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## Friday November 6 Update

Dear Neighbour,

It's been a huge week. Down south, the election of the century is playing out with razor edge margins separating Trump and Biden in key battleground states. Democracy in the United States is truly at stake, along with whether the world's leaders will meaningfully tackle the issues of our time, from climate change to the international refugee crisis to global trade rules and how we intervene or avoid wars.

Here in Ontario, the 2020-21 budget was released yesterday, and what is - and isn't - funded will affect each and every one of us in real and practical ways. Read our newsletter to find out how the budget affects you.

Stay safe,

Yours,

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

**My newsletter for this week includes:**

- [The government launched its new colour coded system for Covid-19 restrictions](#)
- [Ford Releases Ontario's 2020-2021 Budget](#)
- [Join our Seniors' Town Hall on November 12](#)

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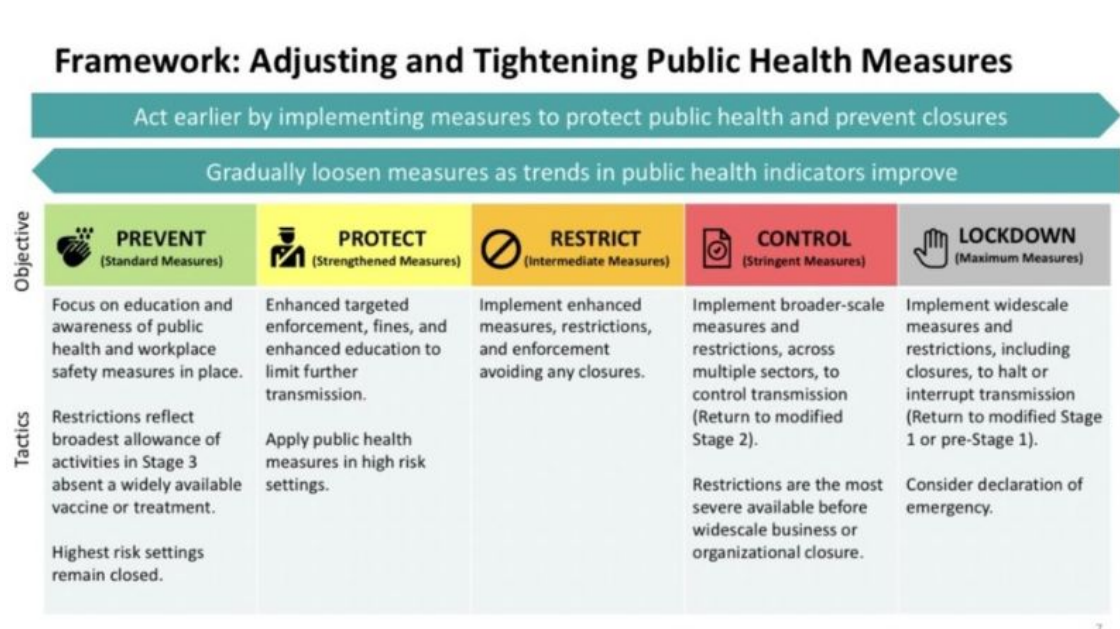
- [Public Outcry Over Death of Trans Woman in police custody](#)
- [MPP Mamakwa urges Ford fix dire water crisis in Neskantaga First Nation](#)
- [Encampment Support Drive a Success!](#)
- [Mobilize Mondays!](#)
- [Community Food Drive in Rosedale set for Sunday November 15](#)

## The government launched new colour coded system for Covid-19 restrictions

On Tuesday, the Premier announced a new [colour coded system for Covid-19 restrictions](#) which will go into effect on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>. This reorganization puts regions in 5 categories (prevent/green, protect/yellow, restrict/orange, control/red or lockdown/gray) based on their caseload and transmission levels.

Toronto, currently in the “control/red” category, will move to “restrict/orange” on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>. This transition will allow gyms and cinemas to re-open, and indoor restaurant dining with capacity limits and extra safety precautions in place.

