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Friday, April 30 Update

Dear Neighbour,

In response to huge public outcry, the PC Conservatives have capitulated and announced a *temporary* paid sick day program. The [Ontario COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Program](#) is retroactive, beginning April 19 and ending on Sept. 25. It includes access to three paid sick days, and the province has agreed to reimburse employers 100 percent of the employee's wage for up to \$200 a day.

Should the program consist of 10 paid sick days a year, and 14 more in a pandemic? Yes. Should it be permanent? Yes. Is this a step forward? Yes. Should we keep up the pressure? Absolutely. Our advocacy is saving lives.

Please read on to find out about the latest vaccine eligibility change for everyone over 18 vaccinated by the end of May, the wise public health decision to move more vaccines to hot spots, and some road safety legislative victories we've accomplished this week.

As always, please stay safe and contact our office if you want to volunteer, need help, or have questions or concerns.

Please stay safe,

Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

Queen's Park

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TAKE ACTION ROUNDTABLE

ROAD SAFETY & THE MOMS ACT

ON ZOOM & FACEBOOK LIVE
RSVP to JBELL-CO@NDP.ON.CA

TUES, MAY 4 — 5 P.M



Jessica Bell
 MPP
 University-Rosedale

My road safety proposals adopted in MOMS Act

This week, the Ford government introduced Bill 282, The [Moving Ontarians More Safely Act](#) (MOMS Act) which includes a key component of my [Doored But Not Ignored Bill](#) requiring police to report on all dooring incidents and hold drivers accountable. This will make city streets safer for cyclists.

I am also proud the city has finally been given the authority to install safety cameras on streetcars so riders can exit and enter streetcars more safely, and drivers who break the law can be more easily identified and fined. Every transit rider has had the frightening experience of leaving a streetcar and nearly being hit by a car because the driver failed to stop.

While the MOMS Act takes positive steps to make our roads safer, it also gives us the opportunity to introduce amendments and push for the safe streets we truly deserve.

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the Act and Ontario roads even safer.

Where: On Zoom and [Facebook Live](#)

When: 5 pm - 6 pm, Tuesday, May 4

RSVP: jbell-co@ndp.on.ca

ATTN!

[Bill 282, or the MOMS Act](#), has been called to committee. You can find details to appear below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

HEARINGS (three days)

- **Thu 6 May – 9:00-10:00am [NOTE: first hour is presentation by and questions to Minister of Finance – NDP time: three rounds of six (6) minutes (18 minutes in total)]**

- **Fri 7 May – 1:00-6:00pm**

- **Mon 10 May – 9:00-10:00am AND 1:00-6:00pm**

- o **Deadline to request to appear: Tue 4 May, 12:00pm** (Clerks will distribute list of interested presenters shortly after deadline that same day)

§ **If oversubscribed, Parties to submit prioritized lists to Clerk by Tue 4 May at 5:00pm**

- **Each witness panel is an hour, with three witnesses receiving seven (7) minutes each, and Caucus will have 15 minutes of questioning for the panel (two rounds of 7.5 minutes each)**

- o **Deadline for Written Submissions: Mon 10 May, 7:00pm**

CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE (one day)

- **Fri 14 May – 9:00am-12:00pm AND 1:00-6:00pm AND 6:30pm-midnight**

§ **Amendments deadline: Wed 12 May, 12:00pm**

Thanks to your support, child care workers are now eligible for vaccination

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, early childhood educators (ECEs) and early years staff have been working hard to provide high-quality care and learning to Ontario's children, while doing whatever possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of kids, families, and staff.

Critically, ECEs work in close contact with kids who are often too young to wear masks or understand physical distancing, making vaccinating child care workers essential. But

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After hearing from the child care sector about the urgency of getting workers vaccinated as soon as possible, UniRose jumped into action by signing [petitions](#) and making urgent phone calls. Thanks, in part, to our advocacy, the government announced that ECE and child care workers will now be eligible for the vaccine and can start booking appointments by calling **1.833.943.3900**.

My colleague and child care critic MPP Bhutla Karpoche [issued a statement welcoming the news](#) and reiterating that all frontline workers – those COVID heroes - urgently deserve their vaccines.



Thank you to all who joined our paid sick days phone zap!

