19.

UPDATES

Working with the Provinces: Over \$19 billion in Economic Restart Funding

Fighting COVID-19 has always been a Team Canada effort and it continues to be one as we move into the recovery phase. This week, our government announced an agreement with the provinces and territories that will see over \$19 billion invested in protecting the health of Canadians, getting people safely back to work, and preparing for a potential second wave. This Safe Restart Agreement for the next six months includes investments in priority areas, including:

- Increasing testing and contact tracing;
- Additional support for provincial and territorial healthcare systems, including challenges related to mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness;
- Supporting the most vulnerable, including seniors in long-term care facilities and nursing homes;
- Helping municipalities deliver key services;
- Securing personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers and businesses;
- Ensuring safe childcare is available so parents can return to work;
- Supporting people who do not have paid sick leave;

Together, as a country, we're laying the groundwork for our economic recovery.

This week's announcement, coupled with the \$2.2B Gas Tax announcement we made in June, will infuse a significant amount of money in to Provinces, Territories and Municipalities to help them safely restart their economy. To access this money, Provinces and Territories will need to submit a letter on how they will invest these funds which will be made public and a better breakdown of dollars will be communicated.

The Government of Canada is working to ensure that Canada has the resources it needs to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians. In partnership with the provinces and territories, federal efforts will focus on seven priorities to address Canadians' immediate needs within the next six to eight months.

✓ Testing, contact tracing, and data management

- In order to best help Canadians if a further outbreak of the virus occurs, we need to invest in testing, contact tracing, and public health data management. The Government of Canada will provide \$4.28 billion to support provinces and territories with the costs of increasing their capacity to conduct testing, perform contact tracing, and share public health data that will help fight the pandemic. The goal is to ensure provinces and territories have the capacity to test up to 200,000 people per day, nation-wide. Funding and support will also be provided to improve and modernize data management across Canada, to help all orders of government coordinate their efforts to contain the virus.

✓ Health care system capacity

- Canadians rely on our health care services and mental health supports everyday. COVID-19 has placed significant demands on our care systems, and placed additional strain on our mental health. The Government of Canada will provide \$700 million to support health care system capacity to respond to a potential future wave of COVID-19. We will also provide \$500 million to address immediate needs and gaps in the support and protection of people experiencing challenges related to mental health, substance use, or homelessness. We want to keep Canadians safe and healthy, and to provide the health care supports they need during these difficult times.

✓ Vulnerable populations

- Canadians receiving long-term care, home care, and palliative care are at an increased risk of more severe cases of COVID-19. As the economy restarts, it is important to have continued protections and supports in place for seniors, and provide health and social supports to other vulnerable populations. The Government of Canada will provide \$740 million to support one-time costs over the next six to eight months for measures to control and prevent infections. This could include addressing staffing issues, in long-term care, home care, and palliative care facilities and services. Funding can also be used to support other vulnerable populations.

✓ Municipalities

- Municipalities are on the front lines of a safe restart of the economy, and will need to put in place appropriate precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and manage public spaces and critical services, like public transit. The Government of Canada will contribute up to \$2 billion to support municipalities with COVID-19 operating costs for the next six to eight months. Provincial and territorial governments will continue to support municipalities, and will cost-match federal supports with investments made this fiscal year. In addition, the Government of Canada will also cost-match approximately \$1.8 billion to support any additional provincial/territorial contributions to for public transit.

✓ Personal protective equipment for health and non-health workers

- We need to keep our health care workers safe and healthy, and COVID-19 has added significant pressure to ensure that there is enough supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for these and other essential workers. The Government of Canada and provinces and territories have made significant investments in this area. To support the restart of the economy, the Government of Canada will commit \$4.5 billion to purchase PPE for national use and commit \$3 billion to provinces and territories for PPE investments. To facilitate future procurement, provinces and territories will share PPE-related data with the Government of Canada on a regular basis.

✓ Child care for returning workers

- So parents can know that their children are safe as they gradually return to the workplace, the Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to ensure sufficient child care is available during this challenging time. The Government of Canada will provide \$625 million to address the reduced availability of child care spaces and the unique needs stemming from the pandemic.

