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Saturday, May 15 Update

Dear Neighbour,

As the weather warms and vaccine supply ramps up, I am cautiously hopeful that we will have a good summer and a great fall. In today's newsletter, we provide an update on the stay-at-home extension, our push for road safety measures, Landlord Tenant Board reform, and the re-opening of outdoor amenities. We are also hosting a vaccine information session in Mandarin and Cantonese to ensure as many UniRose residents get quickly vaccinated.

Please reach out to our office at jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca if you have questions, concerns, need help, or want to volunteer.

Stay safe.

Yours,

Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

Queen's Park:

- [Ford extends stay-at-home order until at least June 2](#)
- [We host a townhall on anti-tenant bill 276 and call for LTB reform](#)
- [NDP road safety amendments to Bill 282 are rejected by government committee today](#)
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Ford extends stay-at-home order until at least June 2

On Thursday, Premier Doug Ford confirmed Ontario's stay-at-home order [will be extended until at least June 2nd](#). While daily case counts, total hospitalizations, and admissions to critical care are all on the decline, they are still far too high to permit a safe reopening and ensure there is not a resurgence in cases and hospitalizations.

This lockdown has been difficult and long. I understand people are tired, frustrated, and feeling isolated. My colleagues and I will continue to push for measures that the public health experts have said we need to end this crisis. These measures include:

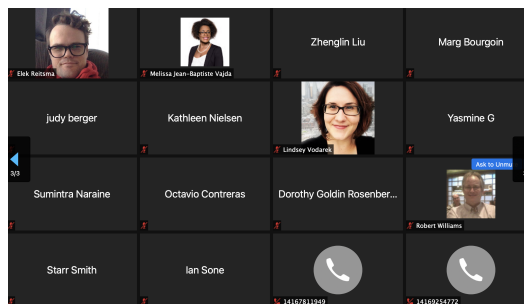
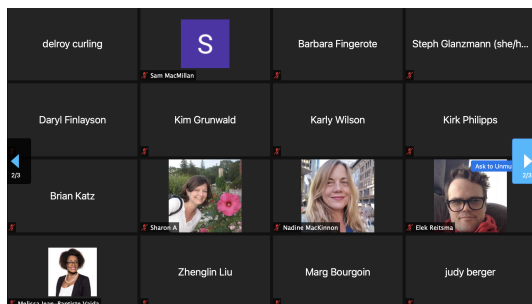
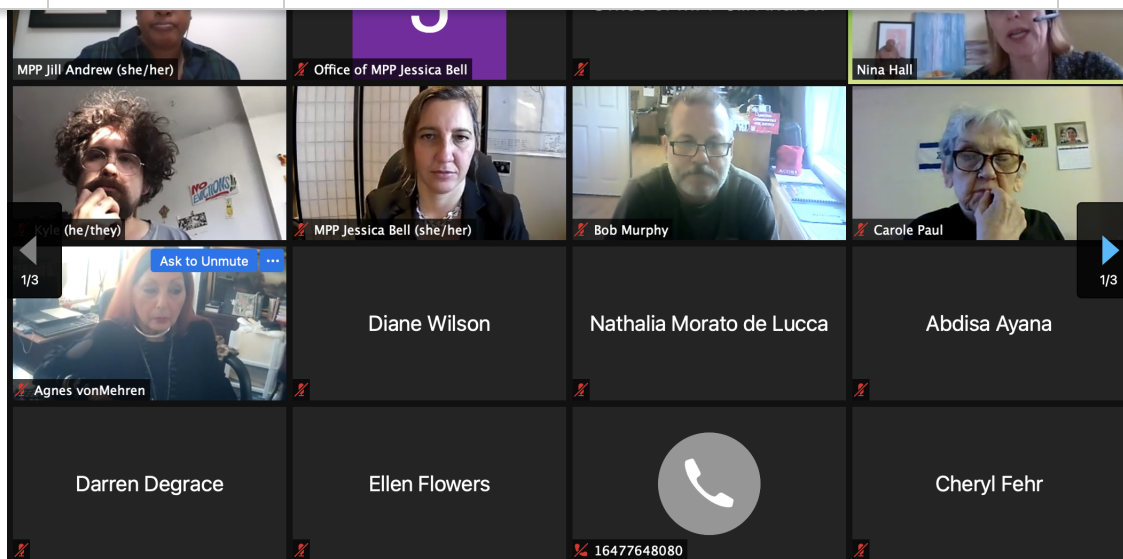
- Paid sick days
- Closing non-essential workplaces
- Focus on vaccinating hotspots
- Open outdoor activities safely
- Invest in a safe return to schools

