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## Friday October 30 Update

Dear Neighbour,

Happy safe Halloween. Due to rising cases of COVID-19, [Toronto Public Health](#) does not recommend hosting or attending in-person gatherings for Halloween this year. It is recommended that you limit your in-person celebration to those you live with. As we continue to be in [modified Stage 2 restrictions](#), Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health is not recommending traditional door-to-door trick or treating in Toronto.

It's been a concerning week at Queen's Park. Premier Ford refused to back down from his government's decision to give Charles McVety's Canada Christian College approval to become a degree-granting university. Charles McVety has a history of making unacceptable islamophobic, transphobic and homophobic statements. Hate speech like this creates a climate where it becomes acceptable to commit acts of targeted violence against people and institutions - which is happening often in our riding of University Rosedale. Premier Ford should not allow McVety's college to become a degree granting university. It's that simple. We aspire to be a diverse and welcoming city and province, not an intolerant and divisive one.

As always, please reach out if you have questions and concerns, and make sure to stay safe and follow public health guidelines.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jessica Bell'.

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

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**My newsletter for this week includes:**

- [Premier Doug Ford scraps ranked ballots in municipal elections](#)
- [Time to Care Act moves to committee](#)
- [Vermont Square COVID-19 outbreak continues to alarm](#)
- [Child Care sector needs support, not changes to ratios & quality](#)
- [Renoviction Bill moves to legislature this coming week - on Nov 4th](#)
- [Horwath denounces Ford's penny pinching](#)
- [NDP calling for education funding bump as thousands of students flee in-class learning](#)
- [Ford must stop ignoring Neskantaga emergency and provide support now](#)
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## Premier Doug Ford scraps ranked ballots in municipal elections

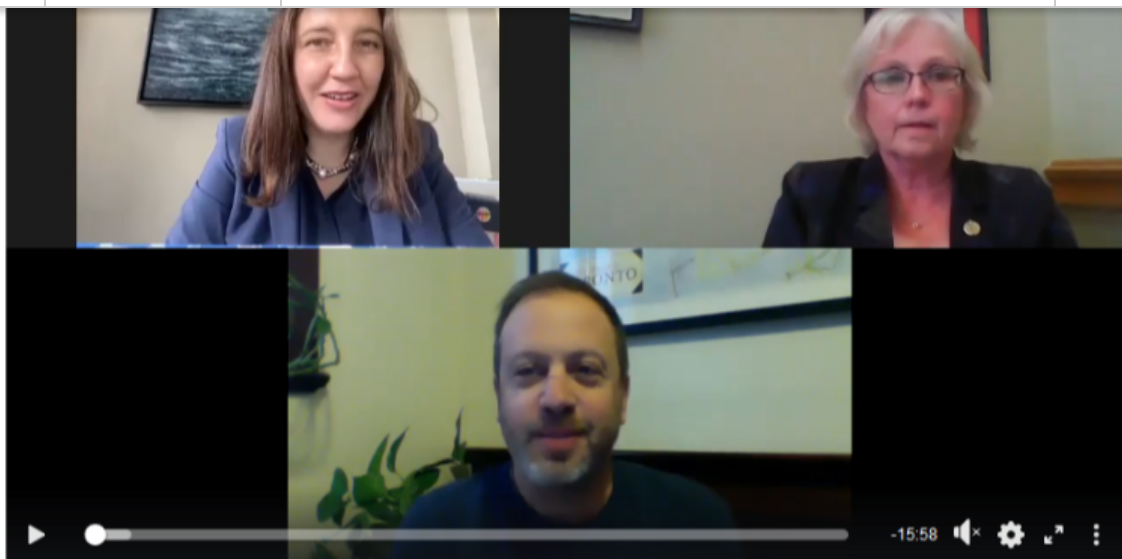
Embedded within Doug Ford's omnibus [Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act](#), is a provision that prohibits municipalities from using ranked ballots in their municipal elections. This is a complete override of local democracy made the move without consulting voters or local municipalities.

In 2018, London implemented ranked ballots, allowing tens of thousands of Londoners to rank their preferences for mayor and council elections. It worked well and it encouraged new people to run for council, including the first Black woman elected to London's city council. Following London's success, Kingston and Cambridge voted in 2018 to move ahead with ranked ballots in 2022. Toronto was working toward the possibility of a ranked ballot election in 2022 or 2026.

