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Friday, December 4 Update

Dear Neighbour,

As a parent with two kids in TDSB schools, I am watching the spread of COVID-19 in our schools very closely. I want to thank the teachers and staff for everything you are doing to educate our children and keep us safe during this very difficult time. Asymptomatic testing of staff and students at Thorncliffe Park School revealed that the spread of COVID-19 in schools is more prevalent than the Minister of Education has claimed.

It is absolutely critical that the Ford government does everything it can to keep schools safe. That means listening to public health, listening to front line workers, implementing a broader testing plan, a 15-kid cap on class sizes, better ventilation, and so much more. I urge you to follow our public health rules, including [today's announcement](#) of new stricter rules for screening kids for school.

Please stay safe & stay home,

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

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

My newsletter for this week includes:

At Queen's Park:

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- [Our bill to ban evictions during the pandemic goes to a vote on Dec 9](#)
- [Government votes down our motions for affordable housing, community benefits in transit bill](#)
- [Our bill to prepare our health system for climate change is voted down](#)
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- [Grassy Narrows blockade reaches its 18th anniversary](#)

Volunteer

- [Order your "I Shop Local" sign](#)
- [University-Rosedale Community Celebration](#)
- [Uni-Rose Community-Care Project/Encampment Support Drive, Sunday, Dec. 5th, 1-4 pm](#)
- [Mobilize Mondays! Stop Covid Evictions Phone Blast and Call to Action Monday, Dec. 7th, 6-7:30 pm](#)
- [North of Bloor Mutual Aid Pod](#)

Ford Government votes down our bill to make the Chief Medical Officer independent

This week, Doug Ford rejected NDP MPP France Gelinas' [Bill 227](#), which would have made the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) report to the legislature as an independent officer, and not be an employee of the Premier. This would ensure the CMOH can speak truthfully and freely to protect our health, and be less subject to political interference.

Calls for greater independence are backed by the [Auditor General](#) who told us Ontario's CMOH, Dr. David Williams, was barred from taking actions that could have saved lives.

[Watch my debate in support of Bill 227 here.](#) 

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CALL & WRITE TO DOUG FORD!

Tell him the eviction blitz at the Landlord & Tenant Board must stop & we need a



NDP Bill to ban evictions during the pandemic goes to a vote on Dec 9

In March, Doug Ford promised no one would be evicted during the pandemic, but legislative changes approved last spring through [Bill 184](#) have enabled the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) to speed up evictions in the middle of COVID-19's second-wave. We are hearing very concerning reports of the LTB mass evicting tenants right now.

Next week, NDP MPP Suze Morrison's motion to bring back an eviction moratorium during the pandemic will be debated and voted on Wednesday, December 9. I will be speaking in support of Suze's bill. If you would like your story to be shared directly to the Conservatives, then please email us at JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca.

No one who has lost their income due to COVID-19 deserves to lose their home in the middle of a pandemic. [Click here to help stop evictions during COVID-19.](#) 🏠



Government votes down NDP motions for affordable housing, community benefits in transit bill

This week the Ford government voted for [Bill 222](#), which is designed to speed-up transit planning by taking away some rights from municipalities, businesses and residents.

While we all want transit to get built, Bill 222 does absolutely nothing to address the two main reasons why transit is not being built quickly enough in our region. Governments cancel shovel ready projects, like the relief line, and they refuse to fund projects they promise they want to build, like the Eglinton East LRT.

This week, [I introduced five amendments to Bill 222](#) that would have turned this flawed bill into a model for what transit construction should look like.

I asked for a decent environmental assessment to be completed before a transit project begins.


I asked for Community Benefits Agreements so transit projects can buy local, hire local, and hire racialized folks who deserve a fair chance at getting hired for good construction jobs.

I asked for affordable housing to be built near and above new transit stations so more people in our city have access to safe and affordable homes.

I asked for transit projects to be built by the public sector, not the private sector, because we shouldn't be wasting taxpayer money on private profit.

And I asked for community rights, so residents and businesses can have some protection from noise and vibration during construction.

The government voted each and every of these measures down.

[For more information check out this blog post.](#) 

Bill to prepare our health system for climate change is voted down

This week, NDP MPP Peter Tabuns and MPP Bhutla Karpoche's [No Time to Waste Act, 2020](#) was voted down by the Ford government.

