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Friday November 20 Update

Dear Neighbour,

After weeks of rising COVID-19 cases and mounting public pressure, the Ford government announced lockdown measures for Toronto and Peel. I support this decision. I know it's hard but it's necessary to keep people alive.

At the same time, it's imperative we provide support to businesses in need, including direct rent relief, paid sick days, and a temporary ban on commercial evictions. This is the worst crisis we have experienced since World War II, but I know we can get through it.

In response to the new restrictions, our office is now closed to the public. We will continue to do our best to provide help to you via phone, zoom, and email. Please reach out if you need anything.

Stay safe.

Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

My newsletter for this week includes:

- [Further COVID-19 Restrictions for Toronto and Peel](#)
- [Auditor General finds Ford is harming climate action, environment](#)
- [NDP urges government to save Kensington](#)
- [Update on PMB Bill 205 - Protecting Tenants](#)
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Further COVID-19 Restrictions

The government announced this afternoon further restrictions for Toronto and Peel in an effort to reduce the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 cases in these two areas. Schools, childcare centres, and before and after school programmes will remain open. These new restrictions will go into effect Monday, November 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

Measures under Lockdown include, but are not limited to:

- Retail permitted to be open for curbside pick-up or delivery only, with certain exceptions such as for supermarkets, grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, discount and big box retailers selling groceries, beer, wine and liquor stores, safety supply stores, and convenience stores, which will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity;
- Restaurants, bars, and food and drink establishments will only be able to provide takeout, drive-through and delivery.
- Indoor and outdoor dining services are prohibited;
- Personal care services closed;
- Post-secondary schools open for virtual learning with some limited exceptions for training that can only be provided in-person, such as clinical training or training related to a trade;
- No indoor organized public events or social gatherings except with members of the same household. Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with one other person;
- Outdoor organized public events or social gatherings limited to a maximum of 10 people;
- Wedding services, funeral services and religious services, rites or ceremonies where physical distancing can be maintained can have up to 10 people indoors or 10 people outdoors;
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments closed; and

For more details, including how these new measures affect LTC and retirement homes please [see this news release](#) .

Please note that municipalities and local medical officers of health may have additional restrictions or targeted requirements in their region, on top of the public health measures required at their specific level.

Auditor General finds Ford is harming climate action, environment

This week, the Auditor General released its annual report showing the Ford government's lack of action to protect the environment and address climate change is unconscionable.

A few alarming findings show that:

- “This year, we found that the Environment Ministry and some other ministries made decisions that were not consistent with the purposes of the EBR Act, were not transparent and risked undermining public confidence in the government's environmentally significant decisions.”
- “Our audit found that the Environment Ministry and the Natural Resources Ministry need to do more to protect biodiversity in Ontario's network of provincial parks, conservation reserves and other protected areas, especially in southern Ontario where biodiversity is most at risk.”

A [summary of the AG report can be found here](#) and the [full reports can be found here](#).

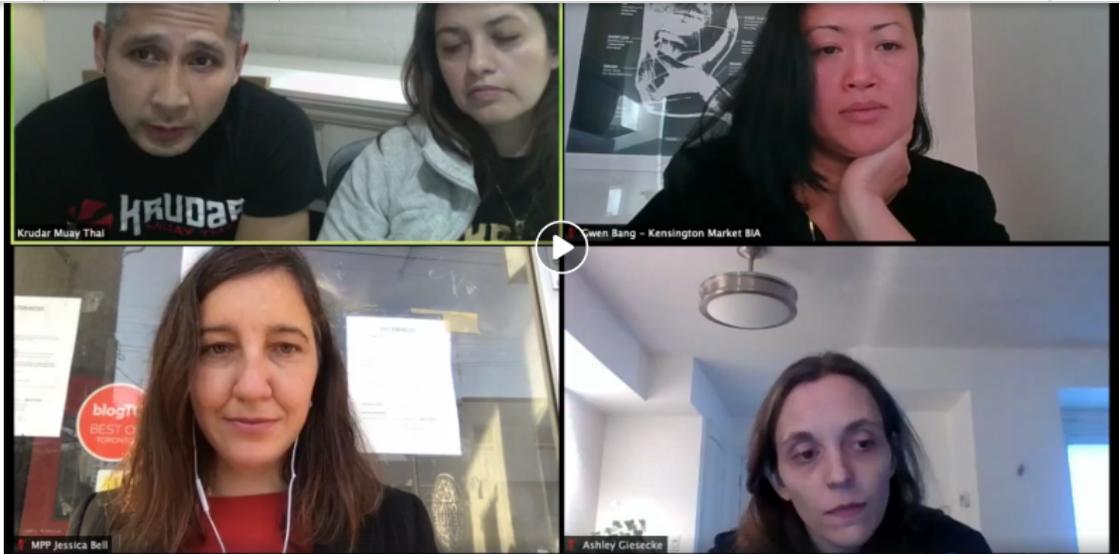
The Ford government continues to over-step its use of Ministerial Zoning Orders, which allow developers to sidestep the environmental assessment the approval process (recently three new high-rises are slated for the West Don Lands, that have skirted around the City of Toronto requirements). Also, the government is adding legislation into its budget implementation bill, which will allow development on wetlands and flood plains, doing an end run around conservation authorities. See [this link for details](#).

