



Message from Tony

March 11th was National Observance Day, a day as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated, "to commemorate the people who lost their lives and the significant impacts we have all felt because of COVID-19." It has been one year since the first known death of a Canadian to COVID-19, so let us reflect on the tragic loss of more than 22,000 Canadian lives and the personal sacrifices of citizens battling this health care tsunami.

COVID-19 has been one of the great crises of our times – no nation has been immune. In Newmarket-Aurora we have shared in the suffering: the loss of life, the business closures, fears about the future, and the challenges to mental health. Since the beginning of the crisis, 77 COVID-19 deaths have been reported in Newmarket-Aurora.

Let us honour the courage of those who have gone beyond expectations, putting themselves at risk to ensure we remain safe. These are our healthcare providers, first responders, teachers, warehouse staff, truckers, and others working in essential services. You continue to inspire with your willingness to support, care for, and supply the services needed to overcome this pandemic. We have witnessed the remarkable courage, marvelled at the speed of innovation from industries, and been heartened by the compassion from the community to support one another.

As vaccinations roll out across the country and the hope of better days becomes a reality, let's commit to ensuring we remain vigilant and prepared against future pandemics – with determination, investment and research. And let us remember those who have lost loved ones while we stay united in ending this COVID-19 crisis.

Statement

COVID-19 Update



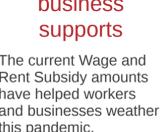
Delivering vaccines across Canada

This week, Canada received a total of 944,600 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine – 475,020 doses of Pfizer/BioNtech and 168,000 doses of Moderna.

As of March 10, we've distributed 3,881,064 to the provinces and territories. The Province of Ontario has received 1,045,005 doses from Pfizer, 217,500 from Moderna, and 194,500 from COVISHIELD Verity/Serum Institute of India.

The Prime Minister announced on Friday that, every week from March 22 to May 10, we will receive at least 1 million doses from Pfizer. This is going to make a big difference across Canada.

Vaccine Rollout



Extending business supports

The current Wage and Rent Subsidy amounts have helped workers and businesses weather this pandemic.

We intend to extend the current Wage and Rent Subsidy amounts through to June.

As of February 21, more than 5 million Canadian employees have had their jobs supported through the wage subsidy with more than \$66 billion paid out. And more than 129,000 organizations have been supported with more than \$1.6 billion paid out in rent subsidies.

We will continue to be there for Canadians for as long as it takes.

Details



Protecting the Mental Health of Canadians

The last year has been challenging for all Canadians. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the mental health of many across Canada.

Know that there is an array of virtual resources, including mental health tools and supports, available at no cost.

Over 1 million Canadians have accessed the Wellness Together Canada Portal in 2.9 million distinct online sessions.

As we continue to feel the impacts of the pandemic, it's important to take care of ourselves and check in on our loved ones. Remember that it's ok to ask for help.

Mental Health Resources

Tony in the House of Commons



Ensuring all Canadians having a vaccine

We have recently reached new milestones in our fight against COVID-19 with the authorization of the AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines for use in Canada.

During Question Period, I asked the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, for an update on our plan for delivering these vaccines to the provinces and territories.

For the past three weeks, we have received record amounts of vaccines, and vaccine deliveries continue to accelerate. We will have received 8 million doses by the end of the month, 36.5 million by the end of June, and 117.9 by the end of the summer.

Share

Supporting a National Framework for Diabetes

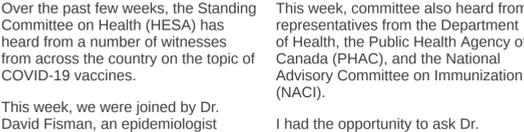
I was proud to support my colleague Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South and joint-second her Bill C-237, An Act to Establish a National Framework for Diabetes.

Every year, over 226,000 Canadians are diagnosed with diabetes. A nationwide strategy supports improved access for Canadians to diabetes prevention and treatment.

As we celebrate 100 years since insulin was discovered in Canada, we also reflect on the difficulties faced by those diagnosed with diabetes, and their families. This bill brings us one step closer to celebrating the end of diabetes in Canada before the next 100 years.

Share

Tony in Health Committee



Over the past few weeks, the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) has heard from a number of witnesses from across the country on the topic of COVID-19 vaccines.

This week, we were joined by Dr. David Fisman, an epidemiologist from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health who serves as a member of Ontario's COVID-19 science table.

I asked Dr. Fisman about the work the provinces and territories need to do to ensure efficient vaccine rollout, and the role of data in decision making.

Dr. Fisman

This week, committee also heard from representatives from the Department of Health, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

I had the opportunity to ask Dr. Howard Njoo, Deputy Chief Public Health Officer at PHAC, about gaining immunity against COVID-19 through the vaccine doses.

To watch these meetings in full, as well as find information about our studies and upcoming meetings, please visit the HESA website.