Whether you support ranked ballots or not, allowing local communities to choose the way they elect their governments is a good thing for local democracy.

[Sign my petition in support of local democracy here.](#)

[Watch my interview with advocates for electoral reform Dave Meslin and MPP Peggy Sattler here.](#)

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Watch my interview with MPP Peggy Sattler (London-West) and Dave Meslin to hear their take on Doug Ford's decision to scrap ranked ballots

## Time to Care Act Moves to Committee

On Thursday, MPP's unanimously referred my colleague MPP Teresa Armstrong's private member's bill Time to Care Act (Bill 13) from second reading to committee.

The Act will increase staffing levels in long-term care homes to guarantee at least four hours of hands on care per resident per day. More than 1,900 long-term care residents have died in care, and low staffing levels have been pointed to as a major contributing factor by countless experts, family members, staff, unions and through testimonies to the long-term care commission.

The Time to Care Act is a critical part of the NDP's long-term care plan (add link) announced earlier this month, which includes a record investment and complete overhaul of home care and long-term care.

This legislation was first introduced by the NDP and MPP Armstrong in 2016, and this is the fourth time it has been tabled in the Ontario legislature.

Read here about what others are saying about the Time to Care Act: [a CTV News story](#) and an [article from Unifor](#).

And hear what I had to say about it, [just hours before the second reading vote](#).

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## Vermont Square COVID-19 Outbreak Continues to Alarm

Vermont Square, a local long term care facility, continues to deal with one of the provinces largest Covid-19 outbreaks. This week I asked the Premier to ramp-up support for the home by improving its testing strategy, increase staff levels, and deliver on his promise to fund hospitals like Toronto Western providing supportive care.

In meetings with Vermont Square's staff and families, and the University Health Network (UHN), I heard troubling stories of long wait times for COVID-19 test results, making it difficult for the Vermont Square and its care partners to manage the outbreak.

If you or a loved one are a resident of Vermont Square, please do not hesitate to contact my office a [JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca) or 416-535-7206.

Watch my question here:

<https://www.facebook.com/UniRoseJessicaBell/videos/3089890471115174/>



## Child Care Sector Needs Support - Not Changes to Ratios & Quality

In the midst of a pandemic, Doug Ford is bringing sweeping changes to the child care sector with changes to staffing ratios and staff qualifications. Advocates are warning these changes will reduce the quality of care.

Right now, local child care providers need to be focused on providing safe, clean facilities during the pandemic, and they need more resources.

This week, I stood in the Legislature and urged Doug Ford to make strong investments in child care, not gut it. We cannot have a strong economic recovery without a strong child care sector.

[Here is my statement.](#)

Email Doug Ford ([doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)) and CC my office ([JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca)) demand a child care strategy that puts the needs of kids & their carers first.





## Renoviction Bill moves to legislature this coming week - on Nov 4th

Every week I hear from residents who are hurting because our city is in the middle of an affordable housing crisis. Illegal evictions and renovations during this pandemic time are making the housing crisis even worse.

