

MEMORANDUM

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

Date: June 5, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 – Update

SUMMARY

This week, we are reminding seniors that they will receive their OAS/GIS top up the week of June 6th. We also announced aid for municipalities and changes to where people HAVE to wear a mask. We are also looking for input from businesses and stakeholders on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. We have provided links to the surveys below. We have also provided additional money to support Canadians with disabilities and we are in the early stages of negotiating a deal with the Provinces and Territories, on a plan to re-open Canadas economy.

UPDATES

Helping Municipalities through the Gas Tax Fund:

As we continue to focus on the health and safety of all Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also taking immediate action to support small towns and big cities across the country to restart the economy, and create good, well-paying jobs.

Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that funding delivered through the Federal Gas Tax Fund will be accelerated this year to help communities as quickly as possible while respecting public health guidelines.

This means that \$2.2 billion in annual federal infrastructure funding for communities will be delivered in one payment in June. Early delivery of the full funding for 2020-21 will help communities quickly move forward with infrastructure projects that will improve our quality of life and help restart local economies.

Communities have flexibility to use the funding to meet their local needs. Projects could include access to high-speed broadband, improvements to water and road systems, and the building of cycling and walking paths. These projects create jobs, and improve how Canadians live, work, and play.



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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Since the start of the crisis, Prime Minister Trudeau and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland have worked closely with premiers. The Government of Canada is working with the provinces and territories to look at ways to further support municipalities as part of this ongoing collaboration. As well, I continue to work closely with municipalities to ensure their needs are recognized and are dealt with.

I believe we all recognized early on that there is no playbook with respect to the crisis we find ourselves in. However, based on what we have learned, and the direction we continue to take, the playbook is becoming well populated and will contribute to current and future strategic decisions.

Although the announcement made on Monday by the Prime Minister with respect to help for communities is welcomed to accelerate “capital” projects, stimulating local economy and mitigating the financial burden on property taxpayers and water/wastewater ratepayers, help is also needed with respect to relief on community “operating” budgets, regardless of the size of the community, for the same reasons.

Therefore, I am advocating for the following:

- ✓ Support the recommendations brought forward by the Federation of Municipalities (FCM) – financial support for community operating budgets.
- ✓ Provinces need to be a partner in financially supporting communities, and
- ✓ I am arranging to facilitate dialogue with members of Urban, Rural Caucus and our community partners to establish a new deal for communities to satisfy our collective long game, part of which will establish an “enhanced, rebranded and sustainable” capital funding envelope for communities. This will enable communities to establish sustainable financial planning attached to capital and operating budgets and establish a closer relationship between the federal government and our communities.

Helping Canadians with Disabilities:

We know this pandemic has deeply affected the lives and health of all Canadians, and disproportionately affected Canadians with disabilities in particular. From the beginning, we have taken a disability inclusive approach to our emergency response to ensure Canadians with disabilities get the support they need.

Today, we announced a one-time payment of \$600 for persons with disabilities to address these expenses. This payment will go to valid Disability Tax Credit certificate holders, which includes parents with children or dependents with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and many other Canadians that we know have costs associated with severe and prolonged disabilities.

We are confident that this measure, along with our other investments, will greatly benefit Canadians with disabilities across the country. We all benefit when everyone can participate equally in our economy, and society.

A Plan to Re-Open:

We have reached a deal with the Provinces and Territories to provide \$14 billion to re-open the economy. More details are still to come.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Consultations:

The Government of Canada is currently consulting with key business and labour representatives on potential adjustments to the CEWS program to incent jobs and growth, including the 30 per cent revenue decline threshold. Any potential changes following the consultation will have as key objectives to maximize employment, ensure the CEWS reflects the immediate needs of businesses, and support the post-crisis economic recovery. The online consultation closes on June 5th and we are particularly interested in getting feedback from stakeholders on CEWS and seasonal industries.

You'll find the links to the consultation below.

CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY CONSULTATION:

<https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.canada.ca%2Fen%2Fdepartment-finance%2Fprograms%2Fconsultations%2F2020%2Fcanada-emergency-wage-subsidy-consultation.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7C219ebf8334a54964e5e108d809605af0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637269656728323027&data=kk9Xo mmBRwxn%2BZhaZgAtBEotlZOeBMf54ay08kJdUgQ%3D&reserved=0>

The government is consulting with businesses, labour representatives, not-for-profits and charities on potential adjustments to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program to incent jobs and growth, including potential adjustments to the 30-per-cent revenue reduction threshold. Any changes to the program will seek to maximize employment, ensure the CEWS reflects the immediate needs of businesses, and support the post-crisis economic recovery. The Department of Finance Canada is seeking the input of employers to inform its advice to the government on the future design of the CEWS.

How to participate:

Survey: Share your experience by taking a short survey

<https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffinancecanada.typeform.com%2Fto%2FIRcmAq&data=02%7C01%7C%7C219ebf8334a54964e5e108d809605af0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637269656728323027&sdata=%2BeEHbz863eLwJdJ5RUOhHCpW5IG3aqRUPgJEaP21X64%3D&reserved=0>

Updates on Where People MUST Wear Masks:

To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, Transport Canada and the transportation industry have implemented a layered system of measures, such as increased sanitization, health checks for passengers, and allowing passengers to remain in their vehicles on ferries. However, there are still points in the transportation system where workers must be in close proximity to co-workers and travellers.

The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Marc Garneau, announced he is expanding the requirements for the use of face coverings by workers and others involved in the transportation system, to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

This approach for workers complements recent regulations and guidelines for passengers to use face coverings in certain circumstances when travelling by air, marine and rail to reduce the risk of the virus transmission. It also puts in place a more a comprehensive approach for face coverings that strengthens the protection of everyone involved in the transportation system.

The measures will be implemented through a combination of mandatory orders and guidance:

Aviation:

Expand the existing face covering / non-medical mask requirements beyond passengers to include some flight crew and airport workers. These measures come into effect at noon EDT on June 4, 2020.

Marine:

Issue guidance recommending that all workers in the marine transportation sector have in their possession a face covering and recommend that face coverings be worn using a risk-based approach specific to the unique circumstances of the workplace, when physical distancing cannot be maintained, and/or when local authorities require it.

Rail:

Issue guidance requiring rail operators to notify passengers that they will be asked to wear a face covering when physical distancing of two metres from others cannot be maintained, or as requested by rail operators.

Provide or make accessible a face covering to all workers in the rail industry. Ensure a face covering be worn by workers on a risk-based approach specific to the unique circumstances of the workplace, when physical distancing cannot be maintained, and/or when local authorities require it.

Road:

Establish a set of practices for the use of personal protective equipment, including face coverings in road transportation (i.e., trucking, motor coach, transit), in collaboration with provinces, territories and industry.

Existing public health and good hygiene practices including physical distancing and frequent hand washing, are still the most effective methods to limit the spread of the virus.

Where physical distancing of two metres from others cannot be maintained, the use of face coverings can play a key role in limiting transmission of the virus. These measures will better protect everyone involved in the transportation system: passengers, support workers, customers, and essential transportation workers, who ensure the system continues to function.

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.