



TONY Van Bynen

Member of Parliament Newmarket-Aurora

A message from Tony

Recently, a number of pharmaceutical companies have announced promising test results on the development of a vaccine to prevent COVID-19. Encouraging news and certainly a hopeful sign; but our battle with COVID-19 is not over. As winter approaches, we face the very real possibility of increased restrictions and certainly less opportunity to socialize.

COVID-19 positive cases are increasing at an alarming rate. As cases rise, we are being reminded to follow public health advice; to avoid crowded spaces; to wear a mask with either two or three layers; to avoid close contact and to stay at least two metres apart. We all want this pandemic to end, but we need to continue to work together to stop the spread.

Our government continues to be there to protect the health and safety of Canadians. An aggressive approach to securing vaccine candidates has ensured that we are in a good position to receive first deliveries by the beginning of 2021. Protocols on who should be prioritized for early vaccination are being developed. The National Advisory Council on Immunization, an independent, external group of experts, has provided recommendations on who should be prioritized for early vaccination.

We will continue to be there to protect Canadians, relying on the advice of experts and the scientific community to ensure the health and safety of all.

[Stay up-to-date on COVID-19](#)

COVID-19 Facts and Figures



COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Canada has one of the most diverse and largest COVID-19 vaccine portfolios in the world.

We have reached agreements with seven leading developers and joined [COVAX](#).

Our aggressive approach to securing vaccine candidates has ensured that we are in a good position to receive first deliveries by the beginning of 2021.

The National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI), an independent, external group of experts, has provided preliminary recommendations on who should be prioritized for early vaccination.

[Recommendations](#)



Supporting Provinces and Territories

Over 4.2 million rapid tests have been sent to provinces and territories and 710 [Abbott ID NOW](#) rapid test devices have been shipped.

To date, the Province of Ontario has received 1,769,689 rapid tests from the Federal Government.

There are currently six federal labs (Winnipeg, Guelph, Moncton, Lethbridge, Vancouver, Ottawa) up and running to support provincial capacity.

Federal staff are making over 2,000 calls daily to assist with contact tracing, with over 1,000 in Ontario.

[Safe Restart Agreement](#)



Mental Health Supports

Wellness Together Canada is available 24/7 to help all Canadians access mental health and substance use support, resources and counselling free of charge.

To date, over 530,000 Canadians have accessed the service in over 1.5 million distinct web sessions.

Other resources:

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868

Hope for Wellness Help Line: 1-855-242-3310

Canada Suicide Prevention Service: 1-833-456-4566

If you're in immediate danger, call 911

[Access the Portal](#)

Bringing Ottawa to Newmarket—Aurora



Federal Government partners with York Region to build Electric Vehicle chargers

On behalf of Minister Seamus O'Regan, I was pleased to join my colleagues Majid Jowhari (Richmond Hill) and Francesco Sorbara (Vaughan—Woodbridge) to virtually announce \$350,000 to help York Region build 70 electric vehicle level 2 chargers across the region.

This announcement builds on commitments made in the Speech from the Throne to make zero-emission vehicles and to support green infrastructure projects that will create good jobs, advance Canada's green future and help us achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

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Canada helps protect York Region water supply from impacts of extreme weather

On behalf of Minister Catherine McKenna, Dr. Helena Jaczek (Markham—Stouffville) and I were pleased to announce \$18.1 million in infrastructure funding to upgrade the water supply, treatment and storage of drinking water in northern York Region.

Northern York Region's water supply, which is primarily sourced from lake water, is regularly impacted by extreme weather. The investment in groundwater treatment upgrades will improve the long-term reliability and robustness of the interconnected local groundwater supply system that is located in four communities.

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STEM Minds receives CanExport support during the pandemic

It was a pleasure to welcome Minister Mary Ng to Newmarket—Aurora for a visit to [STEM Minds](#) to hear about how they are implementing the newly revamped CanExport program.

The CanExport program helps Canadian businesses with up to \$75,000 in funding to expand their e-commerce presence, attend virtual trade shows and navigate COVID-19 related trade barriers. The support from CanExport has helped STEM Minds attend international conferences, connect with new customers, and explore new opportunities for their business.

Located in Aurora, STEM Minds is a K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content creator and program provider for both in person and online learning.

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Minister Hajdu meets with Public Health Officers in York Region

Minister Patty Hajdu met virtually with York Region Chair Emmerson, Dr. Kurji and York Region Public Health Officials for a regional update on the pandemic.

It was an informative, proactive meeting, and a great opportunity to hear about the local frontline experience in their initial response to the outbreak, and now the second wave.

Thank you to Dr. Kurji and the amazing team working around the clock to keep our region safe.

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Investing in Canada's Recovery



\$1.5B to help Canadians re-enter the workforce

We have launched the Workforce Development Agreements to create jobs, grow the economy and help Canadian workers and their families through this crisis while staying safe from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the reality of employment in almost every sector across Canada.

This \$1.5 billion investment will help Canadians build new skills in growing sectors, receive education and accreditation, and connect to employers and good jobs.

As we work towards our economy recovery, we will continue to do whatever it takes to build a strong workforce that will grow our economy and keep Canada competitive on the world stage.

[Details](#)



\$1.75B to connect Canadians to high-speed internet

To help connect communities, create jobs and grow businesses across the country, we have launched the Universal Broadband Fund.

This \$1.75 billion investment will allow us to connect 98% of Canadians to reliable, high-speed internet in the next few years and get everyone connected by 2030.

In addition to the \$1.75 billion investment, we will be committing \$600 million to secure low Earth orbit satellite capacity to provide internet to the most rural and remote parts of Canada.

We have invested nearly ten times more to connect Canadians to high-speed internet than all previous government investments combined.

[Details](#)

Funding opportunities for Newmarket—Aurora



Early Learning and Child Care Innovation Program

Minister Ahmed Hussen has launched the Early Learning and Child Care Innovation Call for Proposals.

This program will support early learning and child care across Canada exploring new and innovative ways to address the needs of families through the next phase of recovery from the pandemic.

Consideration will also be given to projects that address affordability, flexibility, accessibility and inclusivity. Projects can be local, regional or national and must target early learning and child care for children under six.

Deadline: December 3, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

[Application Guidelines](#)



The Documentary Heritage Communities Program

Library and Archives Canada has launched the 2021–2022 funding cycle for the Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP).

The DHCP is offering archival centres and other memory institutions the opportunity to apply for a portion of \$1.5 million that will be allocated in 2021–2022.

Every dollar invested helps to increase awareness of and access to local and regional histories that should be shared across the country, not only in the communities where the projects originated.

Deadline: January 12, 2021.

[Application Guidelines](#)



You can tour Parliament Hill virtually!

Each year, over 400,000 people tour the Parliament buildings in Ottawa. While in-person tours have been cancelled until further notice, the Library of Parliament has created a virtual experience like no other for Canadians from across the country.

Parliament: The Virtual Experience is an immersive journey that takes you into the heart of Parliament, where historic spaces spring to life with magic realism. The experience combines photorealism with vivid sound, colour and light.

I invite you to join our virtual tour. Step into the heart of Canada's democracy, where Parliament comes to life – all from the comfort of your home.

[Parliament: The Virtual Experience](#)

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