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Friday November 13 Update

Dear Neighbour,

There has been a rapid escalation of COVID-19 cases, hospitals are reaching capacity, life-saving surgeries are being delayed, and grim modelling predicts infections could rise to 6,000 a day, if we don't take further action now.

Late this week, the city of Toronto finally stepped up and introduced more stringent restrictions. And, in response to the Star's expose that Ford rejected advice from Public Health Ontario, the Ford government this afternoon backed down and will be implementing stricter measures as well. We outline those details and more, in our newsletter below.

Yours,

Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

My newsletter for this week includes:

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New Modified COVID-19 Precautions in Place Saturday

On Saturday, November 14, Toronto will transition from [the Ontario Government's "Modified Stage 2"](#) to the "Red – Control" category in the Province's [new COVID-19 Response Framework](#). The City of Toronto Public Health will also implement new additional measures to combat the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the city.

In order to protect residents and reduce transmission, in Toronto, the following new specific enhanced measures will go into effect Saturday, November 14:

- Indoor dining in bars, restaurants, and other spaces will remain closed
- Indoor fitness classes are not permitted (though gyms and fitness facilities may reopen with physical distancing and capacity limits)
- Meeting and event spaces will remain closed
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments will remain closed
- Limit in-person activities outside the home to essential activities only – going to work or school, health care, shopping for your household and health needs, and getting exercise and physical activity
- Restrict close contacts only to those you live with and your essential supports
- Social gatherings should only be with those you live with and/or 1 or 2 essential supports
- Businesses and workplaces should implement work from home policies wherever possible
- Businesses should review their HVAC systems to ensure they are in good working order
- Workplaces should appoint a compliance officer to ensure implementation of occupational health and safety and infection prevention and control measures

The City of Toronto's COVID-19 website is being updated on a regular basis; please visit <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/> for new information and resources. You can continue to work to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by [following these precautions](#).

What does Ford's latest budget mean for us?

The budget was released on November 5. Now that we've had more time to read the details, I'd like to provide a more comprehensive summary of what this budget means for us.

Here's the budget details, with my notes on how I think they will affect families and impact our community:

- Funding for long-term care is increasing by 2.6%. We are calling for the government to provide additional funding to increase personal support workers wages by \$5 an hour and hire more workers so all residents in long-term care homes receive four hours a day of care. Homes have staff shortages because workers do not want to work in dangerous and hard conditions when they are paid little more than what they would earn in a retail store.
- Base health care spending is up by 1.5%, which is about the rate of inflation. We are calling for health care funding to be closer to 5.3% in order to match inflation, population growth and the unique needs of communities.
- The government is providing additional emergency funding to hospitals, but the Ontario Hospital Association is telling us it's not enough to cover the additional costs hospitals are facing to treat the surge in COVID-19 patients.
- Education funding is essentially frozen. The budget will increase from \$13 to 13.1B, but most of that increase is from the federal government. Large class sizes will remain, despite pleas from parents, teachers and public health experts to reduce cohort size. We are calling for a class size cap of 15.
- Annual funding for repairing and building new schools has been cut from \$1.4B to \$1.3B. This bodes badly for University Rosedale schools as many of our buildings are old, with windows, furnaces, washrooms and HVAC systems in need of upgrades.

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pay the rent. There is no rent subsidy to help people pay the rent. This inaction is going to make our city's homelessness crisis worse.

- There is a new one-time emergency fund of \$25m for arts institutions to cover operating losses.

Please contact my office if you have comments, questions, or need help - JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca or call 416-535-7206.

NDP asks CRA for review of Charles McVety's College "charity" finances

My office has heard from many residents who are very troubled about Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College (CCC), and how the institute might be granted university status with the right to issue degrees. You have expressed deep concern about McVety, his hurtful statements against the 2SLGBTQIA+ and Muslim communities, his connection to the premier and a questionable financial relationship with the College he runs, and personal benefits.

