

From: [Wanda Bradbury](#)
To: [Jack Crompton](#); [corporate](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update - June 26, 2020
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From: Patrick Weiler <Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 4:32 PM
To: info
Subject: COVID-19 Update - June 26, 2020



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For the latest updates on the Government's response to COVID-19, follow us on social media or visit canada.ca/covid19

Dear Mayor and Council,

As British Columbia moves into Phase 3 of our Restart Plan, and continues to open up, the Government of Canada is focused on ensuring that we are supported through the pandemic and are well positioned to recover from it through our Safe Restart Agreement with the provinces and territories.

The House of Commons recently concluded the meetings of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic which had been meeting four days a week for the last two months to debate all matters related to COVID-19. This Committee pioneered “hybrid” meetings of the House of Commons, where for the first time in our country, parliamentarians participated both with up to 50 MPs in person and providing the opportunity for the remaining 288 MPs to participate virtually. I look forward to participating in the four more sittings of the House of Commons, as well as my committee meetings over the next two months before the regular schedule of parliamentary work resumes in September.

In the meantime, I continue to meet regularly with my caucus, our elected officials, businesses, non-profits and constituents to understand and to advocate for the issues and priorities that matter to you.

In the last few weeks, there have been a number of important announcements and updates:

While more and more jobs continue to come back, many businesses and their workers are still unable to work as a result of COVID-19. We therefore announced an 8-week extension to the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) so that those who are involuntarily without work due to COVID-19 have this critical means of support.

Last month, we announced new supports for seniors, and I am happy to relay that the [one-time top-ups to Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) will be delivered the week of July 6 to all seniors currently receiving OAS and GIS.

The [Canada Student Service Grant](#) was launched yesterday to provide post-secondary students and recent graduates with a grant of up to \$5,000 for volunteer work in their communities. I encourage our interested non-profits that are doing the vital work to support our community through the pandemic to register on the [I Want to Help](#) portal, and for young people to apply to join their teams. We are also [creating an additional 500 green jobs](#) in the natural resources and clean tech space through 6-12 month internships for Canadians 30 years and under.

As we work towards gradual re-opening, [our Government announced](#) that we stand ready to contribute \$14 billion to the provinces and territories to ensure they and their municipalities have the capacity for a safe and robust restart to our economy. This funding can be used for areas such as testing, childcare, and public transit and other municipal operational support.

Previously announced expansions to the eligibility for the [Canada Emergency Business Account](#), which includes many owner-operated small businesses, such as sole proprietors, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll, [are now able to apply as of June 26](#).

In support of the federal government's [Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance](#) (CECRA) program, the Government of British Columbia announced [additional steps to protect our small businesses](#). As of June 1, eligible businesses whose property owners choose not to apply for the CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020.

Canadian Heritage launched last week the first component of Phase 2 of the [COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Heritage Organizations](#), providing \$53 million in support to organizations with heritage collections through the emergency component of the Museums Assistance Program. Eligible not-for-profit organizations such as museums, archives, historic sites, Indigenous organizations, official-language minority communities, or municipal and university museums with separate budgets can now apply [through our online portal](#).

In light of continuing public health risks, the Prime Minister announced that the Canada-US border agreement, closing the border to all non-essential travel, will be extended until July 21. We also [announced](#) that as of June 9, foreign nationals who are *immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents*, and who do not have or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, will be allowed to enter Canada for the purpose of being with an immediate family member for 15 days.

Transport Minister Garneau announced [new safety measures](#) at airports to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Temperature screenings will now be required for all passengers travelling into Canada or travellers leaving Canadian airports for either international or domestic destinations. Face coverings must also now be worn for workers and others involved in the transportation system, with BC Ferries [announcing new measures](#) to ensure continued passenger safety during the pandemic. As of June 15th, all passengers on sailings longer than 30 minutes are mandated to wear a face covering.

Thanks to the dedication of our communities, the Government of British Columbia has been able to announce this week that the province is moving into [Phase 3 of our re-opening plan](#). We are not out of the woods yet, and we must remain vigilant to avoid a resurgence of cases. Phase 3 means that we can now

travel within our province for our summer vacations. Please think of visiting one of the many amazing tourist destinations in our riding and province as part of your staycation. Your business will also help support the many SMEs that make these experiences special and who are going through an incredibly difficult time as a result of the pandemic.

My office remains here to help in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out by phone at 604-913-2660 or by email at Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca.

