



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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SPRING 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

With the arrival of spring, we also mark one year since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With Health Canada's approval of the AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson vaccines, and with millions of doses arriving each week, we are on track to meet our goals of receiving 8 million doses by the end of March, 36.5 million by the end of June, and 117.9 million by the end of September. As a reminder, for all information pertaining to the federal government's response to COVID-19, including vaccine deliveries, please visit canada.ca/coronavirus.

The last few months have been incredibly tough, and while we can have confidence that the outlook improves every day, the toll the pandemic has had on our mental health bears recognition. To that end, I want to point you to the Government of Canada's Wellness Together service, which was set up to help those suffering from mental distress impacts from the pandemic. For more information, please visit <https://ca.portal.gc/>.

On January 25, 2021, our Government launched pre-budget consultations with Canadians. Once the coronavirus is under control, it will be time to rebuild. In early February, I hosted three pre-budget consultations to address the unique and specific needs of three major

communities in my riding. During the course of our pre-budget community consultations, we heard from a range of sectors, regions, and industries to discuss ways to ensure a strong economic recovery once the virus is defeated. After these consultations, I drafted a letter to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and included our What We Heard Report which can be found on our website (patrickweiler.ca).

A reminder that you can find more information about my work as your Member of Parliament on our social media pages (@PatrickBWeiler) and on our website, including my monthly Coast to Capital column submissions to The Local Weekly newspaper, links to our ministerial townhalls, PDFs of our MP print mailings, and our monthly digital newsletters.

Sincerely,

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

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INVESTING IN OUR LEGIONS

On March 2, I announced \$91,715 in funding from the Government of Canada to support legions across the riding. This funding is being delivered through the Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Fund and will assist legions with their operational costs so they can continue providing important support for Veterans.

The funding is being allocated to eight legion branches across West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country. Legions receiving these funds will have access to the support they need to replace charitable and other revenue lost because of the pandemic and will be able to continue their work with Veterans and their families during a time when it is needed most.

Any Veteran can tell you that the support they get from the Royal Canadian Legion and other organizations like these makes a world of difference in their lives. They are important gathering places for veterans and the community at large, and it is vital that we support them. This investment will help sustain legions across our riding so they can continue to provide important services for our Veterans and their loved ones.

We Want to Hear From You

Share your thoughts by
emailing us at
Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca
or sending a letter to the
Constituency Office at
6367 Bruce Street West
Vancouver, BC, V7W 2G5.
No postage required.

UNIVERSAL BROADBAND IN THE SEA TO SKY CORRIDOR

Connectivity is an issue in rural areas throughout the second largest country in the world, where the low density of households limits the business case for the private sector to invest in building out broadband infrastructure. Weekly meetings with fellow Liberal Members of Parliament that represent rural areas has helped diagnose this and other problems facing rural communities so that we can propose solutions.

These efforts bore fruit with the announcement of the \$1.7 billion Universal Broadband Fund on November 8, 2020, which built upon significant investments over the last five years. The UBF will ensure 98% of Canadian households are connected by 2026, and every Canadian household is connected by 2030. Among others, it includes \$600 million for Low Earth Orbit Satellites for extremely remote areas, and the Rapid Response Stream (RRS) to build shovel-ready projects.

In our riding, I have had many discussions with the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and different telecommunications providers over the last year about where new fibre optic cable needed to be installed, and where last mile connectivity was an issue.

Which is why, I was very pleased to announce on February 18, 2021, alongside Minister Monsef and Telus, over \$2 million in federal funding from the RRS for the "Pemberton Expansion Project", which will deliver broadband connectivity to 300 households from Mount Currie to Devine through fibre cable and last mile connectivity. Importantly, this project will be built by November 15, 2021, quickly allowing residents to work from home, access virtual health care, learn virtually, and meet other challenges necessitated by the pandemic to keep our communities safe.

This project builds on last October's completed \$5.6 million Whistler-Mount Currie fibre optic line, which further improved connectivity in the Sea to Sky Corridor, funded by the federal government's *Connect to Innovate* program.

While the vast majority of our region is connected to high-speed Internet, I continue to advance work to close the remaining connectivity gaps. Looking to Budget 2021, investments like these will be vital to ensure a robust and resilient economic recovery. Now is the time to invest in our communities so we can create stronger, more resilient, and equitable communities for the long-term.



Photo: Visiting and supporting local businesses



EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

In April 2020, our Government announced an investment of \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need through the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). This Fund aims to help community organizations adapt frontline services for vulnerable Canadians to face the challenges of COVID-19.

This month, we announced the next round of funding for organizations across our riding. Here in the Sea to Sky Corridor, this includes Sea to Sky Community Services, Squamish Helping Hands Society, the Squamish Hospital Foundation, Squamish Men's Shed Society, Whistler Community Services Society, and Cheakamus Foundation for Environmental Learning, among many others.

With the support of the ECSF, important programs such as Sea to Sky Community Services' *Better at Home* initiative are able to continue operating. This initiative helps seniors with simple non-medical day-to-day tasks, helping to enable them to stay in their own homes, remain independent, socialize and stay connected to their community. The ECSF will continue to help programs like *Better at Home* to meet the unique needs of seniors during the pandemic and to support some of the most isolated members of our community.

With these further supports, we are making sure vulnerable Canadians feeling the financial and social impacts of COVID-19 are getting the help they need, when they need it most. Thank you to our national partners and the many local community groups and organizations helping vulnerable Canadians during this difficult time. I invite you to visit the Squamish Community Foundation and Whistler Community Foundation websites to learn more about the projects that have been supported.