

March 25th, 2020

Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone for the sacrifices that they are making. I want to assure everyone that we are busy responding to your calls and emails and are trying our best to get answers out to everyone as soon as possible. We are getting a number of messages from Canadians having difficulty bringing immediate family members into the country and I have escalated this issue for clarification. I have also escalated my requests for programs to ensure that non-profits are better supported during this time and that businesses receive a greater wage subsidy than the initial 10% announced. I have conference calls and correspondence with federal Ministers and caucus colleagues daily and assure you that the issues I am hearing from many of you are raised.

### **New Legislation**

The House of Commons and the Senate has now passed the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act. This is a huge step to providing immediate help to Canadians, including \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months for those unable to work. Once the bill goes through the Senate, this legislation will allow the government to:

- **Introduce the Canada Emergency Response Benefit** to provide \$500 per week to Canadians who lose their income due to COVID-19. It includes people who lose their jobs or are not getting paid, people who are staying home because of self-isolation or to care for a child or senior and more. This is a simpler more streamlined benefit comprised of both the care and support streams announced on March 18, 2020. There will be an online tool introduced to apply for this benefit and as soon as I have details I will share that in a daily update.
- **Increase the Canada Child Benefit** by \$300 per child for the 2019-20 benefit year. Qualifying parents will receive the extra amount as part of their May payment.
- **Provide a special payment under the GST credit** to low and modest income families
- **Reduce the minimum RRIF withdrawal** to help protect seniors' retirement savings.
- **Provide a temporary wage subsidy** for three months to eligible small employers. Eligible employers include small businesses (including co-operative corporations) eligible for the small business deduction, unincorporated employers, - certain partnerships, non-profit organizations and charities.
- **Help prevent shortages of patented drugs or medical devices**
- **Introduce a pause on the repayments of Canada Student Loans** for six months.
- **Support provinces and territories with a COVID-19 Response Fund** including one-time funding of \$500 million through the Canada Health Transfer.
- **Provide additional flexibility to support businesses as necessary** through EDC, BDC, Farm Credit Canada and the Canada Account.
- **Support the mortgage financing market in Canada** through enhancements to the CMHC.

- **Increasing the protection of Canadians' savings** by providing the Minister of Finance with the flexibility to increase the CDIC's deposit insurance limit.
- **Allowing us to respond rapidly to COVID-19 developments** by providing the Minister of Finance with additional flexibility to provide financial support.

### **Volunteering**

In addition to the volunteering opportunities I outlined yesterday, there are even more ways to help out your fellow neighbours. This includes with the MADA Community Center, who provides vital social and crisis services for free. To help out, please email [rabbishmuel@madacenter.com](mailto:rabbishmuel@madacenter.com). To assist with packing and delivering baskets for Passover, please fill out the following form:

[https://madacenter.formstack.com/forms/passover\\_volunteer\\_form](https://madacenter.formstack.com/forms/passover_volunteer_form)

There are also many other food banks that have asked for more volunteers during this critical time. This includes The Depot and Multicaf. Please find the two links below to sign up to volunteer:

<https://depotmtl.org/en/volunteering/apply-to-volunteer/>

<https://www.timetosignup.com/multicafcovid19/sheet/1298710/>

Sincerely,

*Anthony Housefather*

Member of Parliament for Mount Royal

Député de Mont-Royal