We'll keep fighting for more paid sick days

Paid sick leave is a critical issue for bringing the pandemic under control. Many people were profoundly disappointed with what the Ford government proposed this week and passed into legislation yesterday. The so-called [Ontario COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit](#), requires employers to provide employees with up to three days of paid leave for reasons related to COVID-19, including:

- going for a COVID-19 test
- staying home awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
- being sick with COVID-19
- going to get vaccinated

- having been advised to self-isolate due to COVID-19 by an employer, medical practitioner or other authority
- taking care of a dependent who is:
 - sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19
 - self-isolating due to COVID-19

Three paid sick days is not enough if someone has to quarantine. Suffice to say that there is still more work to be done to get paid sick leave that works. The NDP has long been proposing paid sick days, and is fighting for [a bill](#) to establish permanent paid sick days plus 14 government-funded paid sick days during a pandemic or infectious disease emergency.

Thank you to everyone who has fought with us on paid sick days over the last year. Together, we made thousands of phone calls and signed just as many petitions pressuring the Ford government to offer a paid sick days program. And we're not stopping here.

Click [for more information on how you can call the Premier and the Minister of Labour](#) to voice your concerns and stay tuned for upcoming actions.

AG report reveals decades of neglect set nursing home residents up for suffering

On Wednesday, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released an [independent report](#) on the Ford government's pandemic readiness and response in long-term care. The report found that by the time COVID-19 entered Ontario's long-term care homes in March 2020, it was obvious "aggressive infection prevention, detection and patient care actions were needed — and needed quickly — to prevent staggering death rates," which the Ford government was not "prepared or equipped" to handle.

Specific [issues that impacted residents](#) in the report included:

- Residents were living in rooms with three or four occupants, allowing COVID-19 to spread rapidly
- Long-term care homes had insufficient staff and staff training to provide appropriate care
- Infection prevention and control were not consistently practiced in homes, even prior to the pandemic
- 13 of the 15 homes with the highest numbers of COVID-19 deaths were operated by for-profit home
- A "problematic enforcement practice" culminated in the ministry discontinuing proactive, comprehensive inspections of homes in the fall of 2018.

act.

In October 2020, the Ontario NDP launched its plan for an overhaul of home care and long-term care, which includes making all long-term care homes public and not-for-profit, building more small, modern, family-like homes, increasing staffing with full-time, well-paid, well-trained caregivers, reinstating comprehensive inspections and more.

You can [read more](#) on our plan here.

New order allows province to move patients into care homes without consent

On Wednesday, the Ford government signed an [order](#) allowing it to free up hospital beds by moving any patient ready for long-term care to any long-term care or retirement home, without their consent, even if the senior or their family objects to the move.

Retirement homes are not health care facilities and they do not have the same staffing, oversight, and protections for residents as long-term care. The majority of retirement homes are for-profit, many operated by the same for-profit chains as long-term care homes, which, as the Auditor General reported, have had the worst records of infection and death in the pandemic.

Additionally, the right to informed consent is a foundational principle in our health care system and the decision to override this fundamental right, particularly in regards to moving patients into unregulated private facilities, is of deep concern.

The NDP along with the [Ontario Health Coalition](#) are opposed to this move and are calling on the government to take other steps to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce pressure on our hospitals. You can our [full statement here](#)

Military has been called to help Ontario through the third-wave

After [declining an offer](#) of assistance from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau less than two weeks ago, Doug Ford has conceded Ontario can't beat the COVID-19 pandemic alone and is calling in the military for support. Ontario solicitor general Sylvia Jones revealed [during a press conference](#) on Monday the province has requested the federal government deploy members of the Canadian Armed Forces and/or Red Cross to assist overwhelmed hospitals as [ICU numbers climb out of control](#). That request was approved on Monday, though details regarding how many personnel will arrive (and when) have yet to be released.

including ICU physicians, nurses, and staff. I have the deepest respect and appreciation for UniRose's health care heroes. Thank you to the many of you who have contacted me in recent days to permit me to share their experiences, like the one below.

"Every day between noon and two, we three sit to triage which patients are close enough to irreversible harm or death, to undergo surgery. Cancer, vision-threatening, fractures, infected wounds....our healthcare system has collapsed. We cannot provide health care for patients needing our care. I became a surgeon to make people well, not to deny care to people needing care. How did we get here? The hubris and incompetence of our leaders. You gambled, we lost. Vaccinate in hot spots. Stay home. Let's end this horror."