Our Constituency Office is available by phone, virtual meetings and e-mail. For constituents who require face-to-face assistance with me, we are physically open by appointment, so please call to book a time.

Please visit my website at www.patrickweiler.ca and social media platforms for more immediate updates:



Government Support for Individuals

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan provides direct support for Canadian workers and businesses. For more information on these measures please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>.

The package of measures includes:

- The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** - a \$2000/month benefit available between March 15-October 3, 2020 for up to 24 weeks to Canadians whose

jobs have been impacted due to COVID-19 and meeting the following eligibility requirements:

- live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
 - stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
 - have not voluntarily quit their job
 - had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.
 - For at least 14 days in a row during the 4-week payment period, you do not expect to receive more than \$1,000 (before taxes) from employment and self-employment income
- How to Apply for the CERB:
 - The [application for the CERB](#) was launched on April 6, and requires Canadians to attest that they meet the eligibility requirements.
 - Recipients need to re-attest every two weeks to re-confirm their eligibility.
 - In addition to applying through my CRA Account and My Service Canada, Canadians can also call an automated toll-free phone line (1-800-959-2019) to apply for CERB. Please see the [CERB access portal](#) for more details.
- **Enhancement of the GST credit** for low and modest income families - \$400 single adults, \$600 for couples [automatic – began April 9th]
 - **Mortgage payment deferrals** for those facing financial difficulties for up to six months for both CHMC insured mortgages and mortgages through the six largest banks [available immediately - please contact your bank plan to access the benefit]
 - **Income Tax payments deferred** from April to September 1, 2020. The deadline is June 1st, but there are no penalties for amounts owing until September 1st
 - **Mortgage payment deferrals** for those facing financial difficulties for up to six months for both CHMC insured mortgages and mortgages through the six largest banks [available immediately - please contact your bank plan to access the benefit]

Supports for Seniors

- **Old Age Security (OAS) & Guaranteed Income Supplement one time top-ups** of \$300 for seniors eligible for OAS pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible GIS [automatic – payments will be delivered the week of July 6]
- **Reducing required minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25%** for 2020 to provide flexibility for seniors [available immediately]

Supports for Students

- Creating the **Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)**, which provides \$1,250 per month from May through August for eligible students, and \$2,000 for students with dependents or permanent disabilities. The period covered by the Benefit starts on May 1st. You can apply for the CESB starting on May 15. Before you can apply, you must call 1-800-959-8281 to register your Social Insurance Number (SIN) with the CRA.
 - **Potential recipients:** Students of any age which are:
 - A Canadian citizen, including dual citizens;
 - A registered Indian under the *Indian Act*;
 - A permanent resident; or
 - A protected person.
 - **Criteria:** available for those that are:
 - Unable to work; or
 - Seeking work but are unable to find it; or
 - Working but unable to make more than \$1,000 (before taxes) over the four-week period for which they are applying.
 - **Benefit:** \$1,250 per month or \$2,000 for students with dependents or permanent disabilities for the months of May-August 2020.
 - **Application:** The application opened on May 15, 2020 through the Canada Revenue Agency. You can [apply for the CESB here](#).

- Creating the **Canada Student Service Grant (CSSG)**, an up to \$5,000 grant for a student's education in the fall for students who work in national service positions through organizations within their community.
 - **Potential recipients are:**
 - 30 years of age or younger,
 - A Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a student with a refugee status, and
 - **one of the following:**
 - Enrolled in and attending post-secondary education during the spring, summer, or fall 2020 semesters;
 - Recent post-secondary graduates (no earlier than December 2019); or
 - Studying abroad and currently residing in Canada
 - **Benefit:** a one-time payment is available at five levels, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The amount will vary based on the number of hours each volunteer completes, with \$1,000 provided for each 100 hours completed, up to a maximum of \$5,000 for 500 hours
 - **Application:** Non-profits can register and applicants can access the program

through the [I Want to Help](#) platform

- **Expanding the Canada Service Corps**, which provides youth with community service grants of \$250-1,500 to serve their communities from 1,800 to 15,000 grants [application [available online](#)]
- **Doubling the Canada Students Grants Program**, broadening the eligibility for Student Financial Assistance, and enhancing the Canada Student Loans Program.
- **Increasing support for Indigenous Post-Secondary Education**, and extending expiring federal graduate research scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships as well as federal research grants.
- Placing a **six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans** for all individuals currently in the process of repaying these loans [automatically available – from March 30-September 30, 2020]
- **New funding for the [Youth Employment and Skills Strategy \(YESP\)](#):**
 - \$15.8 million to create green jobs and training opportunities for Canadian youth in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology sectors. [to apply, visit [this page](#)]
 - \$9.2 million to fund up to 700 new positions for youth in the agriculture sector. Eligible applicants include producers, agri-businesses, industry associations, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations and research centers. Employers may apply for this funding retroactive to April 1, 2020, with projects to be completed by March 31, 2021. [[visit this page to apply](#)]