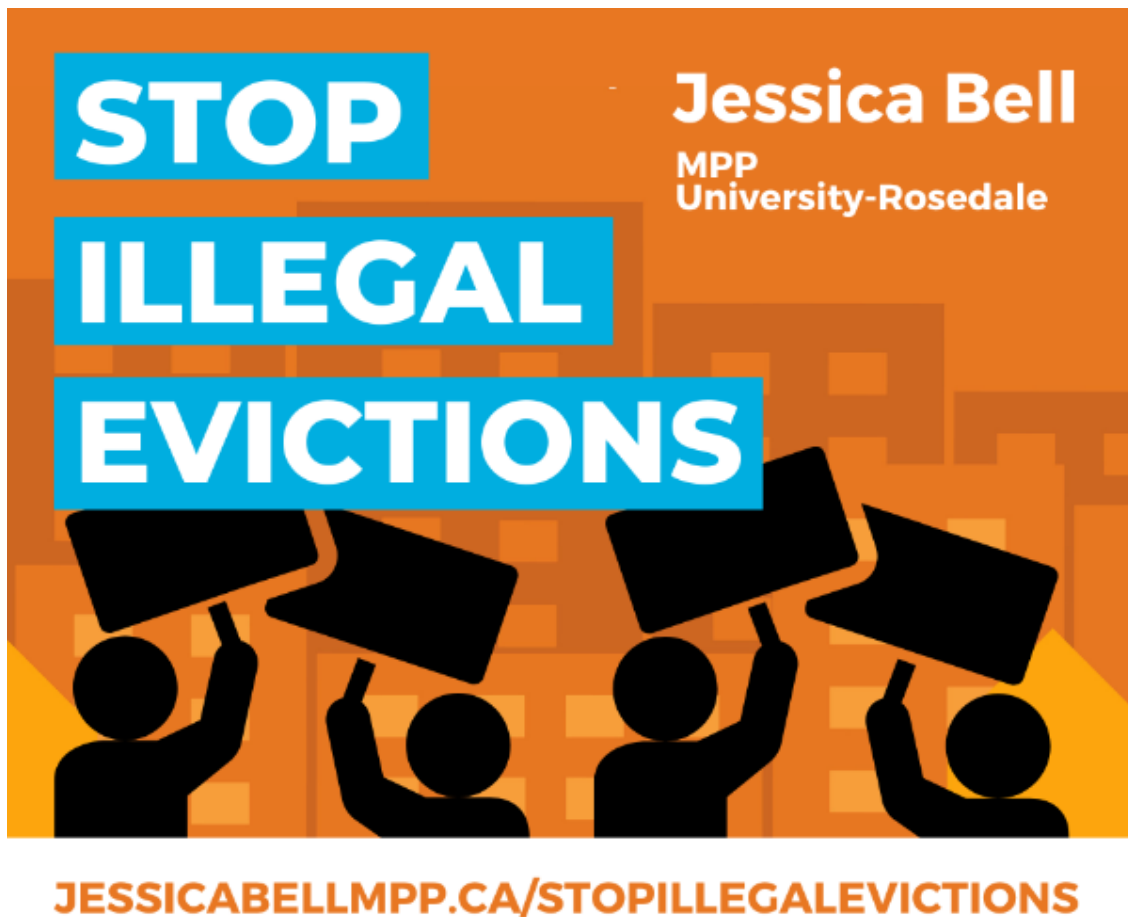
Data from the Landlord and Tenant Board shows that between 2015 and 2019, landlords' requests for eviction hearings where the tenant has done nothing wrong rose by over 77 percent. This is because landlords use evictions to kick out long-term tenants who are protected by rent control and replace them with new tenants, charging a much higher rent. Illegal evictions like these are driving up the cost of housing for everyone.

My new bill, [Protecting Renters from Illegal Evictions Act](#), if passed, will protect tenants by:

- Increasing government enforcement of eviction laws
- Granting more compensation to tenants facing a no-fault eviction
- Bringing in real fines for landlords who illegally evict
- Providing access to legal representation for tenants who are facing a no-fault eviction, and the establish the
- Creation of a registry of landlords who evict tenants due to no fault of their own.

My bill, [Protecting Renters from Illegal Evictions Act](#) will be presented in the legislature on November 4th. I am asking for your assistance by writing to the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing by clicking this link:

[ACT NOW: Support MPP Jessica Bell's bill cracking down on illegal evictions](#)