It is concerning that Premier Ford is lifting restrictions at a time when COVID-19 case counts in Toronto are rising, and testing is not meeting demand.



## Ford Releases Ontario's 2020-2021 Budget

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The government released its budget, [Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover](#) on Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>. This budget repackages many previously made announcements, reallocates funding and provides \$394 million for new program expenses – a 0.2% increase. The deficit, however, remains unchanged at \$38.5 billion for this year.

### Here are some highlights:

- Long-Term Care (LTC) funding is increasing by 2.6% from last year
- No new funding targeted for LTC this year to implement for the four hours of hands-on care.
- No allocations for home or community care
- No new emergency supports to help business through COVID-19.
- Very few small businesses will benefit from the previously announced \$300M to help businesses pay for property taxes and utilities
- Education funding to increase in 2021 and 2022 (the increase \$ .2B includes \$381M from the Federal government)
- \$380M for parents to offset childcare and learning at home costs – this will mean \$200 per child under 12 and \$250 for children and youth under 21 with special needs
- 19.25M in mental health supports for post secondary students; an increase of \$3.25M over last year
- \$7M over three years to TVO/TFO to develop new online learning content for students
- The commercial eviction ban would be extended
- \$212M in new funding for Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), which municipalities use for housing relief
- No increase to ODSP or OW rates; which currently do not keep up with inflation
- \$3 dollar an hour pandemic pay increase for PSWs in children's and developmental services sector (retroactive from October 1, 2020 and carries through until March 2021)

Here are a few articles that unpack the details of the lengthy document and offer some analysis:

<https://www.tvo.org/article/five-things-you-should-know-about-ontarios-2020-budget>

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/2020/11/05/highlights-of-this-years-ontario-budget.html>

It will take some time to go through all the details in the budget; in the meantime please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns [jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.on.ca)

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# A Time to Care

## Seniors Town Hall

An opportunity to hear from you on a new seniors and long-term care policy platform for Ontario



**Joel Harden**

MPP Ottawa Centre



**Jessica Bell**

MPP University-Rosedale



**Jane Meadus**

Institutional Advocate - ACE

**NOVEMBER 12 6PM - 7PM**  
**REGISTRATION: [JESSICABELLMPP.CA/SENIORS](https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/seniors)**

## Join our Seniors' Town Hall on November 12

Join myself, MPP Joel Harden, Official Opposition Critic for Seniors, and Jane Meadus, Institutional Advocate with the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly for a digital town hall on how we can improve senior and long term care in Ontario.

The purpose of this town hall is to reveal our new [seniors and long-term care plan](#) for Ontario, get your feedback, answer your questions, and hear your concerns.

Thursday November 12 at 6:00-7:00pm  
**RSVP here:** <https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/seniors>

## Burch's bill to regulate Supportive Living Accommodations wins Unanimous Support

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[2020](#) (Bill 164), passed unanimously at second reading in the Ontario legislature Monday.

Burch's bill provides a framework for operators and sets minimum standards that people who provide housing accommodation must meet so vulnerable tenants are protected. The bill requires all operators of these homes to be licensed, and introduces inspection and complaint protocols.

Many seniors and low-income residents in Ontario currently live in unregulated homes, where they end up handing over their social assistance payments to the owner of the home or an operator, and live in very poor and sometimes inhumane conditions. Regulation of this housing sector is needed to keep these vulnerable people protected and safe.

Now that Bill 164 has passed second reading, it's important that we pressure the Government to send this bill to committee so it can move towards becoming the law of the province.

[The full statement can be seen here.](#)

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## Public Outcry Over Death of Trans Woman in police custody

A young Black trans woman died in a Toronto hospital last week, after being taken into police custody - making this yet another example of a racialized person dying under police control. The SIU is now investigating the person's death.