Thank you to everyone who has been doing their part. I feel so hopeful that we're about to be on the other side.

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We host a town hall on anti-tenant bill 276 and call for LTB reform

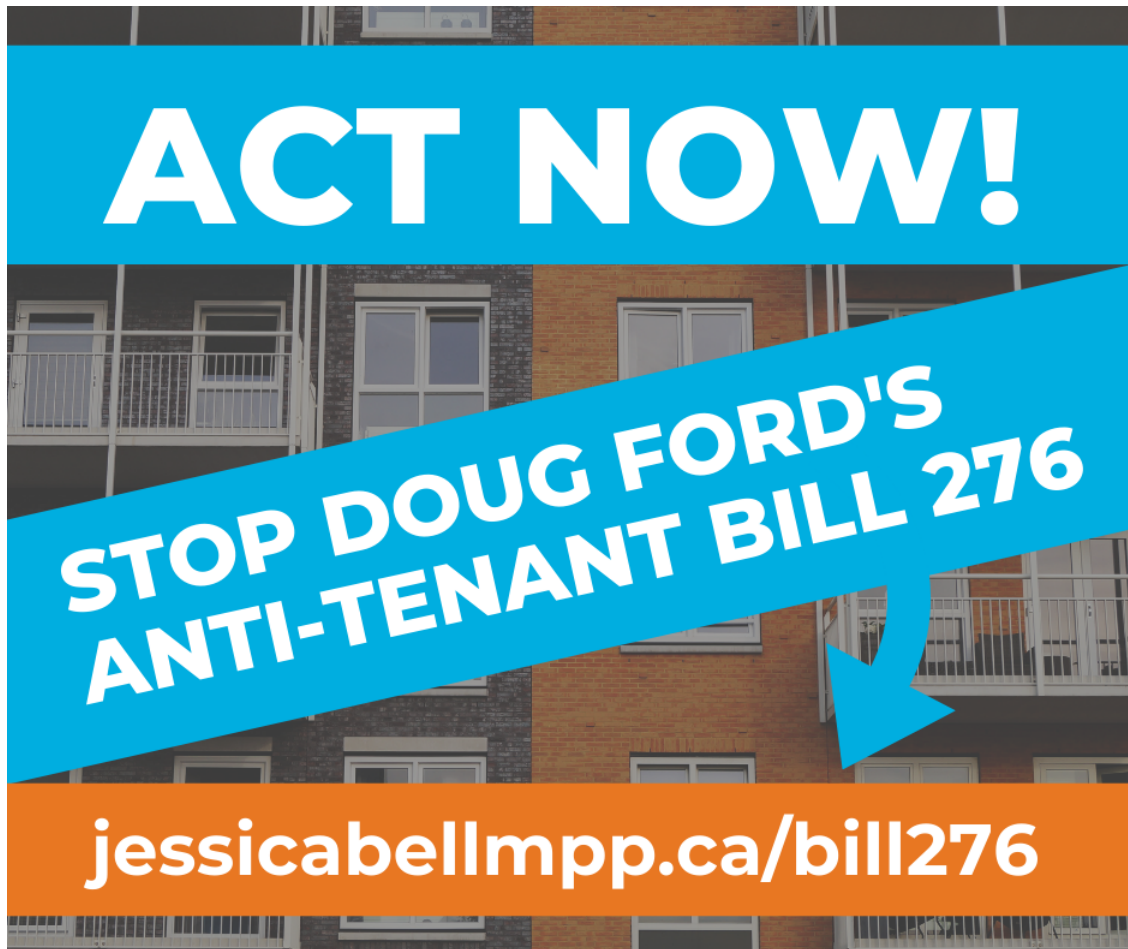
Thank you to everyone who participated in Thursday's emergency tenant town hall on the Ford government's bad plans for the Landlord Tenant Board (LTB). Special thanks to my co-host MPP Jill Andrew and special guests Nina Hall ([Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services](#)) and Kyle Mowat ([Kensington Tenants Network](#)).