## Horwath Denounces Ford's Penny Pinching

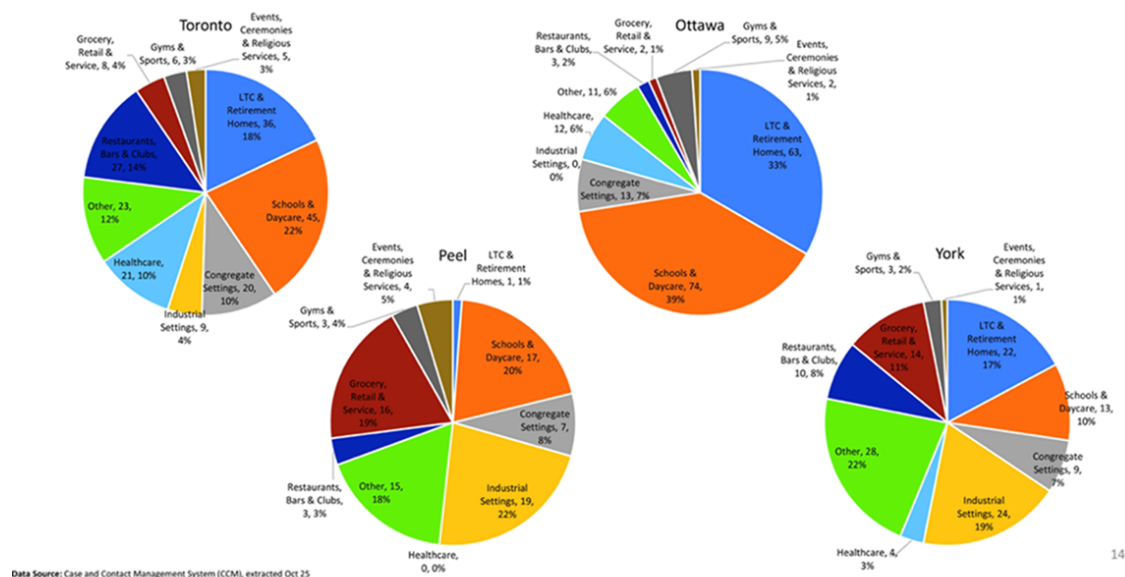
Yesterday, Ontario's updated COVID-19 modeling revealed that schools and daycares are the biggest source of COVID-19 outbreaks in Ottawa and Toronto since August 1st. Andrea Horwath spoke out today, asking why the Premier, "Despite schools and daycares being the biggest source of outbreaks, (he) refused to put smaller, safer classes in place because he wanted to keep sitting on COVID-19 funding, instead of spending it. Restrictions on restaurants and bars should have come with direct financial support for restaurant owners, but it didn't because Ford will only take actions that are low-cost for the government.

It is reported that In Ottawa, there have been 74 outbreaks in schools and daycares, accounting for 39 per cent of outbreaks. In Toronto there have been 45 outbreaks in schools and daycares, representing 22 percent of outbreaks.

Here is the [full statement with a chart](#) showing the source of outbreaks in 4 locations, including Toronto.



## Substantial variation in source of outbreak by PHU since August 1, reported October 24



## NDP calling for education funding bump as thousands of students flee in-class learning

As students are pulled out of the class and are logging on to remote learning, MPP Marit Stiles reiterated the fear that teachers and students alike are feeling. MPP Stiles is flagging the increase in on-line learners as an indication “kids, parents, teachers and education workers simply don’t feel safe under the conditions this province has set for them.”

MPP Stiles, the Education Critic, and the ONDP team are calling for a funding bump for schools. “As cases rise and the situation in schools becomes untenable, the Minister of Education appears to be running a victory lap on his failed back-to-school plan. School boards need more funding to hire more teachers and education workers and open more classrooms. Without it, school communities will continue to suffer.”

See full [press release here](#).

## Ford must stop ignoring Neskantaga emergency and provide support now

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ON. This northern community had more setbacks on October 19<sup>th</sup> when the water distribution system was shut down, due to an oily substance contaminating the reservoir. The community has been forced to evacuate.

My colleague, MPP Sol Mamakwa (Kiiwetinoong), flew into Neskantaga early this week to see first-hand the devastating impact on the community. He spoke in the Legislature on Wednesday,

“With no running water, people have to use bottled water or lake water to flush toilets or wash their hands. Water is a basic human right. Neskantaga is a signatory to Treaty Nine. This government needs to provide direct funding and support to Neskantaga for this crisis now.”

The government refused to commit to any direct action for Neskantaga and responded by continuing its game of jurisdictional ping-pong with the federal government. Instead of helping to bring clean water to First Nations communities in Ontario, the government slashed 80 per cent of the budget for Ontario’s Indigenous Drinking Water Program.

If you want to [learn more about this situation this CBC article](#) and [NetNewsLedge interview](#) with MPP Mamakwa, are a good primer.

MPP Mamakwa’s [full statement can be found here](#).

