

## MEMORANDUM

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

**Date:** July 31, 2020

**Subject:** COVID-19 – Update

---

### SUMMARY

In the last two weeks, we have been busy providing updates and supports to Canadians. We've increased the Canada Child Benefit, made changes to the Wage Subsidy program, created a top up payment for Canadians with disabilities, invested in creating daycare spaces to help parents get back to work, and provided updates on investments we are making in healthcare for all Canadians. On top of all of this, S&P has given Canada a AAA credit rating.

### UPDATES

#### Canada Child Benefit:

We're committed to ensuring that all Canadian families have a fair chance at success by providing parents with more money to help with the high costs of raising their kids. In 2016, we introduced the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), which is simpler, more generous, and better targeted to those who need it most. Since then, we've made changes to simplify and clarify the CCB application to ensure that all Canadian parents can more easily access the benefits and credits to which they are entitled. Thanks to the CCB, nearly 334,000 children have been lifted out of poverty, and 9 out of 10 Canadian families have more money to help pay for things like healthy food, clothes, and activities they can do at home as a family.

For the upcoming 2020–21 benefit year beginning in July 2020, the maximum yearly benefit will be \$6,765 per child under age 6, and \$5,708 per child aged 6 through 17. The CCB has been indexed to inflation every year since 2018 to keep up with the cost of living. Indexation was implemented two years ahead of schedule to give parents even more money each month to help them provide for their children.

Recently, as part of our COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, 3.7M families received a one-time \$300 payment, per child, as part of the May 2020 CCB payment.



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](mailto: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

## Changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:

As we continue to safely restart the economy, many Canadian businesses and workers are continuing to face significant challenges and uncertainty. That's why our government is proposing changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that would provide broader and better targeted support so that workers can return to their jobs quickly as the economy restarts. To date, the CEWS has supported around 3 million Canadian workers stay on the payroll, and with these proposed changes even more Canadian workers will benefit. These changes would:

- Extend the subsidy until December 19, 2020, with details for a redesigned program until November 21, 2020.
- Ensure that all eligible employers facing a revenue loss can qualify.
- Introduce a top-up subsidy to those who have been the hardest hit by the pandemic.
- And ensure that those currently using the program can continue to receive support, even as they recover.

The redesigned CEWS would help employers rehire workers quickly as the economy improves, and better position themselves for the future.

## Support for Canadians with disabilities:

We know this pandemic has deeply affected the lives and health of all Canadians, and disproportionately affected Canadians with disabilities. From the beginning of this public health crisis, we have taken a disability-inclusive approach to our emergency response to ensure our actions supported and empowered Canadians with disabilities. That's why we announced a one-time, tax-free payment of \$600 to support Canadians with disabilities with extraordinary expenses incurred during the pandemic. Today we are proposing legislation to make the benefit available to more people and expanding the payment to include 1.7 million Canadians with disabilities. Our government remains committed to a pandemic response and recovery that is disability inclusive and thanks the members of the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group for their tireless work and valued input over the past few months. We all benefit when everyone can participate equally in our economy and society.

## Health and Safety:

Minister Hajdu provided additional details on the funding provided by our government to support health priorities in Canada. The Government of Canada will provide \$4.28 billion to further expand testing and contact tracing capacity, and the associated data management and information sharing systems. Part of this funding will help ensure testing components such as swabs and point-of-care kits are available and will help to ensure a Canada-wide capacity of conducting 200,000 tests per day. For more information, see the news release:

<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canada.ca%2Fen%2Fhealth-canada%2Fnews%2F2020%2F07%2Fthe-government-of-canada-is-investing-to-safely-restart-the-economy-while-protecting-the-health-of-canadians.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cdd3b545ed9fa448e174f08d834b48814%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637317297259841570&sddata=%2FzceFnhwUkUjxVWqDz9oTo2mTp3Yhqhlp%2B6ll1rjNW0%3D&reserved=0>

### Helping Parents Return to Work:

Parents are facing unique challenges as we continue to deal with the pandemic, and we're taking action to support families as we begin to safely restart our economy. To support parents as they gradually return to work, we are investing \$625 million in emergency federal support to ensure that safe, sufficient, and affordable childcare is available. This builds on our previous support for families during the pandemic, including a one-time increased Canada Child Benefit payment to help parents cover unexpected additional costs during this difficult time. We will keep putting Canadians first and working with our provincial and territorial partners to help families, keep our communities strong and healthy, and make our economy resilient, as we prepare for a potential second wave of the virus.

### S&P affirms Canada at 'AAA/A-1+':

<https://eur06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fca.reuters.com%2Farticle%2FdomesticNews%2FidCAKCN24N2VQ&data=02%7C01%7C%7Ce16fcb9c927246954c3208d834b47a52%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637317297747980353&sddata=tQdl%2BuAOb19tDMa74hx3illDqzvK18vfAiU2aPtnNs0%3D&reserved=0>

Going into the global pandemic, Canada was in a great position to deploy our fiscal firepower to protect Canadians, and we have. Canada's COVID-19 response is ensuring workers and businesses have the financial support they need to weather this crisis and come back strong. We will continue to manage our finances responsibly and welcome S&P's decision to reaffirm Canada's AAA credit rating.

### Safe Restart Agreement and Health Care:

In order to best help Canadians if a further outbreak of the virus occurs, we need to build capacity and invest in our public health systems. That's why as a part of the Canada's Safe Restart Agreement, we are investing:

- \$7.5 billion to ensure that there is enough supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect health care and essential workers;
- \$4.28 billion to expand our testing and contact tracing capacity with a goal of conducting 200,000 tests per day to help manage future COVID-19 outbreaks, over the coming year;
- \$700 million to support health care system capacity, to help us prepare for a potential resurgence of the virus;

- \$740 million to support one-time costs over the next six to eight months for infection prevention and control measures in long-term care, home care and palliative care facilities and services; and
- \$500 million to address immediate needs and gaps in the support and protection of people experiencing challenges related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness.

Our economic recovery depends on us working together to keep each other safe. We will get through this challenging time together.

**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 long weekend.**

**Stay safe**