



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-
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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 ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

Access to high-speed internet has become an essential part of modern-day life. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted this reality, as for so many, it has transformed the way we must communicate for work, in education, and with our loved ones. While the Sunshine Coast is fortunate to have a high degree of high-speed broadband connectivity overall, residents, including from the Egmont Community Club, have been letting me know since before I was elected that persistent connectivity gaps remain.

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 8th, 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.

After many discussions with SCRD Area Director A Leonard Lee and different telecommunications providers, we determined where new fibre optic cable needed to be installed, and where last mile connectivity was a problem on the Sunshine Coast. This led to an RRS application by Telus Communications to address it.

On February 18, 2020, alongside Minister Monsef and Telus, I was very pleased to announce nearly \$1 million in federal funding from the RRS for the "North Sunshine Coast Project", which will deliver broadband connectivity to 413 households through 51 km of fibre cable in Egmont, Earls Cove, Ruby Lake and Kleindale.



Photo: Visiting and supporting local businesses

Investments like these will ensure rural areas lead our robust and resilient recovery from COVID-19. 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.

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. 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 on the Sunshine Coast, this includes the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, Restorative Justice Program of the Sunshine Coast, and the Pender Harbour and District Health Centre Society. It also includes the Sunshine Coast Marine Rescue Society and the Sunshine Coast Search and Rescue Society, which have both been working overtime over the course of the last year to protect the public and save lives during what has been an unprecedentedly busy outdoor adventure season.

Sunshine Coast Backpack Buddies is a wonderful organization that will use the funding it received from the ECSF to deliver its weekend meal program to the most vulnerable children in Gibsons, Sechelt, and Pender Harbour through their school partners, ensuring children in need have access to nutritious and good food.

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 Sunshine Coast Community Foundation website to learn more about the projects that have been supported.