



Dear Friend,

Our [federal](#), [provincial](#) and [municipal](#) governments are working together to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In University-Rosedale, my team and I are here to provide you with important updates on recent announcements:

Federal Government's Aid Announcement:

This morning, the federal government announced an \$82 billion relief package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many details haven't emerged yet, but here's what we know so far:

The federal government announced two benefit programs for people who have lost their jobs or are away from work due to COVID-19:

- **Emergency Care Benefit:** will provide up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks. This benefit is for people in one of the following categories:
 - Working parents who must stay home from work without pay to care for children who are sick, or who need additional care because of school closures.
 - Workers, including the self-employed, who are actively taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, and don't qualify for EI sick benefits;
 - Workers, including the self-employed, who are sick or have been ordered to self-isolate, and don't qualify for EI sick benefits;

The application will be available in April through the Canada Revenue Agency website.

- **Emergency Support Benefit:** will provide up to \$450 per week for workers who do not qualify for EI, and who have lost their jobs or are facing reduced work hours due to COVID-19. We are waiting for more details on this program and how people can apply.

will:

- Waive the mandatory one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits for workers in imposed quarantine or who have been directed to self-isolate
- Waive the requirement for a medical certificate to access EI sickness benefits.

The federal government also announced:

- A 6-month, interest-free moratorium on Canada student loan payments.
- An increase to the Canada Child Benefit of up to \$300 per child, coming in May 2020.
- Additional assistance to individuals and families with low and modest incomes through a top-up of the GST tax credit (approx. \$400 per individual; \$600 per couple), coming in May 2020.
- The deadline for filing income taxes has been extended to June 1, 2020 and the deadline for payments on any tax owing has been extended to September 1, 2020.
- Up to six month deferral on some mortgage payments. It is recommended that you contact your bank to discuss credit relief on mortgages, auto loans, etc.

Please note: Some benefits will be distributed to people through the Canada Revenue Agency (where you file your taxes). This means that the CRA needs to have your current contact information. You can update your address and other info here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/cra-login-services.html>

If you have not filed your taxes in recent years, you may miss out on some of these benefits. Please reach out to our office if you need assistance.

The federal government is also providing relief to small businesses, through a 10 percent wage subsidy for the next 90 days.

Additional supports: the government is also increasing funding for homelessness services, women's shelters and sexual assault centres, and creating an Indigenous Community Support Fund. More details available here: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Income_Support_for

Ontario Declares State of Emergency

On Tuesday, the Ontario Premier declared a state of emergency and announced the first phase of the government's response plan for COVID-19. Along with my Ontario NDP colleagues, I am relieved and supportive of the

A provincial state of emergency means immediate closure of the following, as well as a prohibition on any gathering of 50 people or more:

- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- All public libraries;
- All private schools as defined in the Education Act;
- All licensed child care centres;
- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
- All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
- Concert venues.

What will continue to operate:

- Public transit
- Office buildings and manufacturing
- Grocery stores, convenience stores and pharmacies
- Some retail establishments
- LCBO and Beer store will continue to operate (though LCBO with limited hours)

The first phase of the Ontario Government's \$300M relief response package was also announced. Details on how this funding breaks down is available here: https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/emergency_legislation_to_address_covid

It is also important to note that due to public advocacy and pressure from the Ontario NDP, **the government announced a moratorium on any new eviction orders until further notice, and agreed to postpone enforcement of any scheduled eviction orders.**

Queen's Park Update

The Ontario Legislature will resume for a session tomorrow to discuss the Ontario Government's emergency legislation to provide workers with some job security, and prevent employers from requiring sick notes during this period. Along with the Ontario NDP, I will continue to advocate for protections for workers and income security for all Ontarians impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

until further notice, including Bill 171, which concerns the Ontario Line and future transit development.

My team will continue to provide you with regular updates as the news progresses.

As per the latest recommendations from Ontario Public Service, my staff will be working from home until April 3, but we will continue to serve the University-Rosedale community and our constituents, via phone: 416-535-7206 and email: jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca

At this time, all residents are encouraged to listen to our public health experts and practice safe hygiene, including thorough hand washing, and social distancing, in order to protect everyone in our community.

We're all in this together.

Sincerely,



Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)



Copyright © 2020 Jessica Bell, MPP, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