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## More Small Business Round Table Updates

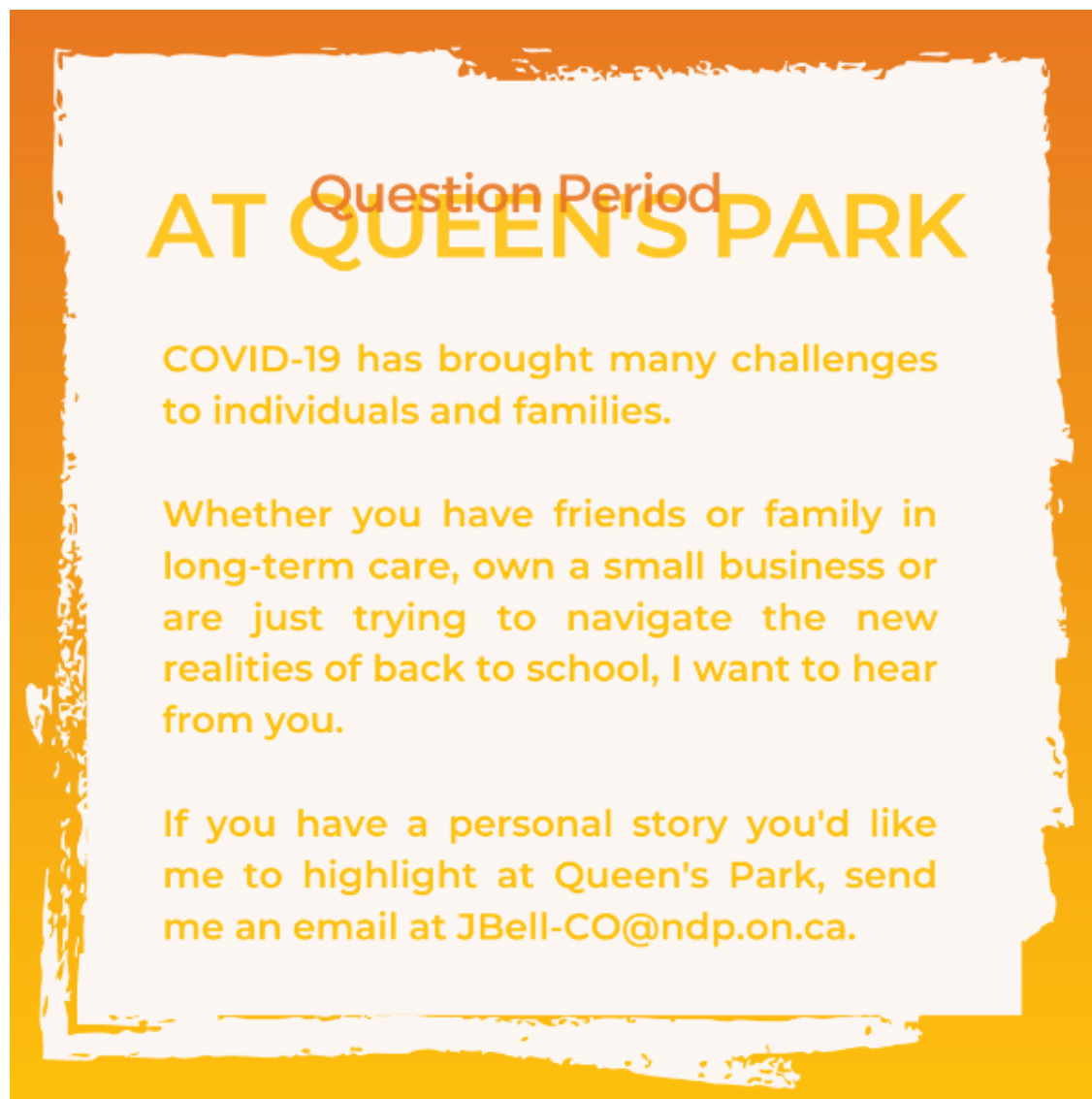
Last week I held a Round Table on Small Business to hear about concerns within the small business community and BIA’s in the riding. Yesterday, MPP Catherine Fife and I sent a letter to Minister Rod Phillips outlining the concerns reported at the gathering and to ask for assurances that insurance premiums and other issues raised by small business will be fully addressed in the upcoming budget.

You can read the [letter to Minister Phillips here](#), and review the Ontario NDP’s [full plan to Save Main Street here](#).

In the last e-news, I mentioned a new petition to “Cap App Delivery Fees” a topic also discussed enthusiastically at the Round Table; and not surprisingly, it was one of the most popular views of the e-newsletter! Small businesses are feeling the sting of high delivery app fees of up to 30%. This is challenging enough for an industry with small profit margins during “normal” times. The petition calls on the provincial government to cap delivery app service fees at 15%. Click here to [download the petition](#). If you want me to read signed petitions in the legislature, please mail them to our community office.