In the coming months we will be organizing events to address some of these issues, and I urge you to support and work with the many excellent environmental groups in our city who are organizing on these issues, including the Toronto Environmental Alliance, Environmental Defence and the Greenbelt Foundation.

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NDP urges government to save Kensington

This morning I held a press conference in Kensington Market, discussing the increasing and ongoing commercial evictions with local business owners and members of the BIA. I called upon the government to listen to the stories and to enforce the moratorium on commercial evictions and give small businesses direct rent relief.

We simply can't let go of this vital community.

Click here for the [video of the press conference](#) and here [for my statement](#).

Earlier this week I stood in the Legislature, and read a members statement, again calling for support for our iconic cultural venues and businesses in the riding, like Sneaky Dees. You can watch the statement by clicking the image below.

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[Click here to watch MPP Bell's statement in the Legislature](#)

Update on PMB: Bill 205 Protecting Tenants

This week, Ford turned his back on renters by voting against my Bill 205 which would have ended vacancy decontrol, put a stop to renovictions and brought in real fines for landlords who illegally event.

People deserve to live in homes they can afford in the places they love. We will continue to fight for affordable housing.

Here are my comments, [just after the vote.](#)

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Homes You Can Afford A Housing Town Hall

An opportunity to hear from you about a new housing policy platform for Ontario

Thursday, November 26, 6 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom



Jessica Bell
MPP University Rosedale



Sara Singh
MPP Brampton Centre



Melissa Jean-Baptiste
Housing Lawyer

www.jessicabellmpp.ca/homesyoucanafford

Join our Housing Town Hall on Thursday November 26

Join myself, special guests, Critic for Housing MPP Sara Singh, and housing lawyer Melissa Jean-Baptiste Vadja 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.

Thursday November 26 at 6:00-7:00pm

[RSVP and register here](#)

[Homes You Can Afford](#) outlines practical policies for: renters with rent control and renoviction 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.

you might have in advance by email to: jbell-co@ndp.on.ca



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Today, November 20th, is the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day to recognize those who have been killed due to ignorance and hatred, targeted because they were trans or gender non-conforming. Andrea Horwath, leader of the Official Opposition and MPP Terence Kernaghan have issued statements acknowledging the grief the trans community feeling with the recent death of Coco, and the need to fight for all to feel safe, and validated. You can read [their statements here](#).

Monday Motion calling for Ford to Condemn McVety

An Opposition Day Motion concerning the CCC and its president Charles McVety will be debated in the Legislature on Monday afternoon. This motion calls on “the Ford Government to condemn the extreme and hateful invective of Charles McVety and oppose any efforts to make Canada Christian College into an accredited university”.

Mr. McVety and his close relationship with the Premier has come under scrutiny in the past weeks, most recently for renting space during the PC leadership

The wording of the motion can be found at [the bottom of this page](#) (motions are listed in chronological order) and [you can watch the proceedings live here](#).

Building Transit Right – Roundtable Held

On Wednesday over 80 registrants, joined local MPPs Suze Morrison, Marit Stiles, Chris Glover, Jill Andrew, Peter Tabuns and myself for an engaging round table focused on Building Transit Right. Participants from neighbourhoods throughout the GTA worked in breakout rooms, discussing three key questions:

1. How has your neighbourhood been impacted by transit planning and construction?
2. Community Benefits Agreements, environmental assessments, construction working groups are all ways we can ensure transit is built with communities in mind. What does building transit right mean to you?
3. In your work to advocate for respectful transit construction, what have you found to be effective in moving Metrolinx and the Ford Government to improve how transit is built?

