

April 1, 2020

### **Message from Anthony Housefather, Member of Parliament for Mount Royal**

I want to start today by thanking everyone that is working hard to ensure that all of us receive essential services. That includes all those in the health sector, those keeping the buses and metros going, truckers and those who work in grocery stores and pharmacies and other stores we buy staples in.

It includes all those who work in non-profits and those volunteering to help the population and those many in Government service at the federal, provincial, municipal and school board level who are working day and night to deal with a pandemic and offering services at a level we have never seen.

I also want to thank everyone for sacrificing. I know how hard it is not to visit parents or children or friends, how hard it is to stay home unless necessary, particularly for those in self-isolation who cannot even take a walk. But we are all in this together.

We do not yet have details on the way the 75% salary compensation program will work. I have raised some concerns about the details of the program and am having discussions with the department today and so are other colleagues.

As soon as details are announced I will share them immediately.

I also want to remind everyone that wishes to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to please sign up for a CRA My Account via this Canada Revenue Agency website to receive the benefit (should you eligible) as quickly as possible:

<https://www.canada.ca/.../e-services.../account-individuals.html>

For a helpful guide on how to sign up for a My Account, please check out this video from the CRA:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW\\_1xRux6bw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW_1xRux6bw)

I am contacted on a daily basis by people asking me questions about the Easter and Passover holidays. The extent of people asking me questions has been surprising and I want to share the major questions and answers:

Can my family from out of town come in and visit me for the holidays?

Your family should not be visiting you at this time. Unless there is an emergency please tell them to cancel their plans.

Can I invite my children or my parents to my Passover seder or my Easter dinner?

No. You should not be having meals with anyone who does not live with you in your home. Such gatherings endanger the health of you and your guests. Please respect the pleas of me and other elected officials and religious leaders and do not gather for the holidays under any circumstances.

My neighbour is all alone, may I invite him or her for the holidays?

No. You cannot have anyone over to your home.

Will I be able to go to church for Easter or synagogue for Passover?

No. They will be closed. If you wish to pray do so at home.

What is the Government doing to ensure we have enough medical equipment to combat COVID-19?

The Government of Canada is investing \$2 billion to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment, including for bulk purchases with provinces and territories. Personal protective equipment includes things like more masks and face shields, gowns, and hand sanitizer.

The Prime Minister has also announced that we have signed procurement contracts with three Canadian companies to make more medical supplies such as ventilators, surgical masks, and test kits.

We've also signed letters of intent with five other companies: Precision Biomonitoring, Fluid Energy Group, Irving Oil, Calko Group, and Stanfield's to produce additional test kits, hand sanitizer, and protective apparel including masks and gowns.

We will also provide support to those who want to retool their manufacturing facilities to contribute to this fight.

In addition, \$50 million has been made available in funding for members of the Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster to develop and scale-up new, in-demand technologies, equipment, and medical products.

This includes technologies and products to test and treat Canadians, such as novel virus detection tests, vaccines, therapeutics, and symptom management treatments.

It also includes medical equipment to care for Canadians, such as ventilators, peripherals, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and sterilization chemicals and equipment.

I am a potential supplier of equipment for COVID-19 where should I go to make the federal government aware of what I can offer?

Suppliers that seek to provide products and services must go to this website:  
<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/calling-all-suppliers-help-canada-...>

There are purchasers working 24 by 7 and working in conjunction with the provinces and they will determine if the offer is something they wish to pursue.

As well, Minister [Navdeep Bains](#) announced the following:

Canada's industrial policy will be temporarily refocused to prioritize research and development, commercialization, and manufacturing (existing or potential) for medical supplies and solutions in the fight against COVID-19.

This means that:

The Strategic Innovation Fund will deliver direct support to larger companies as well as research institutions;

Canada's National Research Centre will expedite R&D with small and medium-sized enterprises;

Innovation Superclusters will tap into a national network of 1,800 members; and

Innovative Solutions Canada will help Canadian companies commercialize faster.

Funds will be deployed on an accelerated basis with wider flexibility to be able to tackle COVID-19 related problems through shortened applications and faster approvals, while maintaining standards for the health and safety of Canadians. We are putting the full weight of the federal government behind this plan.

If your businesses can help, please visit this website:  
<https://www.canada.ca/.../maintaing.../manufacturers-needed.html>.

What is the government doing to assist Canadians stranded abroad?

Global Affairs has helped secure a number of flights from many countries where constituents are stranded across the world. Countries like Morocco, Peru and multiple Latin American countries and now we are also helping people get from India and Pakistan back to Canada.

The flights from India will be operated from New Delhi and Mumbai to London, UK. From there, passengers will board Air Canada flights home which will allow them to reach multiple destinations within Canada.

The flights from Pakistan will operate from Karachi and Lahore directly to Toronto. We expect there to be a minimum of six flights for travellers stranded in India and two from Pakistan and for these flights to begin operating this week.

Of course those individuals will need to go into quarantine for 14 days when they return to Canada and will not be allowed to board flights if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.

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