My colleague MPP Laura Mae Lindo, Chair of the Black Caucus, has written to the Canada Revenue Agency, asking them to review the CCC's charitable tax status in light of financial information filed by CCC as part of an application to get university status. You can read [MPP Lindo's letter here](#).

Build Transit Right - Round Table November 18

Building transit is vital for our region, however, residents and businesses have real concerns about the impact of transit construction on local businesses and their quality of life, including noise and pollution. We must build transit right and respect neighbourhoods at the same time.

On Wednesday November 18th at 6pm, please join me and local Ontario NDP MPP's for a roundtable discussion on building transit right in Ontario.

- Get the latest on how transit construction is proceeding in Ontario and how this changes with [Bill 222](#) and [Bill 171](#).
- Ask questions about transit in your area
- Learn how communities are advocating for Metrolinx and the Ford government to build transit in a way that respects municipalities, businesses, and residents.

[Click here to register in advance.](#)

Commercial eviction ban in limbo, as evictions proceed

In its budget bill, the Ontario government said they were proposing to extend the commercial eviction ban, which officially ended on October 31. The problem is the regulation hasn't been introduced and it's not clear how long the ban will be extended. In addition, only businesses who are eligible for the federal rent subsidy program are included. This another situation where, the rules for eligibility have changed – prior to November 2nd applicants had to rely on their landlord applying for relief; that has now changed, however is only retroactive from September 27th, 2020. ([Click here for Government of Canada details](#) and this link provides some [clear breakdown of the new process](#))

This legal grey area is leading to people, like Kurder Muay Thai, being threatened with eviction. Located on Augusta Ave, Kurder Muay Thai was founded 15 years ago by Darwin and Danica Miranda. They are now locked out of their property and the building is up for sale. The Ontario government needs to step up now and provide direct support to small businesses in the form of a utility payment freeze for small and medium sized businesses, a ban on all evictions, lockouts or eviction threats by commercial landlords in place until the pandemic ends, a stand alone emergency 75 per cent commercial rent subsidy, up to \$10,000 a month. direct financial support and an extension on the ban of commercial evictions.

Read more about the Ontario NDP's [Save Main Street Plan](#).

Click on the image below or [here for my conversation with Danica](#).



Homes You Can Afford – An Inclusive Approach to Housing & Homelessness

This week the ONDP released a new housing platform called Homes You Can Afford. Built on the framework that states that housing is a basic human right, the platform addresses fundamental changes which are necessary to make safe, affordable, decent housing available to all Ontarians, no matter where they live in the province.

Homes You Can Afford outlines practical policies for: renters with rent control and renovation protections; those wanting to buy a new home; strengthening home buyers protections, and for those who want to live in their home in their old age. It is broad in approach and inclusive of communities that have struggled for years with access to safe housing.

Please find the [full document here](#).

SAVE THE DATE - Join our Housing Town Hall on November 26

Join myself, special guests and experts for a digital town hall on how we can improve housing in University Rosedale and the rest of the province.

The purpose of this town hall is to highlight our recently released housing plan, Homes You Can Afford, for Ontario, get your feedback, answer your questions, and hear your concerns.

[RSVP and register here](#)

Please find the [full document here](#).

Join us on Monday at Queen's Park to tell Ford to allow families to sue homes that failed to protect family members from COVID-19.

Bill 218 provides liability protection for long-term care homes, businesses and non-profits for COVID-19 related claims. It's fair to exempt businesses etc provided they follow the rules. In fact, we've had many production companies, non-profits, and businesses in our riding who have been unable to afford insurance premiums that cover COVID-19 claims.

The truth is that no claim has been filed against any institution but long term care homes (LTC) . Bill 218 makes it retroactive so anyone who has already filed a suit has the claim kicked out of court. But family members should have the right to access the courts if they have a case to make.

On Monday morning, November 16, families who have lost a loved one in a LTC home will be coming to the Legislature to protest Bill 218, which is likely to be voted on, and passed, Monday afternoon. They will be circling Queen's Park with a Car Parade demonstrating against Bill 218. I invite you to join them in vehicles, or on the sidewalks or lawn of the Legislature, at a safe social distance. The demonstration gets underway at 8:30 am.

