



2020 Speech from the Throne

It is an honour to have been invited to the Senate on September 23 to watch our Governor General, Julie Payette, deliver the 2020 Speech from the Throne.

COVID-19 has been the greatest public health crisis and challenge many of us have ever faced. In Newmarket-Aurora, we've shared in the suffering, but I am proud of the remarkable courage, innovation and compassion our community has shown during these challenging times.

As a new session of parliament begins, I am confident that the challenges we have faced this year have given us an opportunity to build a better, fairer and more inclusive Canada.

The Speech from the Throne revealed the four foundations of our government's vision for Canada's future:

- Protecting Canadians from COVID-19
- Helping Canadians through the pandemic
- Building back better
- The Canada we're fighting for

Canadians expect us to work together and do whatever is needed to keep us safe. And we've committed to doing exactly that.

Below you will find some of the commitments we made in the Speech.

[Full Statement](#)



Vaccine efforts

To maximize our chances of defeating the virus, our government has made investments in Canada's capacity for vaccine distribution, and secured access to vaccine candidates and therapeutics.

An effective and proven COVID-19 vaccine will be fundamental to beating the pandemic, fully restarting our economy and building resilience.

Securing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is how we will protect Canadians during the pandemic, and move forward on a sustainable path to a full recovery.

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Supporting businesses

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities and the backbone of our economy. Our government will help businesses adapt for the future and thrive.

To get Canadian workers and businesses back on their feet, we are extending the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy through to next summer, expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account loan, improving the Business Credit Availability Program, accelerating the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy and more.

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Taking action on climate change

This pandemic has reminded us of the importance of nature. We will work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to expand urban parks, so that everyone has access to green space.

We will immediately bring forward a plan to exceed Canada's 2030 climate goal and also legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

We will ban harmful single-use plastics next year and ensure more plastic is recycled.

Climate action will be a cornerstone of our plan to support and create a million jobs across the country.

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Addressing systemic racism

Earlier this year, the Parliamentary Black Caucus, composed of Members of Parliament and Senators from all parties, issued a [statement](#) calling on the government to act to minimize the consequences of systemic racism.

Each call to action was included in the Speech from the Throne as a priority for our government. Including introduce legislation to address the systemic inequities in the criminal justice system, supporting the artistic and economic contributions of Black Canadian culture and heritage, and taking action against online hate.

We will work together to end systemic racism in our communities, with no tolerance for failure.

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In the House



Bill C-4: COVID-19 Response Measures Act

On Thursday, September 30th at 3:00 am, I was in the House when Bill C-4 received unanimous support.

Bill C-4, titled COVID-19 Response measures, introduces three new benefits:

- Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit
- Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit

These provide income support to Canadians while promoting economic recovery by introducing measures that encourage people to return to work.

Team Canada has been there for Canadians since the beginning of this pandemic and will continue to be.

To learn more about Bill C-4, please see this [news release](#).

[Full video](#)



Orange Shirt Day

On Orange Shirt Day, September 30, we encourage Canadians to wear orange to raise awareness of the legacy of residential schools and to honour the victims and survivors of the residential school system.

Orange Shirt Day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor. I encourage you to learn more about Phyllis' story by watching this [video](#).

This September 30, I was proud to wear my orange shirt in the House to recognize the legacy of residential schools and to speak about Bill C-5.

This bill implements the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 80 by establishing September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - a statutory holiday in recognition of the effects of residential schools.

You can learn more about Bill C-5 [here](#).

[Learn more](#)

In the Community



Terry Fox Run

Thank you to Laurie Osborne for her commitment to our community.

Laurie's outstanding leadership and hard work in the Terry Fox Run in Newmarket-Aurora is an inspiration to all of us.

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Franco-Ontario Day

We recently celebrated the Franco-Ontarian flag, which became an official emblem of the French language and culture in Ontario, and recognizes francophone contributions to our communities.

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Community Living Room

Thank you to the Town of Newmarket for the *Community Living Room*, the new public art installation at Riverwalk Commons. I appreciate the recognition and hope the living room will inspire new friendships and conversations for years to come.

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Call for Proposals



New Horizons for Seniors Program

The New Horizons for Seniors Program supports projects that address one or more of the five program objectives:

- Promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations;
- Engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others;
- Expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
- Supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors;
- Providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.

Local organizations are invited to apply for funding that supports the program's national priorities:

- Supporting healthy ageing;
- Preventing elder abuse and fraud;
- Combatting ageism, celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion;
- Improving seniors' access to government services and benefits;
- Adapting community-based organizations to a more virtual environment.

What is a Community-based project?

A community-based project is volunteer-based, supports local initiatives in Canada and is designed by seniors, for seniors. It is also volunteer-based, and supported by their communities.

There are two funding types of applications for the community-based stream:

- Grants up to \$25,000
- Small grants up to \$5,000

Organizations may complete and submit their project proposals until **October 20, 2020** at 3:00 pm EST.

[Submit your proposal today!](#)

Helping our Community



During Covid-19, we have seen our community come together in our own ways to help those in need.

A special thanks to all who have supported and donated, or volunteered with our local food pantries.

[Newmarket Food Pantry](#)

[Aurora Food Pantry](#)

This Thanksgiving, please consider making a donation to one of our local food pantries to ensure every family has the opportunity to have a thanksgiving dinner.

Your support makes a difference in our community!



COVID Alert App

The COVID Alert app is available to let us know of possible exposures to COVID-19 before we start to feel any symptoms.

Do your part to help limit the spread of the virus in our community and download the app today!

[Learn more about the app](#)

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