From a local health care provider via [My COVID Story](#).

More vaccines promised to hot spots

The Ford government confirmed yesterday that [Ontario will send half its available COVID-19 vaccines to 114 hot spots for the next two weeks](#). This follows a recommendation from the province's science advisory table to allocate more shots for the next four weeks to 74 postal code hot spots and essential workers.

If supply holds, the province expects to lower age eligibility for the vaccine throughout May, with access to book a first dose for those aged 18 and older forecast to start on the week of May 24. More details on the vaccine rollout can be found in this newsletter below.

Anti-Tenant Bill 276 moving to committee, deadline to appear is May 6

The Standing Committee on General Government will meet to consider **Bill 276, An Act to enact and amend various Acts on Monday, May 17, Tuesday, May 18 and Wednesday May 19, 2021.**

Interested people who wish to be considered to make an oral presentation on Bill 276 are required to **register by 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, May 6, 2021.**

Those who do not wish to make an oral presentation but wish to comment on the Bill may send a **written submission by 7:00 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.**

To register or send a written submission, please visit the following link: ola.org/en/apply-committees.

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and share proceedings at tribunals, including the Human Rights Tribunal and the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB). Those who do, will now face fines of up to \$25,000.

Recordings by tenants [have helped inform the public the LTB is conducting a dangerous eviction blitz in the middle of a pandemic](#). They have also provided evidence of breaches of procedural fairness.

For more information and my thoughts on this bill, [click here](#). I encourage you to share your concerns with the government, your networks, and myself at jbell-co@ndp.on.ca.

Conservative MPP who opposed creation of Greenbelt now head of council

Following the [resignation of David Crombie](#) in November over the Ford government's [gutting of local conservation authorities](#), retired MPP Norm Sterling will now head the Greenbelt's council despite [voting against](#) its very creation in 2005.

Sterling has a long record of undercutting environmental protection. In 1995, he slashed the Environment Ministry's budget by 40 percent, which was later cited in the Walkerton water inquiry as setting the stage for the 2000 disaster that killed seven people and sickened thousands of others.

The climate crisis demands we protect our farmland, forests, rivers and lakes and across the province. Sterling's appointment by Premier Doug Ford is yet another example of this government's failure to take heed of the climate crisis and protect the integrity of the Greenbelt.

Ontarians are standing up for a clean environment, green space, local agriculture and food, and nature for future generations to enjoy. Learn more about actions you take to help [protect the Greenbelt here](#).



Congratulations Randell Adjei on becoming Ontario's first Poet Laureate

Following an [NDP private member's bill](#) to establish a poet laureate for Ontario in memory of the late, iconic Canadian poet and singer Gord Downie, spoken word artist and activist Randell Adjei was unanimously elected by members of the legislature to become the first person to fill the post.

A spoken word poet, motivational speaker, and coach in the Toronto Public Library's Poetry Saved Our Lives program, Adjei will serve a two-year term with an office in Queen's Park; when public health restrictions lift, he will travel the province to raise the profile of Ontario's poets and take part in poetry readings and educational workshops.

Adjei was a lead consultant in developing the [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#) and is executive and creative director at [RISE Edutainment](#), an organization that empowers BIPOC youth in the Greater Toronto Area to create meaningful art rooted in self-knowledge and self-expression.

To learn more about Adjei and his work, [click here](#).