Time to Care - Seniors Town Hall

Last night over 50 people participated in an informative virtual Seniors Town Hall with special guest MPP Joel Harden, Critic for Seniors and Disability Issues. Our expert for the evening, Jane Meadus, from the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly – ACE, brought her vast experience and analysis of the Long Term Care system. MPP Harden provided details of the recently released Ontario NPD's platform for aging Ontarians, which includes:

- Overhaul Home Care, so people can stay in their homes longer
- Make all Long Term Care public and not-for-profit
- Build culturally responsive, inclusive and affirming care
- Make family caregivers partners

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Please contact us if you want to give feedback on our [new seniors platform](#), or if you and your loved one need assistance - JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca or call 416-535-7206



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

TDSB Trustee Chris Moise hosts Ward Forum: Staying Well During COVID-19

TDSB Trustee Chris Moise is hosting another Ward Forum, this time with a focus on Staying Well During COVID-19 on Thursday December 3, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Parents, students and caregivers are encouraged to attend this virtual event to learn about strategies for care.

For further information about the event and registration [details please see this poster.](#)

Rosedale Residents: let us know what is important to you!

With the ongoing public health crisis, I am looking for new ways to keep in touch with constituents, aware that each neighbourhood has unique issues and

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This week, I will be in Rosedale dropping off flyers with a short update and information about a newly created [Rosedale Community Survey](#). This survey is meant to only take a moment of your time.

As always if there are issues or concerns you'd like to address further, please email my office at JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca or call 416-535-7206.



Mobilize Mondays!

This Monday evening, November 16th, 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 last session of this series will be this Monday November 16th, 6pm - 7.30pm.

Let us know if you're interested and someone from our outreach team will be in touch. Email: jbell-co@ndp.on.ca

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Community Food Drive in Rosedale set for Sunday November 15

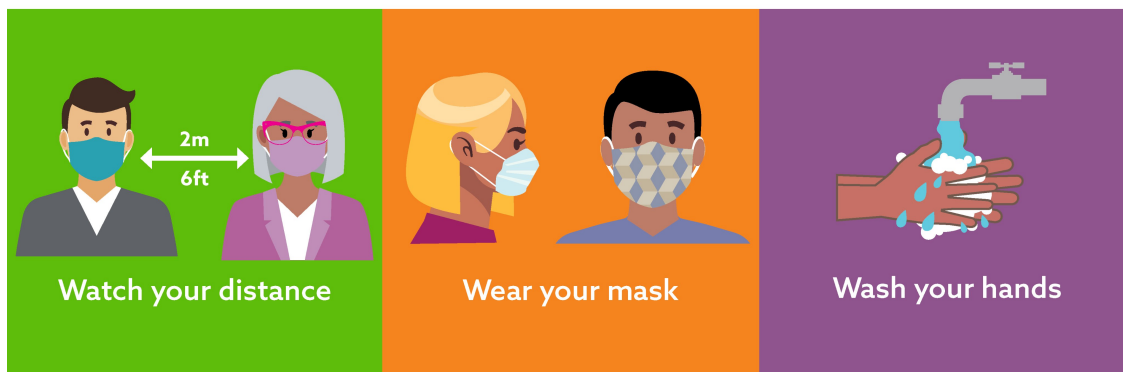
We are planning another Community Food Drive this Sunday November 15 in Rosedale for the Fort York Food Bank and St Stephens in the Field.

Please meet in [Whitney Park](#) between 1pm – 4pm to help collecting, sorting and packing items or to drop off food items. This event will take place, rain, snow, or shine.

Please email us if you'd like to join us at jbell-co@ndp.on.ca.

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

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

The logo for Toronto Public Health, featuring a stylized building icon and the text '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](#)
- Keep [two metres \(six feet\) distance](#) from others
- [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.

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**Protect your
community.
Download the
COVID Alert app.**



Canada

Note that this email and all previous COVID-19 updates are available at: 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 jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca



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