Also this week, MPP Fife, tabled Motion 118 which reads “That, in the opinion of this House, the Ford Government should implement a 15% cap on commission fees charged

I'll keep you updated on the progress of this private member's motion and ask that you assist by [signing and circulating the petition](#).



You can also share your story by going to the website and [use the survey form](#)

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## Inclusionary Zoning: Public Consultations Begin October 29

An Inclusionary Zoning policy that would require new residential developments to include affordable housing units, creating mixed-income housing is critical to address our housing needs. Inclusionary zoning is one solution among a range of City initiatives to help

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City Planning staff will be hosting [three virtual public meetings](#) to consult on draft inclusionary zoning policy and zoning requirements and a proposed definition of affordable rental housing. The City of Toronto website indicates that “As part of the policy development process, the City is looking for feedback from renters, housing agencies and organizations, the development industry, housing advocates, resident associations and the general public on how inclusionary zoning should apply in Toronto. We want to ensure that the policies are:

- predictable, clear, and consistently applied;
- flexible, equitable and needs-based; and
- partnership-based.”

More information available on [Councillor Mike Layton’s website](#) and the notice of [meetings is also posted here](#).

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## BENA Political Panel – November 2, 7:30-8:30 pm

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is moving its AGM and popular Political Panel on-line this year. I will be joining my colleagues Councillors Kristyn Wong-Tam and Mike Layton, and MPP Suze Morrison for a lively conversation focusing on transit, development and the environment in these pandemic times. For more information and [to register please click here](#).

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UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE'S NDP RIDING ASSOCIATIONS PRESENTS

# UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE ENCAMPMENT SUPPORT DRIVE

NOV 1, 2020 | 1PM-4PM  
CHRISTIE PITS PARK

**PRIORITY ITEMS**

NEW SLEEPING BAGS | NEW AND USED TENTS (PREF. 3-4 PERSON)  
LARGE TARPS | CLEAN BLANKETS | FIRE EXTINGUISHERS  
PACKS OF SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR FOR ALL GENDERS  
HAND & FEET WARMERS | GLOVES  
GIFT CARDS TO TIM HORTONS, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, SOBEYS AND FRESHCO

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THESE ITEMS AND WOULD LIKE TO DO SO, YOU  
CAN DONATE TO THE ENCAMPMENT SUPPORT NETWORK VIA PATREON

 @ESN.TO.4REAL  @ESN\_TO

**PLEASE  
WEAR A  
MASK.**

 /UNIROSENDP  
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## Seaton Village Canvas, Survey & Encampment Support Drive

Over the last few months I've been thinking of safe ways to keep in touch with the community. I deeply miss being able to knock on doors and talk directly with neighbours about the issues that matter most and what I can do to help.

As COVID-19 cases climb in Toronto, I want us to stay connected.

This week, I delivered flyers in the Seaton Village neighbourhood, created a [short survey for Seaton Village residents](#) so I can better understand what is important for you, your neighbours and local area. I look forward to hearing more from this vital community.

knock on. We need a housing strategy that leaves no one behind. That strategy must include a fully funded plan to find and build supportive housing and affordable housing so everyone has a safe affordable home.

As we advocate for bold long term solutions it is very important to keep people alive right now. That is why we are responding to a call out from the Encampment Support Network to fundraise and gather supplies for those who are experiencing homelessness. This Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, the University-Rosedale riding associations are hosting an Encampment Support Drive. The collection will happen in Christie Pits between 1 and 4 pm. Please see the [list of items needed here](#). And, please give if you can.



## Mobilize Mondays!

For the next 3 Monday evenings, we invite you to join MPP Bell and fellow University-Rosedale community volunteers to reach out to our neighbours.

**November 2nd, 9th & 16th @ 6:00pm-7:30pm**

There is no question that we are in the midst of the second wave. As the days are getting shorter, we are hearing from neighbours that they are bracing for a long winter. We know that many in our community are facing additional challenges due to COVID 19. Our office has access to resources and information and with your help we will be able to reach more people. We will meet up via Zoom, chat, hear updates from Jessica and make calls via CallHub.