Support for Parents

- A **Canada Child Benefit top up** - \$300 per child added on top of what is presently received [automatic – May 2020]

Support for Indigenous Peoples & Communities

- \$285 million to support the ongoing **public health response to COVID-19 in Indigenous communities**. The investment will fund community-led responses to the pandemic and provide targeted increases in primary health care resources for First Nations communities.
- \$270 million to supplement the **On-Reserve Income Assistance Program** to address increased demand on the program, which will help individuals and families meet their essential living expenses.
- \$44.8 million over five years to **build 12 new shelters**, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence

BC Government Announcements

- [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. [application started May 1]
 - Allow workers to take unpaid leave if they are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19 [retroactive to Jan 27, 2020]
 - Allow workers to now have three days of unpaid, job-protected leave each year for people who cannot work due to illness or injury [permanent change]
 - [Extend the temporary layoff period](#) to 16 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons
 - Boost to BC Climate Action Tax Credit [automatic - July 2020]
 - [Provide a rent supplement of \\$500](#) to be paid directly to landlords
 - Rate reductions from BC Hydro, including:
 - Universal one per cent reduction in rates for all customers
 - [A three-month bill credit for residential customers](#) who have lost jobs or had wages reduced as a result of COVID-19
 - The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development is establishing an [Emergency Relief Support Fund](#) for children and youth with special needs and their families, providing a direct payment of \$225 per month to eligible families over the next three months (to June 30, 2020) Families are encouraged to reach out to their Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) worker to see if they are eligible.
 - [Virtual mental health services](#) to support seniors, adults, youth and frontline health care workers
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Support for Canadian Businesses

Over the last two months, the Government of Canada announced a suite of measures to support businesses and their workers that have been impacted by COVID-19. Please see the [Canada Business App](#) for information on all federal government support for your business.

- Launching the [Business Resilience Service](#). The BRS provides small to medium-sized businesses, not-for-profit organizations and charities direct access to a network of qualified business advisors to support them through the pandemic, providing advice free of charge until July 2nd, including:
 - Guidance on program options and eligibility
 - Rapidly directing businesses, including enterprises involving Indigenous peoples, women and diverse groups, to the most appropriate support organizations
 - Helping organizations make decisions to support recovery plans
 - Providing real time insights and feedback to policymakers

- Organizations can access the BRS seven days a week by calling 1-866-989-1080 and through the [Canadian Business Resilience Network website](#).
- Creating the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**. The CEWS is an up to 75% wage subsidy until August 29, 2020.
 - **Potential recipients:** Individuals, taxable corporations, partnerships, non profit organizations and registered charities.
 - **Criteria:** The employer will need to show a drop in revenues of at least 15% as a result of COVID-19 in the month of March and 30% drop in revenues for the following months.
 - **Measuring Revenue Loss:** Relative to the same month in 2019, or to an average of their revenue earned in January and February 2020 by either cash or accrual methods. Non-profits have the option of considering government funding or not in their calculations for revenue loss.
 - **Benefit:** The subsidy will compensate up to 75% of an employee's pre-crisis compensation and 75% of salaries and wages paid to new employees for employers of all sizes and across all sectors. The subsidy will apply at a rate of 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees, a benefit of up to \$847 per week, per employee, and will run between March 15 to July 6. Employers are expected to extend this subsidy to current and rehired employees, while also making their best efforts to provide the remaining 25% of wages to their employee.
 - Employers eligible for the subsidy are also entitled to receive a 100% refund for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan. This refund would apply to the entire amount of employer-paid contributions in respect of remuneration paid to furloughed employees during the period where the employer is eligible for the subsidy.
 - **Application:** Application process is now open and available [through the Canada Revenue Agency](#) with the expectation that businesses will receive the subsidy in about 3 business days.
- Launching the **Pandemic Pay Support**, providing a 4\$/hour wage top up for low-income essential workers. The Province of British Columbia, which is cost-sharing for this program, has identified certain workers in health, social and correctional services that will be eligible to automatically receive this benefit.
- **Establishing the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)**
 - **Eligible Recipients:** Qualifying commercial property owners and small businesses, including non-profits and charitable organizations
 - **Criteria:**
 - Tenants paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.
 - Commercial property owners that agree to lower rent by at least 75% and not to evict their tenant while the agreement is in place.
 - **Benefit:**
 - Forgivable loans to commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three monthly gross rent payments that are payable by eligible tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May (both retroactive), and June.
 - The small business tenant is responsible to cover the remainder of the rent (up to