During our townhall hall we discussed Schedule 27 in Ontario's new [Bill 276](#) which if passed, will fine Ontarians up-to \$25,000 for recording and sharing proceedings at tribunals including the LTB, even if these recordings expose breaches of procedural fairness.

The government has also indicated they might move some or all of the LTB's services permanently online as part of its digital-first strategy. We are very concerned about this move and are following it closely.

Bill 276 is going to committee so the public can speak about the bill and we can introduce amendments. Committee dates are Monday, May 17, Tuesday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 19, [Written submissions](#) will be accepted until 7:00 p.m. (EDT) on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. You can [watch the proceedings live here](#). We host a townhall on anti-tenant bill 276 and call for LTB reform

To send a letter demanding Premier Ford and members of the Committee on General Government scrap Schedule 27 in Bill 276, [click here](#).



NDP road safety amendments to Bill 282 are rejected by government committee today

Bill 282, [The Moving Ontarians More Safely Act](#) (MOMS Act) seeks to better regulate the tow truck industry and e-bikes, as well as bring in tougher measures for drivers that engage in stunt driving. The bill also includes some measures we have been advocating for including requiring dooring incidents be reported to the police, and permitting municipalities to install safety cameras on streetcars to find and fine drivers who drive by a streetcar as riders are exiting.

While the MOMS Act is a step in the right direction, the government must do more to make our roads safe for all. Today at committee, I along with my NDP colleagues, introduced several amendments to Bill 282. They included:

- Expand the definition of dooring to include collisions caused by dooring. This would ensure the police also report on collisions involving people

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- Include our [Vulnerable Road Users Law](#) so drivers who injure or kill a pedestrian, cyclist, or road worker while they are breaking the rules of the road face tougher penalties, including being required to listen to victim impact statements, license suspension, and taking a driver re-education course.
- Include MPP Jen French's Bill 122, which proposes tougher penalties, including [fines of up to \\$50,000](#) for those who kill or cause serious bodily harm to another while they are breaking the rules of the road.
- Technical improvements to fix the government's new e-bike rules.
- Include MPP Marit Stiles's "[Teach the Reach](#)" Bill in official driver education manuals so drivers learn young that they should open the driver door with their right hand so they automatically look over their shoulder for oncoming traffic.

The government rejected all of our amendments. Now the bill goes back to the legislature for third and final debate.

I urge you to contact the government and demand they move forward on our changes to make our roads safe for all. [Add your name here.](#)



**SAFE
STREETS
NOW**



It's time to safely reopen Ontario's outdoor amenities

Despite calls from [infectious disease specialists](#) and local public health units for the province to loosen restrictions on outdoor activities, the Ford government has pledged to continue its ban on outdoor sports and recreation by keeping golf courses, basketball courts and baseball diamonds closed until at least June 2nd.

With increased isolation causing anxiety and stress, families need access to outdoor amenities, while still following safety measures like physical distancing and wearing masks, to help stay physically and mentally well. That's why on Monday, May 17, the Ontario NDP will force a vote on a motion calling on the Ford government to safely re-open outdoor amenities in the province immediately.