I support the calls being made by [community organization 519](#) who are demanding to know what happened to this woman. 519 is asking Torontonians to contact the Toronto Police Service and ask for answers:

Contact 43 Division at the TPS and quote Case Number: [2020-2029228](#). Ask them **#TPSWHATHAPPENED?**

- 416-808-4300 (43 Division)
- [@TorontoPolice](#) #TPSWhatHappened
- [@TPS43Div](#) #TPSWhatHappened

Contact the SIU and quote Case Number: [20-TCD-284](#). Ask them **#TPSWHATHAPPENED?**

- 416-622-0748

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## Mamakwa urges Ford government to step up and fix dire water crisis in Neskantaga

In recent weeks my colleague MPP Sol Mamakwa has been speaking out about a developing dire situation in Neskantaga. This northern First Nations community has had a boiled water advisory for over 25 years, however the situation grew worse, in late October when the water reservoir was found to be contaminated. Most of the community members have been evacuated as a result of these unsafe living conditions.

Today, MPP Mamakwa sent an open letter to the Premier asking him to address this crisis. Sol writes, "This abuse allows one standard of rights and living conditions for communities like Etobicoke North and next to no standard at all for First Nations communities like Neskantaga."

Please [read the full text of the letter on my website](#).

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SCADDING COURT COMMUNITY CENTRE

## VIRTUAL MASK MAKING WORKSHOP

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 6PM-8PM**

Scadding Court Community Centre's Sewing Hub is proud to offer free virtual mask making workshops with a charitable twist ( 1 mask will be for you and 2 for the centre to give back!) To register for this workshop or for more information regarding machines contact Munira Abukar at [munira@scaddingcourt.org](mailto:munira@scaddingcourt.org)

or 416 453 1723

*This project is funded by the City of Toronto's Climate Action Fund*

### Encampment Support Drive a Success!

WOW! The donations that came in last week for the Encampment Support Drive, were incredibly practical and generous. Thank you to all who donated their time, the much needed equipment, supplies and gift-cards. The kindness and caring shown was so welcoming and will help those who are living outside in the cold. Check out the list below!

# Thank You

for supporting the encampment  
support drive! We received:

174 pairs of socks



35 gloves

19 hats



8 jackets

22 sweaters



11 sleeping bags



5 blankets

17 scarves

16 thermal pads



19 pairs of underwear

\$605 in gift cards



5 tarps

8 tents



2 flashlights







# ***Mobilize Mondays!***

## **Mobilize Mondays!**

For the next two Monday evenings, please join myself and volunteers as we reach out to our neighbours to check in and see how they are doing during this pandemic, share information, and identify the issues community members care most about.

We all meet up on Zoom, check in, and then make calls to residents from our own homes. Our next two call evenings are Monday November 9th, 6pm - 7.30pm and Monday November 16th, 6pm - 7.30pm. Let us know if you're interested and someone from our outreach team will be in touch. Email: [jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca)

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## Community Food Drive in Rosedale set for Sunday November 15

We are planning another Community Food Drive for Sunday November 15 in Rosedale for the Fort York Food Bank and St Stephens in the Field.

You can drop off food between 1pm - 4pm at Whitney Park.

We will be flyer-ing the nearby neighbourhood from 12pm - 3pm to encourage residents to contribute on Friday November 13.

Please email us if you'd like to join us at [jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.on.ca).

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**HIGHWAY OF HEROES  
TREE CAMPAIGN**

2 million heroes.  
2 million trees.