If passed, the Bill would have included a plan to prepare Ontario's public health and health care systems for the health risks caused by the climate crisis, a public sector strategy to create jobs while reducing GHG emissions and the establishment of a legislative committee to address climate change-related threats facing the environment and economy.


As we are seeing from COVID-19, a health crisis has a profound impact on our society, putting enormous strain on our health system, our economy and on the everyday lives of every single one of us. It is increasingly clear that the climate crisis will have a serious impact on human health and on society at large, and it's critical we act now to minimize the damage.

[Click here to watch my debate.](#) 

Government listens to our demand to cap delivery fees, but shortfalls remain

The NDP has been fighting delivery app services fees since June and this week the government passed a Bill putting a 15% cap on delivery fees, but only for regions where indoor dining service is prohibited. This leaves thousands of restaurants across the province without protection from exorbitant fees.

Delivery apps are charging restaurants upwards of 30 per cent and because of pandemic restrictions, take-out sales are critical to the survival of local restaurants. We need legislation that protects all restaurants from price-gouging, not just a few for a limited time.

The NDP is calling for immediate amendments to the Bill to give all restaurants in Ontario some relief. 

to let developers build on flood plains

Today, Doug Ford introduced amendments to Schedule 6 in Bill 229, which if passed, will even further allow developers to destroy wetlands, floodplains, and source water.

In Ontario, 36 conservation authorities manage hazards like flood control and water quality, issue permits for construction in areas near crucial waterways and oversee conservation lands. The changes to the rules outlined in Schedule 6 threaten to undermine the agencies' ability to ensure development in flood-plains is done safely.

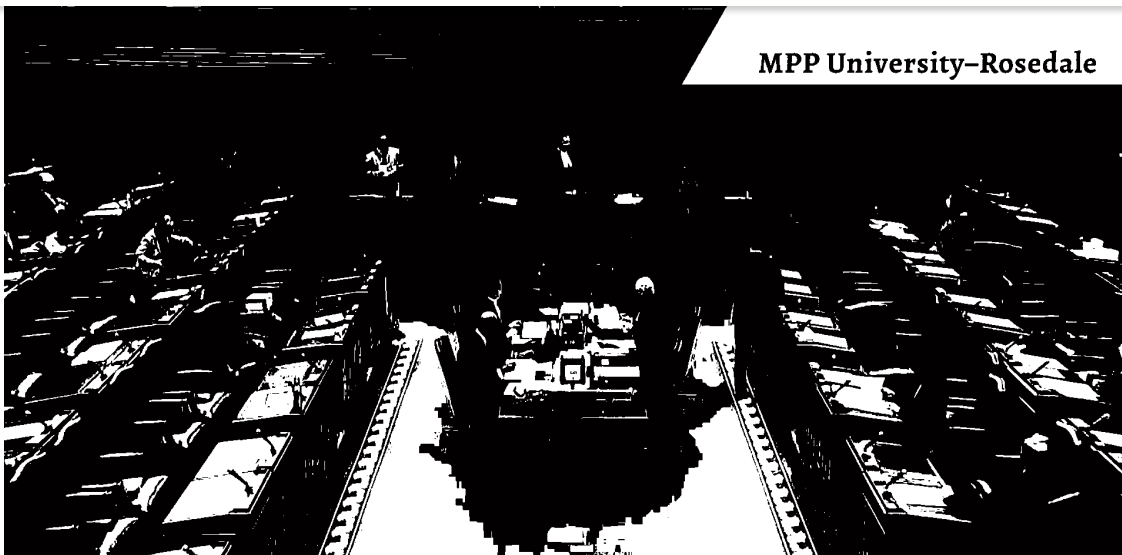
In response to these new amendments, [the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority issued a statement](#) calling for Schedule 6 of Bill 229 to be removed, saying the Premier is creating a new process to bypass CA's science-based decision making and forcing them to issue permits where Minister's Zoning Orders have been issued by the Province in support of development.

Proposing legislation that intentionally increases risk to Ontario residents, properties and public infrastructure by forcing CA's to issue permits where a Minister's Zoning Order in support of development has been issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, goes against the Premier's own Special Flood Advisor recommendations regarding their role in land use planning.

