



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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CANADA



PATRICK WEILER

Member of Parliament
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country



/PatrickBWeiler



@PatrickBWeiler



@PatrickBWeiler

MP NEWSLETTER : COVID-19

SUPPORTS EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

While we are now seeing the lifting of provincial public health orders, Canadian workers and businesses have been tremendously impacted over the past few months as a result of COVID-19 and the public health restrictions that have been brought in to protect our communities.

That is why over the past few months, we have introduced new, expanded, and extended measures to support Canadians, and small and medium sized businesses. Through passage of Bill C-2 last December, we extended wage and rent support to businesses and workers, including those in the hardest hit sectors, and those that faced local lockdowns.

As Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam has said, we are transitioning Canada's COVID-19 response to reflect the changing dynamics of the pandemic. As we look towards the likely endemic stage of the

virus, our government will continue to be there for Canadians so that we recover and build back better than ever before.

In this newsletter, you will find a full breakdown of our current COVID-19 support programs that are available for individuals, including for those that lost their job due to COVID-19, those that have to take time off work by contracting COVID-19, or to care for someone that contracted the virus. Business supports have been extended for the tourism and hospitality sector, the hardest hit businesses, and the arts and culture sector.

Sincerely,

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

CONTACT US

OTTAWA OFFICE

282, Confederation Building
229 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613-947-4617
Fax. 613-947-4620

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

6367 Bruce Street
West Vancouver BC
V7W 2G5
Tel. 604-913-2660
Fax. 604-913-2664

✉ Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca

🌐 Patrickweiler.ca

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SUPPORTING CANADIANS

As Canadians confronted the COVID-19 Omicron wave and the regional public health measures and lockdowns that followed, our government has worked to ensure supports are available so those who are most impacted can pay their bills and put food on the table.

We introduced the **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** to provide temporary income support to workers who cannot work due to a COVID-19 lockdown.

We also extended the **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** and **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** to May 7, 2022 to support people who are unable to work because they must care for their child or a family member due to COVID-19, or because they are sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

Taking care of a child under 12 or loved one affected by COVID-19?

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit is available until May 7, 2022 to help.



SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES & NON-PROFITS

Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs have shown incredible resilience over the course of the last two years, and since day one, our government has had their backs.

Throughout the pandemic, we have provided targeted programs to help businesses retain and pay their workers, afford their rent, and keep their business growing with access to wage and rent subsidies.



Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program

To help sectors that are continuing to be hit particularly hard, we introduced the **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program** and the **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program**, which can provide up to 75% support. This is especially important for many businesses that work in tourism, arts, culture, recreation, and hospitality.

This past month, I have had discussions with our riding's chambers of commerce, and they have emphasized the continuing challenges and impacts of the labour shortage. To help address this challenge, the **Canada Recovery Hiring Program** has been extended to May 7, 2022 to continue supporting businesses in re-hiring workers.



Photo: Whistler small business tour last summer

Bill C-2 temporarily expanded access to the new **Local Lockdown Program** so businesses have been able to get the help they need to sustain them through any provincial lockdowns. These changes include expanding eligibility to employers that face capacity-limiting restrictions of 50% or more and reducing the revenue decline threshold requirement to 25%.

In January, we also announced the extension of the **Canada Emergency Businesses Account** and **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund** loan forgiveness repayment deadlines to the end of 2023 for eligible businesses. Extending their repayment deadlines will support their economic recovery and provide eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations with flexibility as they navigate the longer-term impacts of the pandemic.

SUPPORTING CANADIAN ARTS & TALENT

We know that the pandemic has heavily impacted the live performance sector, negatively affecting the livelihoods of the artists, technicians and other skilled cultural workers who bring live performances to stages across the country.

To help support Canadian talent and organizations, in February we launched the **Canada Performing Arts Workers Resilience Fund**. This new temporary funding program will provide \$60 million to help workers in the live performance sector. It will finance initiatives led and delivered by organizations in the sector to directly support independent and self-employed workers (gig workers) in the live performance sector.



SUPPORTING CANADIANS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

We're launching the **Canada Performing Arts Workers Resilience Fund** to support Canadians working in the performing arts & make sure that when it's safe, the show can go on.