- 25 per cent)
 - **Application:** [Application process is now open.](#)
- **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)**
 - **Eligible recipients:** businesses and non profit organizations
 - **Criteria:**
 - \$20,000-\$1,500,000 in payroll in 2019, or
 - If less than \$20,000 in payroll, the organization has:
 - a business operating account at a participating financial institution
 - a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, and
 - eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance
 - **Benefit:** up to \$40,000 interest free government-guaranteed loan which has a 25% loan forgiveness if repaid by the end of 2022.
 - **Application:** available through your financial institution
- Establishing the **Regional Relief and Recovery Fund: COVID-19** to support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies, including \$304.2 million through **Western Economic Diversification.**
 - **1) For SMEs facing financial pressure**
 - **Eligible recipients:** businesses that meet the following criteria
 - **Criteria:**
 - Incorporated to operate in Canada
 - Located in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba
 - Not in a location serviced by a Community Futures Office
 - Not eligible for the Community Futures Emergency Loan Program
 - Fewer than 500 full time employees
 - Not eligible for, or have been declined for the CEBA
 - Operational as of March 1, 2020
 - Less than \$20,000 or more than \$1,500,000 in 2019 payroll expenses
 - Have suffered financially because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
 - Intend to continue operations in Western Canada.
 - **Benefit:**
 - Applications can be submitted for:
 - Financial contributions (interest-free repayable contribution) to help support SMEs with operating costs, where business revenues have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Fixed costs that will help mitigate impacts of COVID-19 on SME operations, such as but not limited to lease payments for existing equipment and machinery, property taxes and utilities.
 - Two funding options are available:
 - Option 1: Up to \$40,000 conditionally repayable contribution (interest-free repayable contribution with condition for partial repayment of contribution)

Option 2: Between \$40,001 to \$500,000 non-conditional repayable contribution (fully repayable interest-free repayable contribution)

- **Application:** available from [Western Economic Diversification RRRF page](#).
- **2) For rural businesses and communities served by Community Futures**
 - **Eligible recipients:** businesses that meet the following criteria
 - **Criteria:**
 - Operational as of March 1, 2020
 - Viable and not experiencing liquidity or other financial difficulties prior to March 1, 2020
 - Have suffered financially because of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Have attempted to access other federal relief supports and were ineligible or rejected; and
 - Have not or will not apply for or accept other Government of Canada equivalent support.
 - **Benefit:** Loan of up to \$40,000
 - **Application:** Available by contacting [Community Futures Sunshine Coast](#), or [Community Futures Howe Sound](#).
- **Establishing the [Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility \(LEEFF\)](#)**
 - Bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going
 - Qualifying employers will need to sign on to a number of provisions to the protect taxpayers and workers, including respecting collective bargaining agreements and protect workers' pensions, and also require strict limits to dividends, share buy-backs, and executive pay.
 - Recipient companies must publish annual climate-related disclosure reports consistent with the Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.
 - Further eligibility and application details will be shared in due course.
- **Other Credit:**
 - \$10 billion of support to businesses was made available through the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Business and Export Development Canada (EDC) [available immediately – contact [BDC](#) and [EDC](#)]
 - Expansion of BCAP to mid-sized companies, including loans of \$60 million per company and guarantees of up to \$80 million
 - EDC will guarantee new operating and cash flow term loans that financial institutions extend to SMEs, providing up to \$6.25 million.
 - BDC, together with financial institutions, will provide additional liquidity to businesses through a new Co-Lending Program providing up to \$6.25 million.
- **A deferral of taxes.** To support Canadian businesses during these unprecedented economic times, we are deferring the Goods and Services Tax remittances and customs duty payments until June 30, 2020 [available immediately – automatic]
- \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the [National Research Council of](#)

Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.