To add your name in support of our motion, [click here](#).

Read the [full press release here](#).

A recent report released by [RenovictionsTO](#) revealed applications by landlords for Above Guideline Increases (AGI's) to rent increased by 250 % in the past six years and more than 84% of AGI applications are made by corporate landlords. In our riding, we've been working with the residents of 103 Avenue Rd who are fighting a whopping 11% rent increase proposed by their corporate landlord Hollyburn. The Ford government's rent freeze for 2021 [does not include AGI's](#).

With Ontario in the midst of an affordable housing emergency and many renters under stress and hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic, AGIs are forcing some tenants out of their homes with nowhere to go. To help keep people housed, my colleague MPP Jill Andrew introduced a motion that if passed, would ban AGIs during the pandemic and for another 12 months.

While the Ford government voted our motion down, we will keep advocating for affordable housing. We also have a bill ready to pass into law that would require landlords to set aside 10% of collected rent for a maintenance fund which must be emptied before an application for an AGI can be made. You can [support our bill here](#).

NDP calls for plan to vaccinate youth, speed up second doses

While Health Canada approved the [Pfizer vaccine for children aged 12 years and up](#) last week, Ontarians are still waiting for Premier Ford to announce a clear rollout plan.

Parents are already struggling to manage at-home learning, work, childcare and other responsibilities during the pandemic. Hunting down multiple vaccine appointments and waiting in line for hours, only to have to repeat the process again, will add to the stress so many families are feeling. In order to fix the system now, the NDP is calling on the Ford government to immediately provide public health units with guidelines for vaccinating youth over 12, including a plan to allow households to register once, and have all kids over 12 vaccinated at the same time.

With vaccine supply rolling in, it's wrong to force everyone to wait until the very last minute to receive their second dose. That's why the NDP is also calling on the Ford government to speed up its plan to offer people their second vaccine dose.

With diabetes

According to [Diabetes Canada](#), 29% of Canadians live with diabetes. [Flash glucose monitoring](#) is a method of testing that measures, displays, and continuously stores glucose readings. It can be used by adults to make diabetes treatment decisions, including insulin dosing, without obtaining a blood sample from the fingertip. Unfortunately, many Ontarians struggle to pay for these expensive monitoring devices, harming their ability to maintain optimum health.

To help Ontarians living with diabetes, my colleague MPP Taras Natyshak [introduced a bill](#) that would add flash glucose monitoring systems to [Ontario's Assistive Devices Program](#) (ADP) and help pay for this life-saving device. The Ford government voted our bill down.



May 17 is the deadline to apply for the COVID-19 Child Benefit

A quick reminder that May 17th is the deadline to apply for the [new \\$400 COVID-19 Child Benefit](#). This link to the [Steps to Justice website](#) will help you walk through the application process and answer basic questions about this benefit. I would also encourage you to review the [other pages of this site](#) if you have any questions regarding Ontario law during COVID-19.

Save the CNE

After 142 years, the Canadian National Exhibition is at risk of closing its gates forever. Without financial support the CNE will not survive to 2022.

The CNE operates as a non-profit, paying rent to the City of Toronto. While the City has committed to provide financial support for CNE in 2021, the province needs to step in.

The pandemic has meant this one-of-a-kind family tradition has been cancelled for two years in a row and is facing huge financial pressure. Without action now, CNE is at risk of being unable to host another fair.

For well over a century the Canadian National Exhibition Association, and it's signature event the CNE, has brought together Canadians and visitors from far and wide to mark the end of summer with countless attractions and experiences, which for many friends and families have become annual traditions. The 18 day fair makes a significant economic contribution to the economy of the GTA and province, generating \$93.1M and \$128.3M respectively. As a regional cultural attraction, the CNE also supports more than 1,000 entertainers during the fair.