I am grateful for the level of constructive conversation, the participation of my colleagues, and the dynamic committed group of participants. It was clear, by the end of the session, that this conversation will continue.

Please contact us if you want to give feedback, share your thoughts or suggestions. JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca or call 416-535-7206.

Gov't to Develop Cargo E-Bike Programme

Earlier this year, after hearing from cycling advocates at CycleTO and the Pembina Institute, I wrote the Ministry of Transportation and requested a review of regulation 369/09 in the Highway Traffic Act. Yesterday the government indicated that it will be reviewing current legislation given the increase in popularity of e-bikes and the need to ensure safety for all who use roads (pedestrians, riders and drivers)

This review will look at an E-Bike Framework and a pilot project for Cargo E-Bikes. Currently:

- “MTO is proposing legislative and regulatory amendments to the HTA to remove reference to the federal definition of e-bike and substitute it for a new definition developed by MTO. Moped and motorcycle style e-bikes would be treated as mopeds, and require licence, registration and

operators would not require a licence.

- A new vehicle type has also emerged and is poised to enter the Ontario market - cargo e-bikes. These are bicycles designed to carry significant amounts of cargo and can be potentially useful for commercial delivery purposes. Due to their intended commercial use, these vehicles are heavier, longer and wider than other bicycles.
- MTO is considering a pilot project that will evaluate the safety of these cargo e-bikes and allow the ministry to monitor how they might be integrated with our current infrastructure and traffic patterns”

You are invited to review the materials and submit comments until the deadline of December 19, 2020. For details about the process and how to send in your feedback, [please see this link](#).

PIAC Conference upcoming this weekend

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference is hosting its first [on-line conference](#) this weekend, November 21-22, for parents and school councils. Organizers indicate that the gathering will provide an opportunity to “connect with others from across TDSB as we adapt to a new educational landscape and school year unlike any we have experienced before”. For more information about the conference, to review the agenda and workshop choices, and to register, [please click here](#).

ABC Residents Association Hold 63rd AGM

All Members and residents are invited to attend ABCRA's 63rd 2020 Annual General Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 via Zoom. For detailed information and to register [please use this link](#).

Trustee Chris Moise hosts Ward Forum

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.

[poster.](#)

BENA- Political Panel Video Now On-line

On Monday November 2nd I joined colleagues Councillors Mike Layton and Kristyn Wong-Tam and MPP Suze Morrison for the second annual BENA Political Panel. The lively conversation covered a wide range of topics, from bike lanes to community safety, the environment and public health.

If you weren't able to attend, or want to hear a specific section again, here is a [link to a video of the event](#). Thanks again to the BENA organizers for such a well run session.

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 needs.

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.

Rosedale Food Drive a Success ~ “Who’s Hungry” Report Released

Thank you to all who donated, helped with flyers, collected, sorted and delivered food and clothing last Sunday afternoon, at another successful Community Food Drive, this time in Rosedale, with kind support from Rosedale United Church. Despite the near hurricane weather, our team collected 2 large loads of canned and dried goods for St Stephens in the Field food programmes and the Fort York Food Bank.

insecurity was up 5% over last year, however the pandemic has made the number of visits to foodbank grow exponentially. The summary of key findings states, "With the arrival of COVID-19, food bank visits in Toronto skyrocketed. By June, food bank visits had increased by 22% compared to the same period last year, and by August, that number has grown to a staggering 51%."

[More of the summary](#) can be found here, and for the full Who's Hungry Report 2020 [click this link](#).

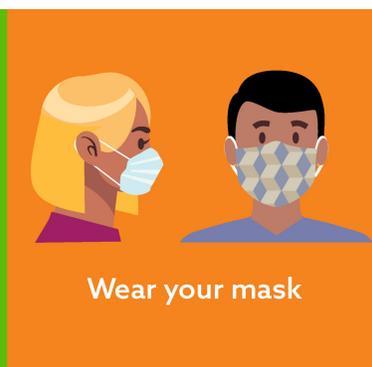


3 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

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

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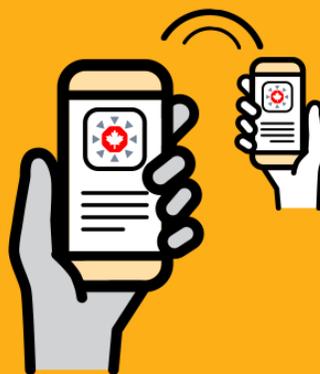
As COVID-19 cases climb in Ontario, please consider these reminders from Toronto Public Health to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

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.

**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

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