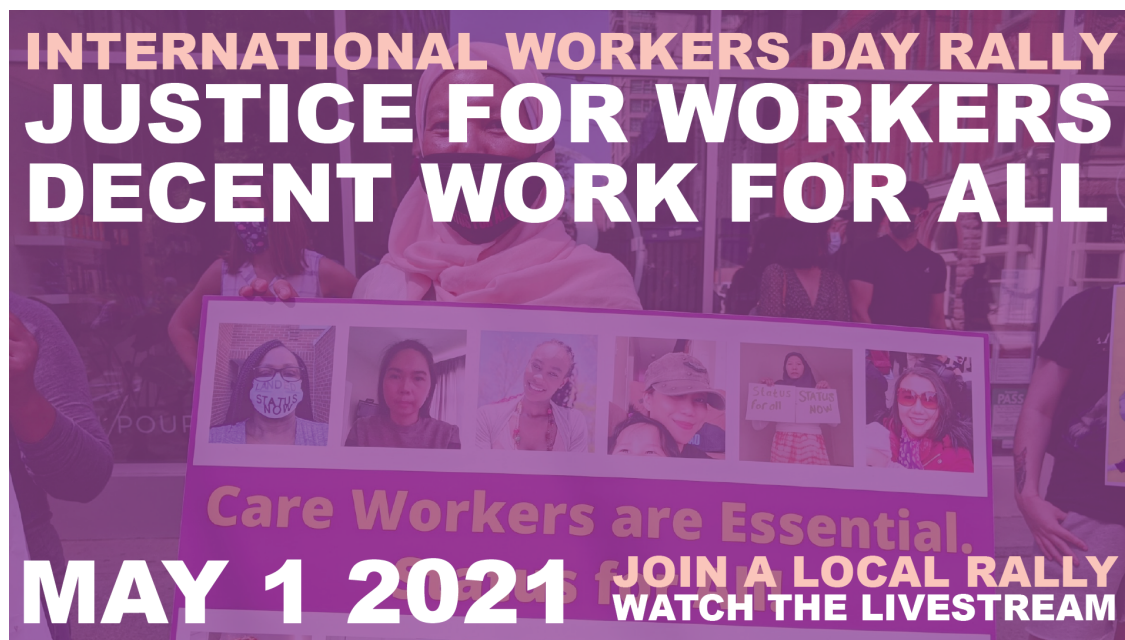
Founder of Cafe Diplomatico, Rocco Sr, has passed away

We have learned that neighbourhood entrepreneur Rocco Mastrangelo Sr. [passed earlier this week](#). As founder of Cafe Diplomatico, he worked hard to share his love of

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and European football championships, and a venue to dance during Taste of Little Italy. Many of us have fondly told friends and family to meet us at The Dip.

Rocco Sr worked alongside his father and brothers, and later, his children. We offer Connie and Rocco Jr our sympathies during this difficult time.



Reminder: Join 15 & Fairness for virtual MAY DAY action, demand decent work for all

On **Saturday, May 1 at 11:00 am**, [15 & Fairness](#) is hosting an International Workers Day rally to sound the alarm for paid sick days and decent wages, safe working conditions and good stable jobs for all.

Whether it is workers in part-time employment trying to string together multiple jobs in order to make ends meet and accidentally contracting or spreading COVID-19; or workers without paid sick days who can't stay home from work at the first sign of symptoms because they can't afford to lose pay; or temp agency workers being sent from one job site to another; or parents sending sick kids to school because they cannot afford to lose a day's pay to stay home with them -- a bold agenda for decent work must be central in curbing COVID-19 now and recovering from it.

Register here for the link: https://www.15andfairness.org/international_workers_day



Vaccine Update, current as of April 30

Approximately 800,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are expected to arrive in Ontario per week at the start of May, ramping up to 940,000 doses per week by the end of May, alongside more shipments of Moderna. According to the government, this reliable increase in vaccine supply will allow the province to further accelerate its vaccine rollout and get more shots into arms.

Phase Two Schedule for COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Eligibility

The following is the anticipated schedule to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility for booking over the next month based on current understanding of vaccine deliveries, to be further evaluated in light of supply.

	Wk. of April 26	Wk. of May 3	Wk. of May 10	Wk. of May 17	Wk. of May 24
Allocation Method¹	• 75% all PHU • 25% to hot spots	• 50% all PHU • 50% to hot spots	• 50% all PHU • 50% to hot spots	• Allocation on a per capita basis ³	• Allocation on a per capita basis ³
Provincial Age Band	April 30: • Age band to 55+	• Age band to 50+	• Age band to 40+	• Age band to 30+	• Age 18+
Hot Spot Age Band	April 27: • Age band to 45+ in hot spots ²	• Age band to 18+ in hot spots			
Health Conditions	• Highest-risk health conditions - continues	• High-risk health conditions	• At-risk health conditions		
Cannot Work from Home	April 29: • Licensed childcare workers	• Cannot work from home Group 1	• Cannot work from home Group 2		

Notes:

¹ Does not include 116K J&J doses or additional AstraZeneca doses. AstraZeneca eligibility remains at 40+

² PHUs can continue to target 18+ in hot spots through alternate channels (e.g., hospital clinics and pop-up clinics)

³ The per capita allocation will be calculated based on the remaining eligible population in each region to ensure equality of access across the province.