✓ Pan-Canadian sick leave

- To safely restart the economy, Canada must ensure that workers do not return to work if they have COVID-19 or are showing symptoms. To encourage workers to remain at home and seek public health advice if they are showing symptoms, the Government of Canada will fund a new temporary income support program, at an estimated cost of \$1.1 billion. The new program will support workers who do not already have access to other paid sick leave. Where not already available, provinces and territories will establish job-protected sick leave, through regulation or legislation, that allows workers to take up to 10 days leave related to COVID-19.

29 Members of Congress ask Canada to Re-consider Opening the Border:

We announced an agreement with the United States to restrict all non-essential travel, including tourism and recreation, across the Canada-U.S. border. This agreement is in place until August 21, 2020.

To our American friends and neighbours, we say, this time of global pandemic is not the time to visit the Rockies, Vancouver or Niagara. Decisions about Canada's border are made by Canadians, and in Canada's national interest. We continue to have friendly ongoing conversations with our American partners about our shared border.

Human Clinical Trials Begin for Quebec-made COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate:

We knew it was critical to invest in research, so that our best and brightest can find therapies, treatments, and a possible vaccine for COVID-19. On July 9, Health Canada approved the second clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine in Canada, using the Medicago vaccine. This is the first vaccine from a Canadian company to enter human trials, and we are pleased to support such important research in Canada. We continue to support the Canadian and international scientific community in their research for treatments and vaccines of COVID-19.

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cp24.com%2Fnews%2Fhuman-clinical-trials-begin-for-quebec-made-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-1.5023230&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6874e8563540442445d808d82a53e5b8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637305887101583849&sdata=8kEpVXxL0zn5BobdwS2SsZU71EmVOd%2BIOkFR2SphxOU%3D&reserved=0>

Quebec Makes Masks Mandatory in Indoor Public Spaces:

As we look to reopen our economy, we must ensure Canadians are safe from COVID-19. It seems that some Provinces are considering the use of masks as they reopen. Mask use can be important, but other public health practices – physical distancing, limiting contact with people, and personal hygiene are also important.

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbc.ca%2Fnews%2Fcanada%2Fmontreal%2Fquebec-mandatory-masks-indoor-public-spaces-1.5647203&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6874e8563540442445d808d82a53e5b8%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637305887101583849&sdata=prhE3B%2B7efTPytUtt5rCuTBQ%2Fo1p7TrJqpZOsm24Uyk%3D&reserved=0>

Canada Adds Health Officials at US Border Crossings to Screen for COVID-19:

We are ensuring that travellers into Canada are properly screened and made aware of their obligations under the Quarantine Act. We have been working to build officer presence at 36 high volume points of entry over the past two months. In addition to those stationed at high-volume airports, quarantine officers are being deployed at land borders. PHAC currently has officers at 30 points of entry, and planning is ongoing for the remaining six. Anyone entering Canada who has signs of COVID-19 will be referred to a quarantine officer for assessment, either in-person or through video conference. Regardless of symptoms, all travellers entering Canada are required to isolate or quarantine for 14 days.

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbc.ca%2Fnews%2Fcanada%2Fnew-brunswick%2Fcanada-adds-health-officials-us-border-1.5645990&data=02%7C01%7C%7C0eaa335404dd4be50ef708d82a53f506%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637305887362049772&sd=9JzN%2Fv5RIDKeUb48SlpVSBOT%2F2EysQPtm59BM7qRAI%3D&reserved=0>

Helping the Forestry Industry:

The government announced its intent to provide up to \$30 million to offset additional costs associated with COVID-19 safety measures for small and medium enterprises in the forestry sector, including approximately 7,000 tree planters. All orders of government are working collaboratively to preserve jobs for forest sector workers and help with the extra costs incurred to protect workers, like sanitizing stations, personal protective equipment, and changes to help maintain social distancing. It will also help support the scheduled planting of 600 million trees and advance our commitment to plant 2 billion trees.

For more information, please see the news release:

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canada.ca%2Fen%2Fnatural-resources-canada%2Fnews%2F2020%2F07%2Femergency-funding-for-covid-19-safety-measures-in-forest-operations.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7C9da8933b74804706e51b08d82a5403bd%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637305887606283915&sd=ICrvC6mf8RYf91XqXygPmkY9OLKOUHthzq%2BRTykCAmE%3D&reserved=0>

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 in this time of crisis. We are in this together! Your daily efforts are ensuring that we will get through this together.

If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Enjoy your weekend.

Stay safe