Let us know if you're interested and someone from our outreach team will be in touch! Simply email: [jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.on.ca)



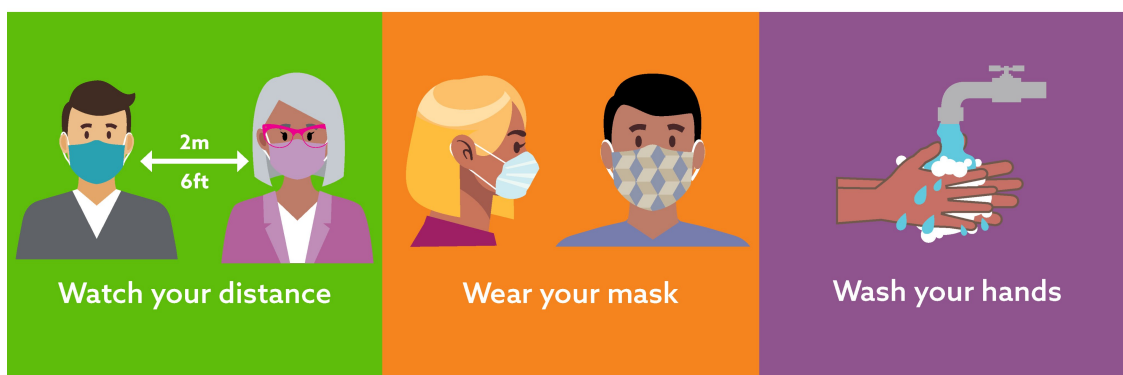
## Upcoming Local Food Drive in Rosedale Set for November 15

Another Community Food Drive is being planned by the University-Rosedale riding associations for Sunday afternoon in Rosedale. If you are able to assist with advance flyering or at the event itself, please reach out to our office [jbell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.on.ca)

COVID-19 has brought major financial challenges to many and has led to an [increase in food insecurity](#) across the country. If you are in need or want to support others, [this link from the City of Toronto](#) offers options. Stay tuned for updates.

### 3 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

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



[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.

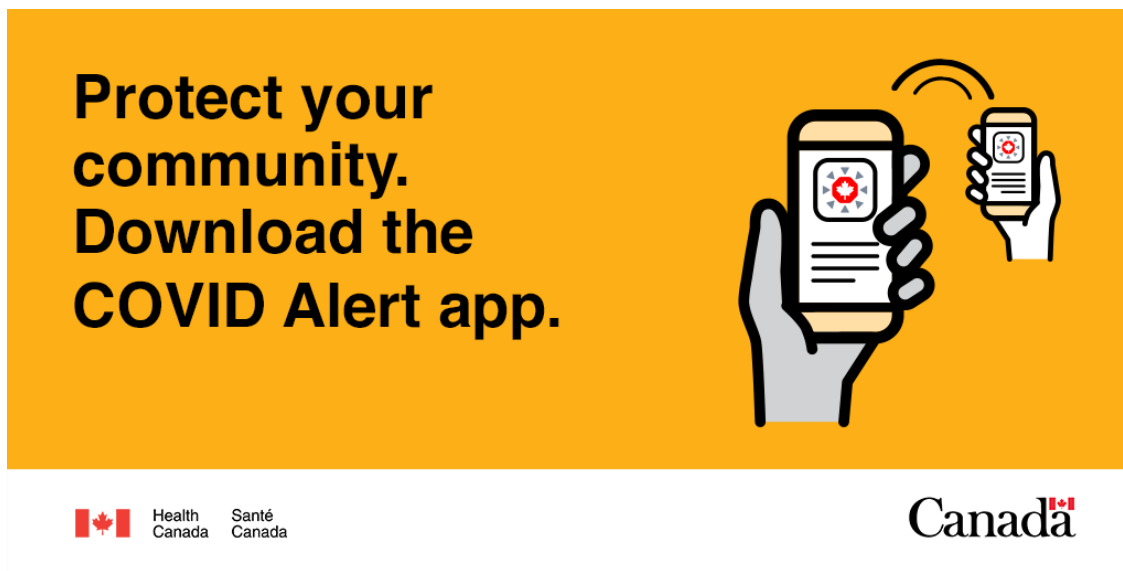
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed:

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

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- 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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