This legislation, if passed, will create a two-tier system allowing an applicant to by-pass CA's well-established watershed policies and science-based regulations that serve to guide decision-making and protects our communities and the natural environment.

Bill 229 will go to third and final reading Monday and could be voted into law as early as next week. The time to act is now.

[Sign my letter urging Doug Ford to drop Schedule 6 here.](#) 



MPP University-Rosedale

The tragic death of three cyclists renews our call for a Vision Zero strategy

On Wednesday night, a woman in her 20's was killed on Dufferin Street opposite Dufferin Grove. On Nov. 20, retired teacher John Offutt was killed by a cement truck driver on Royal York Road. On Sept. 24, a man in his 30's was killed cycling on Dundas Street. I am so sorry for the families and friends who are grieving right now. What a devastating loss.

These deaths show that our current approach to road safety is failing. People are being killed biking home, older adults are afraid to cross the street, and parents do not want to let their kids walk or ride bikes in their own neighbourhoods. We must be a better and safer city than this.

We need immediate action to stop people from being killed on our streets by reckless drivers. That's why I have introduced two Private Member's Bill's, [Protecting Vulnerable Road Users Act](#) and [Vision Zero Strategy Act](#). People have a right to make it home on their bikes without being killed or injured. The Ford government needs to step-up and implement a provincial road safety strategy that will reduce deaths and injuries on Ontario's roads to zero.

Join me for a ghost bike ride for the young woman who was killed on Dufferin Street, scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at 6 p.m., starting at Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue.

[Watch my Member's Statement on John Offutt's death here.](#)

To get involved in road safety organizing, please connect with [Cycle Toronto](#) and [Friends and Families for Safe Streets](#).

Peggy Nash named a member of the Order of

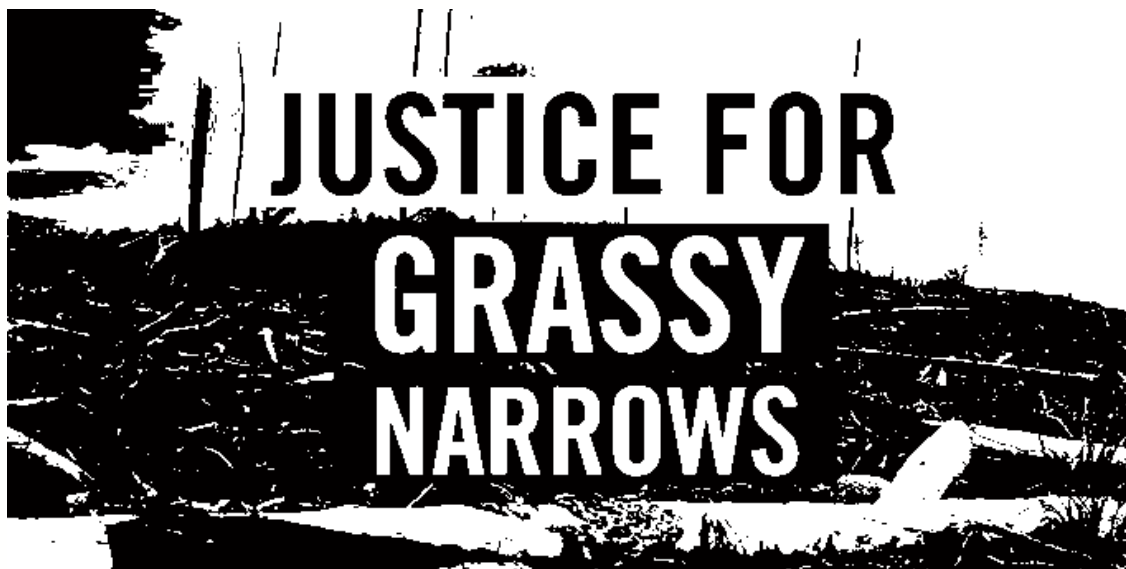
Former NDP MP Peggy Nash was named a member of the order of Canada by Governor General Julie Payette on November 27, 2020 for her contributions to women's employment equity, human rights and gender representation in all levels of public office.

In 2006 Nash was first elected as the NDP Member of Parliament for Parkdale—High Park and was the Official Opposition's Industry Critic. In 2008 she assisted the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) president before being re-elected to parliament from 2010 to 2015.

