



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

PATRICK WEILER

Member of Parliament

West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country



/PatrickBWeiler



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

As we all navigate the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during this difficult time. As your Member of Parliament, I assure you that the federal government is here to support you and our community.

The response to COVID-19 is an incredibly dynamic situation, which is why the Government of Canada continues to review our programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of Canadian families, workers, and businesses, as well as to support the work of the provinces, territories, and First Nations government to fight the pandemic. In this newsletter, you will find information about the programs and supports our Government has introduced for individuals and business as of late May.

Our communities are coming together to support each other in ways that make us all proud to be Canadian. Volunteers are delivering food donations to help fuel front-line workers and new and existing organizations are working to ensure vulnerable groups have the supports they need to get through challenging circumstances. Local businesses are also stepping up, re-tooling and aiding efforts to produce much needed equipment and supplies. For example, distilleries up and down the Sea to Sky and the Sunshine Coast are producing hand sanitizer for our hospitals, municipalities, businesses and the general public. From Pender Harbour to Pemberton to West Vancouver, I continue to be inspired by the extraordinary generosity and acts of kindness from our riding.

As we continue the gradual transition to a new phase of this pandemic, let us remember the important work that got us to this point. We are not out of the woods yet, so let's make sure we continue to follow the advice of our public health experts so that we don't squander the sacrifices we have made over the last few months. Stay strong and be kind to one another. Keep physical distance, practice good hygiene and avoid non-essential travel. We will get through this together.

My office is always here to help in any way that we can. As we in BC begin to relax some of the measures put in place to fight COVID-19, we will continue to be available by phone at 604-913-2660 or by email at Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca. In addition, the office will soon be open, by appointment only, for those individuals requiring in person assistance.

Please visit my website at www.patrickweiler.ca and social media platforms @PatrickBWeiler for up to date information. Email us as well to sign up to receive bi-weekly email updates on government measures to respond to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weiler, MP
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

Summer 2020

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For updated information on Canada's response to COVID-19 and application details for listed supports, please visit canada.ca/coronavirus



SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is here to support you during this difficult time, providing direct support for Canadian workers and families. Please visit canada.ca/coronavirus-benefits for digital tools to walk you through the details of our support programs, which include:

- The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** is a \$2000/month benefit to Canadians who are involuntarily without work due to COVID-19. The CERB is available for up to 16 weeks to help, and recipients remain eligible if they receive up to \$1,000.
 - If you sign up for direct deposit, you can expect payment in 3 business days. For more information on applying for the CERB, please visit: canada.ca/coronavirus.
- **Canada Child Benefit top-up** of \$300/child was sent to parents this May.
- **Mortgage payment deferrals** for up to six months are available for Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) insured mortgages, from the six largest banks and from many other financial institutions.
- **Income Tax payments are deferred** from April to September 1, 2020. The deadline to file your taxes is June 1st, but there are no penalties for amounts owing until September 1st.

More support for seniors:

- ✓ **One time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors** eligible for the Old Age Security **with an additional \$200 for seniors** eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement
- ✓ **Financial support for organizations** that offer community-based projects that **reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network**
- ✓ **Temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments** if seniors' 2019 income information has not yet been assessed **to ensure the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive benefits when they need them the most**

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

- **Old Age Security (OAS) & Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) top-ups** of \$300 for seniors eligible for OAS pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for GIS.
- **Reducing required minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25%** for 2020 to provide flexibility for seniors.
- **A \$20 million investment through the New Horizons Program** to support community-based projects that will improve the quality of life of seniors by mitigating social isolation.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS & YOUNG CANADIANS

More support for students:

- ✓ **Doubling** Canada Student Grants
- ✓ Creating the **Canada Emergency Student Benefit**
- ✓ **Improving** Canada Student Loans
- ✓ Helping students **find a job in their community** with the Canada Student Service Grant
- ✓ **Expanding eligibility** for student financial assistance

Learn more at Canada.ca/coronavirus

- **Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)** of \$1,250/month (or \$2,000 for students with dependents or permanent disabilities), which is available for eligible students unable to find work due to COVID-19 from May-August 2020.
- **Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)** of up to \$5,000 towards student tuition in the fall for students who volunteer with eligible organizations within their community this summer.
- Expansion of the **Canada Service Corps**, doubling of the **Canada Student Grants Program**, broadening the eligibility for **Student Financial Assistance**, and enhancing the **Canada Student Loans Program**.
- **Six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans.**
- Enhancing the **Canada Summer Jobs** program to increase the wage subsidy, extend the program by six months and provide more flexible placements.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS FOR WORKERS & BUSINESSES

The Government of Canada announced a suite of measures to support businesses and their workers that have been impacted by COVID-19. Some of these programs include the:

- **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)** of up to 75% of employee wages for eligible organizations impacted by COVID-19 to keep or rehire their staff until August 29, 2020. Businesses can apply for the CEWS through the CRA website.
- **Pandemic Pay Support**, funded jointly with the Province of BC, to provide a wage top-up of \$4/hour for essential workers in BC. This top-up will be automatically sent to eligible essential workers.
- **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**, which provides SMEs and non-profits with an up to \$40,000 interest-free loan with 25% loan forgiveness. Please contact your financial institution to access the CEBA.
- **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)** for those that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures. Visit Community Futures Howe Sound, Community Futures Sunshine Coast or Western Economic Diversification to apply.
- **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)**, which provides forgivable loans of 50% of the tenant's monthly rent to commercial property owners who lower the rent of their tenants by at least 75%. The program is available from April-June from CMHC.
- **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)** to provide credit to medium-sized companies, and the **Large Employers Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF)** to provide liquidity to large Canadian employers.
- **Sector specific support** for fish harvesters and processors, culture, arts and sports organizations, academic and research institutions, farmers and the agri-food sector, energy sector, early-stage companies, Aboriginal owned businesses and others.
- **Deferral of GST remittances and customs duty payments.**

More information can be found at canada.ca/economic-response-plan, and a handy tool is available to walk you through the most appropriate programs for you at canada.ca/coronavirus-benefits.



More help for small businesses:
Up to 75% of rent covered for small businesses who have been hit hard due to COVID-19.

THE \$350 MILLION

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND WILL:

1. Allow community organisations to adapt their services to meet the needs of vulnerable Canadians
2. Expand home delivery services
3. Help transport seniors or people with disabilities to appointments
4. Widen the reach of help lines
5. Increase capacity for online & phone service
6. Train volunteers on health & safety

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS INTO COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable in our community, which creates challenges for the community organizations that they rely on for services and programs. The Government of Canada is supporting their work through the:

- **Emergency Community Support Fund**, which assists community organizations helping Canadians in need during the pandemic. Organizations can apply for part of the \$350 million fund through our national intermediaries: United Way Centraide Canada, the Canadian Red Cross and Community Foundations of Canada.
- **Reaching Home Initiative**, which supports organizations addressing homelessness by providing \$157.5M through the existing program.
- **Support for women and children fleeing violence**, by providing up to \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centres at a time when domestic violence has increased.
- **Support for organizations addressing food insecurity**, by providing \$100 million in support to local food banks and other organizations addressing food insecurity.
- **Wellness Together Canada**, an online portal to support Canadians dealing with increased mental health challenges and substance use, providing resources, tools, apps and connections to trained volunteers and qualified mental health professionals. This \$240 million investment into mental healthcare will help address mental health challenges associated with COVID-19.

BC GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS

The Province of British Columbia has announced a number of measures to support Canadian workers and businesses including:

- **The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers** - a tax-free, one time \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19.
- **Allowing workers to take unpaid leave** if they are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19.
- **Providing a residential rent supplement** of \$500 to be paid directly to landlords.
- **Rate reductions from BC Hydro**, including a universal one per cent reduction in rates for all customers and a three-month bill credit for residential customers who have lost jobs or had wages reduced as a result of COVID-19.
- **For small businesses, BC Hydro bill deferral & payment plans** are available, including: a three-month payment holiday for small businesses and a 50 percent payment deferral for larger industrial customers.



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Public Health Agency of Canada and its provincial counterparts continue to update recommendations and directives in response to the changing circumstances of the pandemic. We must all follow the directives of federal and provincial public health officials, including Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

The latest information on prevention, preparedness, and health advice can be found at canada.ca/coronavirus and by calling 1-833-784-4397.

Provincially, information can be found at gov.bc.ca/covid19, through the BC Centre for Disease Control, or by calling 811. If you believe you have contracted COVID-19, please take the online Self Assessment tool at ca.thrive.health/covid19.

Please note that many travel restrictions are in effect. We are directed to avoid any non-essential international travel and must quarantine for two full weeks upon returning from abroad. Updated travel advisories can be found at travel.gc.ca.

At the time of writing, we are encouraged to avoid non-essential travel within our province. BC Ferries has also taken new measures to mitigate the spread of the virus by reducing passenger capacity on its vessels and screening passengers for the virus.

We all have a responsibility to take reasonable and sensible precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Slowing the infection rate is essential to allow our healthcare system to effectively manage increased demands. We are all at risk, particularly those with compromised immune systems and the elderly. Let us remember and consider how our actions impact those around us.

It is therefore vital that we continue to follow good hygiene practices and maintain physical distancing as we get through this pandemic. We all have a role to play to protect our loved ones, friends, neighbours, and community.