Dr. Njoo

Supporting the Canadian Scientific Community



\$19 million to support solutions to plastic waste

In Canada, there is currently very limited collection and recycling of textiles, which results in approximately 93 per cent of plastic-textile waste ending up in landfills.

We have recently committed nearly \$19 million through Innovative Solutions Canada to Canadian innovators. The Plastic Innovation Challenges are part of our commitments to reduce plastic waste, while growing the economy and creating good jobs.

This investment will support the development of made in Canada of solutions to address plastic waste, and it will support our plan to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

By improving how we manage plastic waste, we can reduce 1.8 megatonnes of carbon pollution per year, generate billions of dollars in revenue, and create approximately 42,000 jobs.

More information

\$518 million in research infrastructure

The pandemic has shown us the importance of science and research in finding solutions to unprecedented challenges.

We have recently announced an investment of more than \$518 million through the Canada Foundation for Innovation. This investment will ensure Canadian institutions and their researchers can continue to make the important discoveries that will serve Canadians now and in the future.

This investment will support 976 researchers working on 102 projects at post-secondary institutions and research hospitals across the country.

We remain committed to supporting Canada's researchers through investments in the tools and facilities necessary to make breakthroughs in knowledge and innovative technologies, products and services.

More information

Supporting Indigenous Peoples



Update on lifting water advisories in First Nations communities

We remain committed to continuing our work to lift all long-term drinking water advisories until every single one has been lifted.

This week, our government announced the 100th and 101st long-term drinking water advisory lifts in First Nations communities.

From day one, we have worked in partnership with First Nation communities to lift 101 drinking advisories and ensuring access to clean drinking water to over 450,000 Indigenous Peoples.

In every community with a remaining long-term water advisory, we have a project team, action plan, and people dedicated to lifting it.

More information

Helping shape future of Indigenous early learning and child care

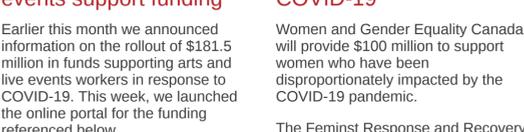
For Indigenous children, culturally appropriate early learning and child care can be a crucial part of childhood development.

We are committed to promoting and investing in Indigenous-led early learning and child care to ensure all First Nations, Inuit and Métis children have the foundation they need to succeed in life.

We are providing \$9.25 million over two years in available funding for research and innovation projects through a call for proposals to help shape future Indigenous early learning and child care is now open. Priority areas were identified through engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners.

More information

Opportunities for Newmarket-Aurora



New online portal launched for arts and live events support funding

Earlier this month we announced information on the rollout of \$181.5 million in funds supporting arts and live events workers in response to COVID-19. This week, we launched the online portal for the funding referenced below.

- **Building Communities through Arts and Heritage: Local Festivals component (\$5 million)**
- **Canada Arts Presentation Fund (\$20 million)**
- **Canada Music Fund (\$15 million)**
 - o [The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings \(FACTOR\) for the English-language market](#)
 - o [Foundation MUSICTION for the French-language market](#)

The information on how to access these funds is now available, and includes eligibility criteria, funding parameters, and application deadlines.

Details

Ensuring a feminist, intersectional response to COVID-19

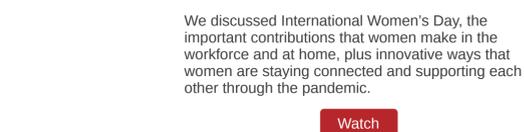
Women and Gender Equality Canada will provide \$100 million to support women who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Feminist Response and Recovery Fund will work to address or remove systemic barriers impeding the progress and advancement of women, in all their diversity, in three priority areas:

- Encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making positions
- Improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity
- Ending gender-based violence

The funding will be redirected to support marginalized or underrepresented people. The Call for Proposals is open until March 25, 2021

Details

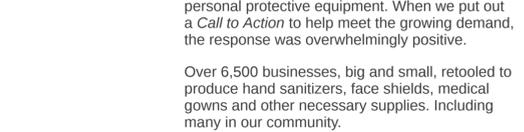


In case you missed it: Conversations in Newmarket

This week, I was invited by Paul Dutton, host of Neighbour, for a conversation with Ellen Campbell from Abuse Hurts, and Tina Finelli from SeeWhatSheCanDo.

We discussed International Women's Day, the important contributions that women make in the workforce and at home, plus innovative ways that women are staying connected and supporting each other through the pandemic.

Watch



Made in Canada Week

From March 15th to the first ever, I invite you to join me in celebrating the first Made in Canada Week.

At the start of the pandemic, Canada had virtually no domestic production of medical supplies and personal protective equipment. When we put out a Call to Action to help meet the growing demand, the response was overwhelmingly positive.

Over 6,500 businesses, big and small, retooled to produce hand sanitizers, face shields, medical gowns and other necessary supplies. Including many in our community.

Made in Canada Week is about recognizing these efforts, and celebrating the role of the Canadian manufacturing sector to our fight against the virus, and our recovery going forward.

Learn more



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