

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. While Alberta has started the slow process of allowing business to resume, we must still take care to keep this insidious infection in check. Please continue to exercise caution in your activities.

The array of support programs continues to grow, although we are finding that many have serious flaws that prevent people from benefiting. We understand they were designed in haste, and intended to get money out the door quickly, but the often-arbitrary criteria frequently exclude people or businesses that ought to qualify, and do need the help. The job of the Official Opposition is to point out those flaws, and recommend improvements, and we've been doing that in what I think is a constructive way. We are now in May. It is time to fix the problems we have discovered.

Unfortunately, the government seems reluctant to take advice, even when offered in a very helpful manner. They are also resisting the recall of Parliament, which is one of the best ways to draw attention to improvements in the policies and programs. We will keep pressing. Many of my constituents have contacted me with examples of how arbitrary rules have cut them out of programs for no good reason, and I'm continuing to take those examples to the government in an effort to improve the programs.

There are too many programs to detail in a newsletter, but my website page on COVID-19 programs is updated each day. Find it at:

gregmcleanmp.ca/covid19

Please get in touch with my office or me if we can be of assistance to you.



Calling Finance Minister Morneau and Deputy PM Freeland to Account in Parliament

I attended an in-person sitting of Parliament on Wednesday, May 13 and had five minutes to question Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland on some of the flaws and unintended consequences of the business support programs.

You can watch the exchange here: [McLean in Parliament May 13](#)



My questions were:

1. A criteria of the commercial rent assistance program is that the landlord must owe money to a bank. Who is this intended to benefit?
2. Did the Minister understand that one outcome of the rental distress is that large vulture financiers would buy up properties from smaller companies?
3. Will the Minister acknowledge that this government's oil and gas mismanagement has resulted in record deficits during this time of record spending?
4. Does the Minister acknowledge the conflict of interest that exists between the world's largest bond manager, Blackrock, giving advice to the Bank of Canada as an advisor on its bond buying choices?

Support for Oil and Gas is Support for Calgary Centre Workers

Almost two months ago, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said that assistance for the hard-hit oil and gas sector “would be coming in hours, possibly days.” While a billion dollars in assistance was announced for oil well remediation - and while oil well remediation is a good thing, it is not a support to the industry. The government's answer, announced this week, appears to be the LEEFF program (Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility) which is for companies with at

least \$300 million in revenues, seeking around \$60 million in loans. While oil and gas companies qualify for this program, we are all awaiting the details of the program to see if the terms of the financial support will make sense for our distressed producers.

Meanwhile, we heard two exceptionally ill-informed comments from Green Party MP Elizabeth May and Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet. They declared that “oil is dead” and won’t support federal assistance to the industry. One of the biggest challenges I face in Ottawa is that so many MPs have simply accepted the misinformation put out by green activists, and have not taken the time to actually learn about the industry - how environmentally responsible it is, and how much it contributes to Canada's economic well being by paying for the support programs of which they are so fond. The fact is, in Ottawa, the people making decisions about the energy industry are typically the same people who know the least about it.

In response to Ms. May's and M. Blanchet's nonsense, I wrote an article for *Energy Now* which you can read at this link: [McLean Responds to May, Blanchet](#)

I posted the following video on my social media pages. You can see it by clicking on the link: [Video response to May, Blanchet](#)



Seniors Homes Consultation

I had a great call earlier this month with the staff at Clover Living and Wai Kwan Manor seniors homes in Calgary Centre. We discussed the government's performance thus far on COVID-19 and what could be done to further assist them in the upcoming weeks.

They had concerns about the federal government's response time to COVID-19. They were disappointed by the unclear communications as well as the delay in

giving adequate instructions and warnings. They also mentioned the shortages in good quality PPE as well as Thermo-scanners.

Huge kudos to Alberta Seniors Living for providing senior homes across Alberta with the needed medical tools throughout the pandemic in a timely fashion!

Support our Local Restaurants and Delis



Calgary Centre boasts a wide variety of excellent food places, many of which are surviving these days on a take-out business. While the rules will likely allow some restaurants and pubs to start opening on May 25, some will choose to delay while they prepare for a safe environment for guests and staff. These businesses will still need your support during this transition period.

If you are in a position to do so, please consider ordering for curbside pickup or delivery once or twice a week. We all want these businesses to still be there for us to enjoy when this is all over.

Please get in touch if there's anything my office can do for you.

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