[See a larger version of this chart here.](#)

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Week of April 20: All Ontario adults age 55 and up; those 45 years old and up in hot-spot communities; and licensed child-care workers.

Week of May 3: Ontario adults over the age of 50; adults age 18 and up in hot-spot communities; those with health conditions deemed "high risk"; and some people who cannot work from home.

Week of May 10: Ontario adults over the age of 40; those with health conditions deemed "at risk"; and more individuals who cannot work from home.

Week of May 17: Ontario adults over the age of 30.

Week of May 24: Ontario adults over the age of 18.

The groups listed above will be able to book using the province's call centre and booking portal once they become eligible.

[Read more about priority groups here](#)

NEW: Child care workers now eligible to book vaccine appointments

As of this week, child care workers in licensed child care settings are now eligible to book an appointment through the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900. Eligible workers in licensed child care settings will receive a letter from their employer. This letter must be available at the point of booking and taken to the vaccination appointment. In the coming weeks, eligibility will be expanded to child care workers in unlicensed child care settings across the province. Thanks to all of you who joined our call to ensure these workers were prioritized. Advocacy works.

Who can be vaccinated right now?

Anyone over the age of 40 can book an appointment at participating pharmacies, following a lowering of the eligibility age for Astra-Zeneca that took effect April 20.

NEW: Anyone over the age of 45 in hot-spot postal codes can book an appointment at the City's mass vaccine clinics, using the [provincial portal](#).

Anyone over 60, province-wide, can book using the [provincial portal](#).

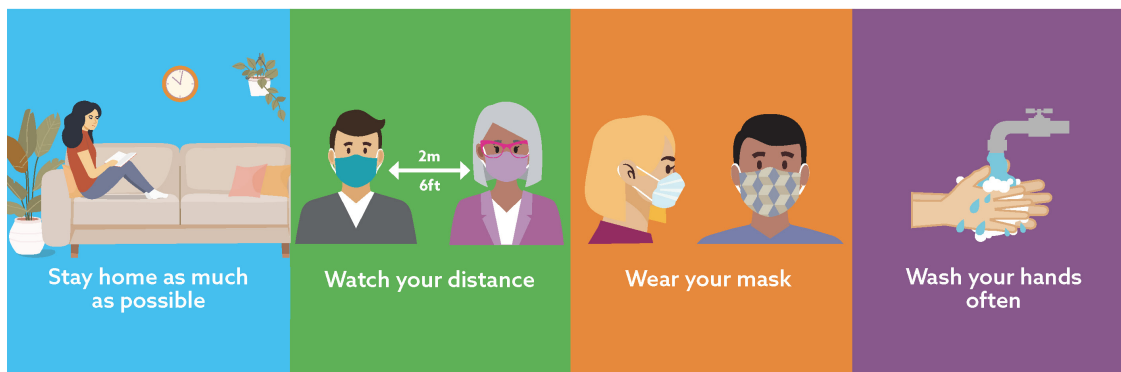
Teachers and Education Workers who live or work in hot-spot postal codes can book an appointment by calling the provincial Vaccination Information Line: 1-888-999-6488

Hospitals and Ontario Health Teams in Toronto are currently accepting registration and/or appointment bookings for vaccine appointments at hospitals, healthcare centres and other locations in the community, following provincial eligibility requirements. The appointment availability is dependent on vaccine supply. You can find clinics in our area and look at availability on the [vaccineto.ca website](#).

Pregnant individuals can call the provincial call centre at 1-888-999-6488 to book an appointment.

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

[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.

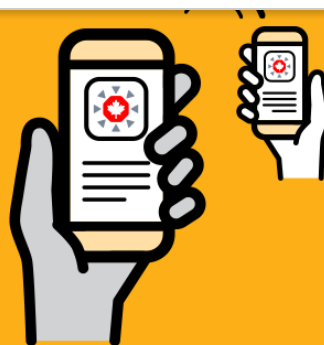
The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed:

- 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.
- 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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