Given the uncertainty created by the pandemic, there is not enough time to plan for a multi-million dollar event, nor is there certainty that restrictions on large gatherings will be possible by the time the fair is scheduled to occur. These uncertainties will not allow them to successfully operate in 2021.

[Sign the petition now](#) to demand that the provincial and federal governments take action and save the CNE.

18tn

We will be holding a vaccine information session in Mandarin on May 18th, 2-4 p.m. We will provide interpretations. Nurse Practitioner from Hong Fook Connecting Health, Ms. Flora Lo, will give a presentation on vaccines. For registration, please contact Chi Cheng at 437-370-1733, ccheng@ndp.on.ca, or register directly at <https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/vaccine-info-mandarin>

Chi Cheng can speak Cantonese, English, and Mandarin.

我們將會在5月18日下午兩點至四點舉行疫苗資訊講座將會，該講座將會以普通話進行，並會提供中英翻譯。我們邀請到康福職業護理師為大家解釋疫苗的作用。有關詳情或報名，請聯絡屈小姐，電話：437-370-1733，電郵地址：ccheng@ndp.on.ca，

或直接在網上註冊：<https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/vaccine-info-mandarin>

Vaccine eligibility updates

Effective Thursday, May 13, 2021, individuals turning 40 and over in 2021 in non-hot spot communities will also be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a mass immunization clinic. Eligible individuals can schedule an appointment through the [provincial booking system](#). This builds upon the eligibility of those aged 18 and over in hot spot areas and is aligned with [the rollout](#) announced on May 2, 2021.

As of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals with [at-risk health conditions](#) such as dementia, diabetes and sickle cell disease, as well as Group Two workers who cannot work from home including grocery store, construction, restaurant and transportation workers will be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at ontario.ca/book-vaccine.

Astra-Zeneca use 'paused'

Effective May 11, [first-dose distribution of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine has been paused](#) by the provincial government.

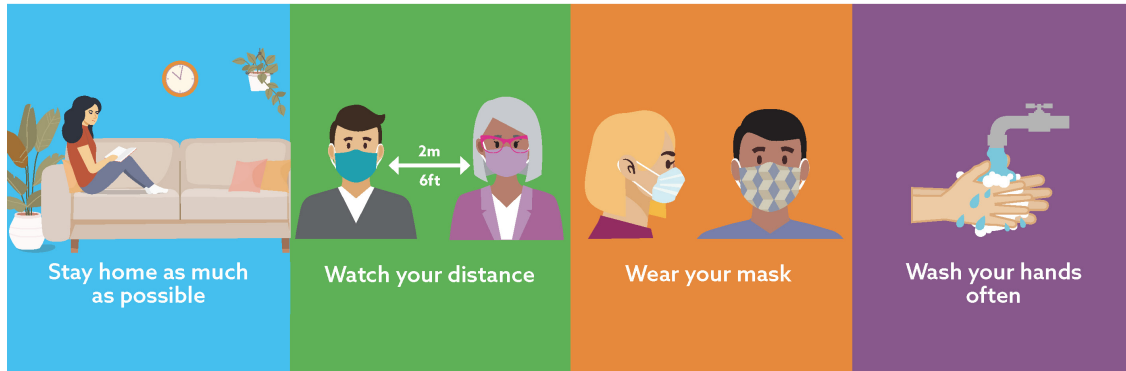
In a statement, the Chief Medical Officer of Health said:

"This decision was made out of an abundance of caution due to an observed increase in the rare blood clotting condition, known as vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine...In collaboration with health experts at Public Health Ontario, the Science Advisory Table and our federal, provincial and territorial partners, we are reviewing the data to consider options for the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for second doses and more broadly moving forward."

guidance, the use of this vaccine has also helped us bring cases down considerably.

4 STEPS FOR SELF-PROTECTION

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



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.**

Health
CanadaSanté
Canada

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 jbell-co@ndp.on.ca



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