- \$306.8 million in funding for short-term, interest-free loans with non-payable contributions through **Aboriginal Financial Institutions**
- The Prime Minister also announced [additional investments totalling \\$133 million to support Indigenous businesses](#), protect jobs, and help communities. \$117 million of this funding is destined to help small and community-owned Indigenous businesses get through these tough times. The other \$16 million will be there to support Indigenous businesses in the tourism industry, a sector that supports thousands of jobs across the country.
- **Canada Summer Jobs**
 - To support Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) employers and youth, we adjusted the delivery of the program to better support our communities during the COVID-19 crisis. Changes to the program for this year include:
 - an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee
 - an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021
 - allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
 - allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis
 - Employer applications for CSJ are now closed.
 - The first wave of CSJ employment opportunities are now available through jobbank.gc.ca and the [Job Bank app](#).
- **Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES)** - \$15 million in additional funding to support women entrepreneurs through WES. Funding will go directly to select organizations that are currently in the WES Ecosystem Fund and recipients and will help women entrepreneurs through the COVID-19 pandemic

Updates to Sector Specific Support

- **COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations**
 - **Potential Recipients:** Canadian not-for-profit cultural, heritage and arts organizations, sports organizations, book publishers, film and television production companies, music organizations, among others
 - **Criteria:** organizations that do not qualify for the existing Wage Subsidy due to the irregular nature of their revenues, as well as to cover contract workers
 - **Benefit:** \$500 million for affected artistic and athletic organizations impacted by COVID-19. The Fund will provide advances on future grants and contributions to help maintain liquidity as well as small subsidies to cover some fixed costs.
 - **Application:** please visit [the Department of Canadian Heritage](#) for full details on the application process and this [Q&A](#).
 - [Museums Assistance Program applications are now being accepted](#)
- **Support for Fishers & Seafood Sector**
 - \$62.5 million investment for the new Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund to help Canada's seafood sector safely and efficiently process, store, package, and distribute healthy, high-quality products, sourced from our fish harvesters and aquaculture operators. [Applications are now being accepted](#) as of Monday

June 22.

BC Government Announcements:

- **BC Hydro bill deferral & payment plans** available [Call 1-800-BC-HYDRO], including:
 - A three-month payment holiday for small businesses
 - 50-per-cent payment deferral for larger industrial customers
- **Deferral of the payment for the following BC business taxes** until after Sept 30: Employer health tax (EHT), provincial sales tax (PST), municipal and regional district tax, tobacco tax, motor fuel tax, carbon tax. Scheduled April 1 increases to provincial carbon tax and PST are delayed [automatic].
- **50% cut to the school for business and industry property classes, to be passed onto tenants on triple-net leases** [automatic]
- **Strengthening CECRA** - Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020.

Support for Non-Profits

- **Emergency Community Support Fund**
 - **\$350 million to support community organizations helping vulnerable Canadians**, such as seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, newcomers, women, children and youth, LGBTQ2 people, Indigenous people and racialized people.
 - The Government will disburse funds through national partners, such as the [United Way Centraide Canada](#), the [Canadian Red Cross](#) and [Community Foundations of Canada](#)
 - The Fund's national partners will leverage existing community-based networks, including those in rural and remote communities to ensure a rapid and effective flow of funds in line with local community needs
 - Community organizations may use the funds to:
 - Expand home deliveries of groceries or medication
 - Transport seniors or people with disabilities to appointments
 - Widen the reach of help lines that give information and link people to services
 - Replace in-person, one-on-one contact with contact through phone calls, texts or the Internet; and
 - Train volunteers on health and safety so that they can continue to make their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 Response
 - **Application now opened as of May 19, 2020 through our national partners**

Official Health Information on COVID-19

Be cautious of information you read about the virus online. Stick with reputable sites such as:

- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Vancouver Coastal Health](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Canada](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

Further:

- Call 8-1-1 for Health concerns or if you are sick.
- Call 1-888-268-4139 for COVID-19 related questions.
- Government of Canada COVID-19 mobile app, which provides up-to-date information about the COVID-19 pandemic. Available for [Apple iOS](#) and [Android](#) platforms.

Mental Health and Emotional Supports

Our Government has [invested \\$240.5 million](#) to develop, expand, and launch virtual care and mental health tools to support Canadians, including through [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. These include modules for addressing low mood, worry, substance use, social isolation and relationship issues, among other supports.

