



## Discussing Budget Priorities with Newmarket–Aurora

Our economy has certainly felt the pain of the pandemic, but I believe that in every challenge, there is an opportunity. And for Canadians, that is the opportunity to build back better.

Our government has a plan to make smart, targeted investments that will jumpstart our economic recovery. We will invest between \$70 and \$100 billion over three years to quickly and effectively restore jobs – and create long-term, shared prosperity for Canadians.

Over the past two weeks, I have been connecting with residents and business owners on their ideas and suggestions for Budget 2021. We have engaged through tele-town halls, and through the Aurora and Newmarket Chambers of Commerce on Zoom calls. Although there have been as many questions as there are suggestions, I really appreciate the input and time from our constituents, making sure their voices are heard.

When asked about your top priorities for Budget 2021, you have shared ideas on supporting seniors, along with hopes that the federal government will create long term care standards to protect them. You have advocated for tax incentives that will encourage manufacturing capital investments, and a desire to see domestic manufacturing of vaccines.

Other suggestions include support for small businesses through government backed loans, income tax reform, and ensuring all Canadians have access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet.

Healthcare, child care, skills training and being a world leader in the green transformation are seen as ways to a robust recovery. And through infrastructure investment and an emphasis on “local,” the opportunity to create jobs can be accelerated. These are but a few of the themes that keep emerging.

There is still time to share your vision and ideas on creating jobs, stimulating the economy and creating value for all Canadians. Click the button below to participate in our online Budget Consultation process.

I am inspired by your willingness to join in the conversation, and your willingness to find a common ground on which to build back better. Together, we can do this.

[Let's Talk Budget](#)

## COVID-19 Facts and Figures



### Vaccine Distribution

This week, tens of thousands of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine doses have been delivered to Canada as our vaccine shipments continue to ramp up.

By the end of the month, we are expected to receive 802,425 doses of COVID-19 vaccine just from Pfizer. The Province of Ontario alone is expected to receive 312,975 doses.

We are still on track to have vaccines in this country for each and every person who wishes to be vaccinated by the end of September

[Forecasted Allocation](#)



### Rapid tests

Health Canada is working around the clock to review and approve new testing technologies. To date, eight have already been authorized and we expect more as the technology develops.

We have deployed over 20 million tests to provinces and territories, including 6,424,492 to the Province of Ontario. We have also shared guidance on how they can be used effectively, including recommendations from the COVID-19 Testing and Screening Expert Advisory Panel.

[Prime Minister's Statement](#)

## Black History Month: The Future is Now

This year marks the 25th since the Honourable Jean Augustine - the first Black woman elected to the House of Commons – introduced a motion to designate February as Black History Month in Canada. And while this is an important milestone, it must also be noted that Black people have helped shape communities across our country for over 400 years – well before it was called Canada.

This year's theme, *The Future is Now*, is a chance to celebrate and acknowledge the transformative work that Black Canadians are doing to build a better future for everyone by making a difference in all areas – including academia, the arts, health, sciences, businesses, sports and the frontlines of our fight against COVID-19. Black Canadians have contributed immensely to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous country it is today.

Unfortunately, for too many Black Canadians, systemic racism is still a lived reality. Black History Month also reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and that we owe it to them to continue the efforts to fight systemic racism. Now more than ever, we remain committed to address anti-Black systemic racism in a way that is informed by the lived experiences of Black Communities.

While celebrations look a little different this year, there are still many opportunities for our community to connect virtually to listen and learn from these experiences while honouring the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians to communities across the country.



### Virtual Celebration with York Region MPs

On Thursday, February 18 at 7 PM, I welcome you to join the York Region Members of Parliament and members of our community to celebrate virtually and recognize the vibrant Black communities across York Region.

This will be an opportunity to listen to stories, learn from experiences, and highlight the work, contributions, and accomplishments of Black Canadians.

[Save the Date](#)



### NACCA: Virtual Activities

Throughout the month of February, the Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association is hosting an exciting lineup of events and activities to celebrate Black History Month.

Celebrations include a discussion with the Honourable Jean Augustine, an evening falls illumination at Riverwalk Commons, moderated discussion with a guest author and more!

[Learn More](#)

## Funding Opportunities



### Feminist Response and Recovery Fund

Through the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, we are investing \$100 million for projects supporting women who have been disproportionately impacted by the #COVID19 pandemic. Including Indigenous women, Black women, women of colour, women who are members of LGBTQ2 communities & women living with disabilities or in rural or remote communities.

Deadline: March 25, 2021

[More Information](#)



### EcoAction Community Funding Program

The EcoAction Community Funding Program funds projects to encourage Canadians to take action to address Clean Water, and to build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future.

Projects must have measurable, positive environmental results and promote community participation.

Deadline: March 3, 2021

[More Information](#)



### Happy Lunar New Year!

On February 12, the Chinese community in Newmarket-Aurora, Canada and around the globe celebrated Lunar New Year, one of the oldest traditional festivals in China.

Typically, people wear red clothes, hang up lanterns, and decorate their doors and windows with red paper. Most importantly, Lunar New Year is traditionally celebrated with large gatherings and a shared meal with family and loved ones.

On Lunar New Years Eve, I was pleased to join my colleagues and Chinese Canadians from across the country to celebrate a new year virtually. This year, we welcome the Year of the Ox. In Chinese Culture, the Year of the Ox is a symbol of hard work, positivity, and honesty.

I wish all those celebrating all the best in the year ahead.

[Share](#)



### I Read Canadian Day

On Wednesday, February 17, we will be celebrating the second annual #ReadCanadianDay. This initiative was created as a collaboration between the Canadian Children's Book Centre, children's author Eric Walters, the Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers, and the Ontario Library Association.

You are welcome to join the conversation to help raise awareness of Canadian books and authors, and celebrate the richness, diversity and breadth of Canadian literature.

On February 17, don't forget to spend at least 15 minutes reading your favourite Canadian reads and sharing it with the hashtag #ReadCanadianDay.

[More Information](#)



### #TogetherInCEolation

This Family Day, help spread some joy in our community by helping us create a neighbourhood outdoor art gallery. All you have to do is create natural art to display in your front yard for people to enjoy as they walk through the neighbourhoods.

This is a great activity for the entire family to enjoy and for the our community to appreciate while we are apart. Let's spread some joy!

[Learn How in Eight Steps](#)



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\* Mail may be sent postage free to any member of Parliament.

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