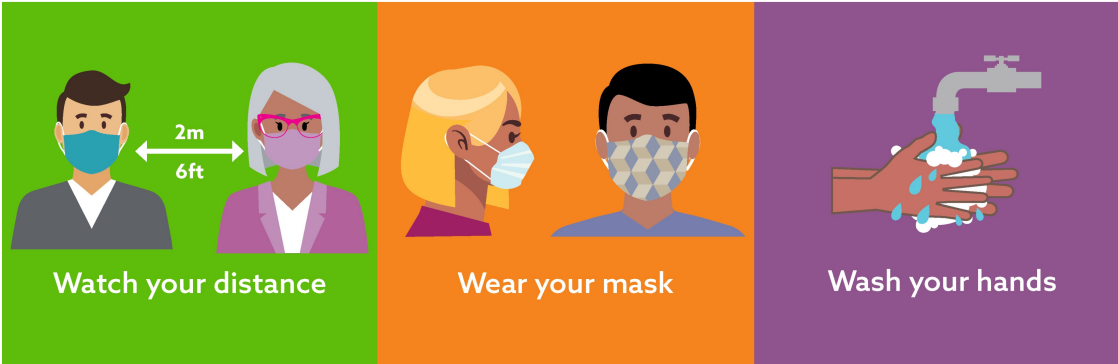
**A tree  
for every  
hero.**

Visit us today to learn more  
and join the campaign:

**HOHTRIBUTE.CA**

## 3 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

We all have a role to play to reduce COVID-19 spread & keep our city safer:



Watch your distance

Wear your mask

Wash your hands

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

 **TORONTO** Public Health

## Now is the time to follow public health guidelines

As COVID-19 cases climb in Ontario, please consider these reminders from Toronto Public Health to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

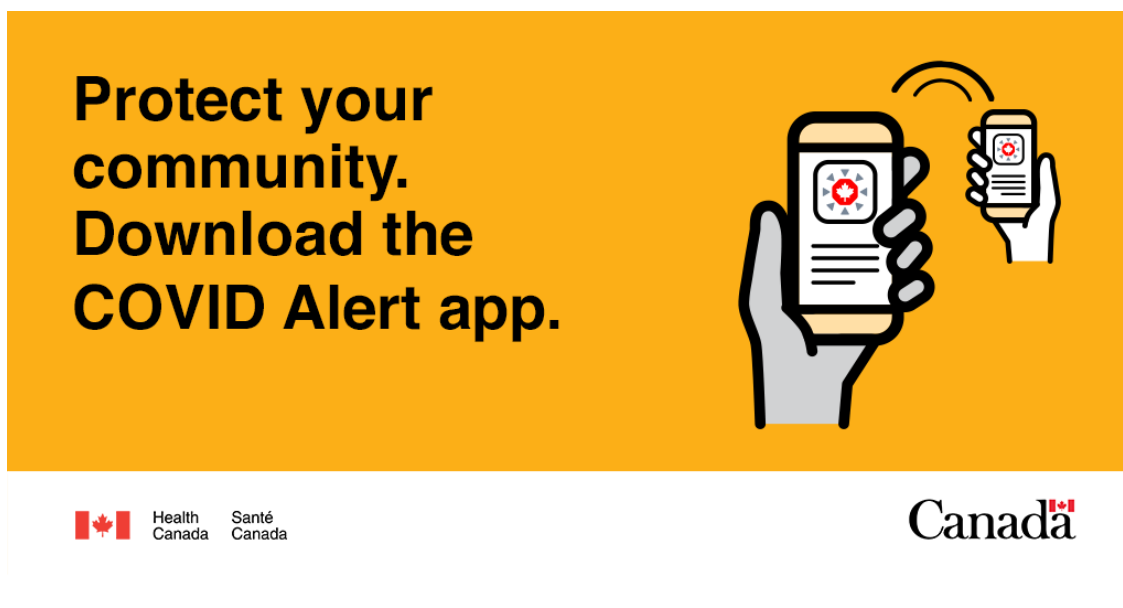
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed:

- Limit non-essential trips out of your home and follow [travel advice](#)

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- [Wear a mask or face covering](#) in indoor public spaces and when you can't keep physical distance
- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based (70-90 per cent) hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell

Download the [COVID Alert app](#) so you can be notified directly if you have been in close contact with someone who was contagious with COVID-19. I have downloaded the app and I encourage you to do the same.



**Note that this email and all previous COVID-19 updates are available at: [www.jessicabellmpp.ca/coronavirus](http://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/coronavirus)**

As always, if you require urgent assistance from my office, please contact my team at 416-535-7206 or email us at [jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.on.ca)



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