Individual Actions We All Must Take

- Following good hygiene practices
 - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds
 - Sneeze/cough into your elbow
 - Avoid touching your face
 - Stay home if you're feeling ill, even if it's not COVID-19
 - Avoid usual greetings like handshakes, hugs, kisses
- Physical distancing
 - Always maintain 2 metres distance from those outside your household
 - do not gather in groups and stay home as much as possible. This does not mean you should not go outside to get fresh air, but you should ensure that you keep 2 metres distance from others when you do so.

COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool

To help reduce the burden on phone lines, there is an online [COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#) that you can use if you feel ill and do not know what to do.

Travel Advisories, Border Control, & Consular Assistance

Travel Advisories, Border Control, & Consular Assistance

Travel advisories and border control directives are issued by the Government of Canada. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has temporarily suspended service at 342 small vessel reporting sites and 126 small airports to redirect. All returning travellers must present federal and provincial authorities with a credible self-quarantine plan for 14 days. Failure to comply is now an offense under the *Quarantine Act*. Maximum penalties include a fine of up to \$750,000 and/or imprisonment for six months.

Consular services have been working around the clock to repatriate Canadians stuck abroad. Our office will continue to work with affected constituents to assist in repatriation efforts. The \$5,000 COVID-19 Emergency Loan is available for Canadians abroad to temporarily cover costs while they work towards their return.

Changes to Travel Restrictions for Immediate Family Members of Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents

The Canada Border Services Agency is announcing that as of June 9, 2020, foreign nationals who are immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents, and who do not have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or who do not have reason to believe they have COVID-19, will be exempt from the prohibition on entry to Canada if entering to be with an immediate family member for a period of at least 15 days. Foreign nationals who are admitted into Canada pursuant to this exemption must quarantine for 14 days.

An immediate family member refers to a person's:

- a) spouse or common-law partner;
- b) dependent child, as defined in section 2 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations, or a dependent child of the person's spouse or common-law partner;
- c) dependent child, as defined in section 2 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations, of a dependent child referred to in paragraph (b);
- d) parent or step-parent or the parent or step-parent of the person's spouse or common-law partner;
- e) guardian or tutor.

All foreign nationals who have COVID-19 or exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 continue to remain prohibited from entering Canada.

Ferry Regulations

New measures are in effect to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 onboard commercial passenger vessels and ferries. Ferries and essential passenger vessel operators are now required to reduce by 50% the maximum number of passengers that may be carried on board (conduct half-load voyages) to support the two-metre physical distancing rule. Transport Canada is also recommending that travelers wear non-medical masks when they cannot maintain physical distance on their journey.

Policies from BC Ferries

BC Ferries is now screening all customers for COVID-19 symptoms and restricting travel to any customer that does not meet the screening requirements for any route longer than 30 minutes.

As of June 15, all passengers on sailings longer than 30 minutes will be required to wear a face covering and agree to wear this covering in situations where you cannot maintain two metres of physical separation from fellow passengers.

Official News Updates for BC

There are regular updates coming from the BC Ministry of Health and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, that include advice for the public. Here's how you can stay up-to-date on the most recent news:

- **Official Government of Canada News Releases:** [Government of Canada News Releases](#)
- **Official BC Government News Releases:** [BC Government News Releases](#)
- **Official Twitter Accounts** can often be the fastest way to get the latest information:
 - Health Canada: [@GovCanHealth](#)
 - Canada's Minister of Health: [@pattyhadju](#)
 - BC Centre for Disease Control: [@CDCofBC](#)
 - Vancouver Coastal Health: [@VCHhealthcare](#)
 - BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix: [@adriandix](#)
- **Updates from your Provincial MLAs:**
 - Ralph Sultan (West Vancouver- Capilano) – [@SultanRalph](#)
 - Jordan Sturdy (West Vancouver Sea-to-Sky) – [@JordanWestVanSeatoSky](#)
 - Nicholas Simons (Powell River-Sunshine Coast) – <http://nicholassimonsmla.ca/covid-19>

Municipality Closures:

- West Vancouver [updates](#)
- Squamish [updates](#)
- Whistler [updates](#)
- Pemberton [updates](#)
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**OFFICE OF MP PATRICK WEILER
CONSTITUENCY OFFICE: 6367 BRUCE ST., WEST VANCOUVER**

**OFFICE HOURS: WEEKDAYS
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