As a CAW leader, Nash was a trailblazer, achieving improvements such as pensions for same-sex partners, developing anti-harassment and anti-racism programs and negotiating a 'right to refuse work' clause for women facing workplace harassment.

Nash is also a founding member of Equal Voice, an all-party organization that advocates for the election of more women in Canada.

Congratulations Peggy! 🏆



Grassy Narrows blockade reaches its 18th anniversary

The Grassy Narrows Blockade has fought for 18 years to put a stop to logging in the Anishinaabe Territory.

The people of Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwest Ontario have been hard-hit by mercury poisoning, after the government allowed a pulp mill to dump 10 tons of waste into a river in the 1960's. The damaging effects are still

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ongoing, consequences of the poisoning of their river system.

After the closure of the commercial fishery, the province began promoting expansion of large-scale industrial logging in the region. The people of Grassy Narrows consider clear-cut logging to be an unacceptable threat to their remaining ability to live off the land, and a key factor in the persistent contamination of their territory.

In 2002, community members at Grassy Narrows launched a blockade to stop clearcut logging in their traditional territory. The blockade is one of the longest running Indigenous land protests in Canadian history. [Click here to find out more and get involved.](#) 🙌🙌🙌

We're hiring a constituency assistant

Our team is looking for a constituency assistant with proficiency in Mandarin and/or Cantonese. The position is for four days a week. For complete details on the job description, follow this link. (link)

The NDP Caucus is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations for job applicants with disabilities are available on request.

Forward a Cover Letter and Resume to the NDP Caucus Human Resources Office, resumes@ndp.on.ca. Please include "Constituency Assistant (University-Rosedale)" in the subject line. Welcoming applications until the position is filled.

Thank you for your application. Please note, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

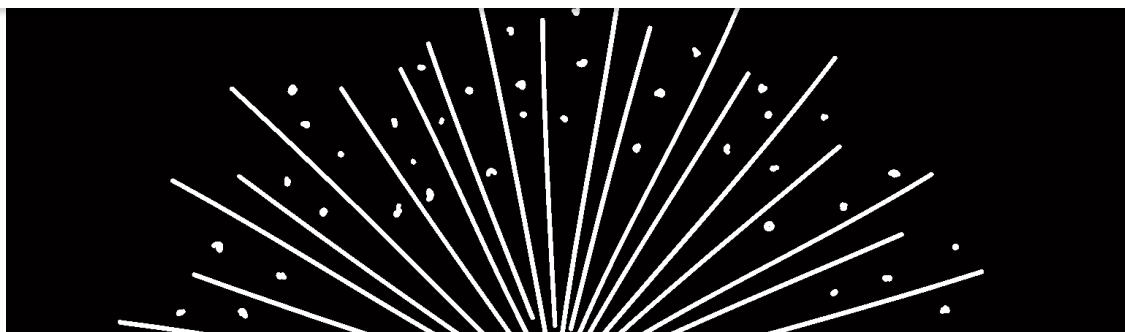
Order your “I Shop L♥cal” sign!

Every day our office hears from small businesses that are struggling to get by and are worried about surviving a second economic shutdown. It's been difficult to see so many beloved businesses in University-Rosedale close due to a lack of government support during these difficult times.

Many shops offer safe curbside pickups and contactless delivery, and to help give small businesses a fighting chance, we're encouraging Torontonians to safely buy what they need from local stores.

To support small businesses during the pandemic, I have launched an “I Shop Local” sign campaign encouraging Torontonians to safely shop at local stores during the busiest shopping season of the year.

You can request an “I Shop Local” sign right here. ♥



Community Celebration

nominate a person or group for recognition at:

jbell-co@ndp.on.ca

or by phone at 416-535-7206

University-Rosedale Community Celebration

We invite you to participate in our 2nd Annual University-Rosedale community recognition event. This is an opportunity to highlight community members who are making a difference and to say thank you!

MPP Jessica Bell (University-Rosedale) will hold a community celebration recognizing individuals and groups who have shown exceptional leadership and have made vital contributions to their community.

Nominations are now open. Simply send a quick note to JBell-CO@ndp.on.ca letting us know who you would like to nominate and why. Open to anyone of

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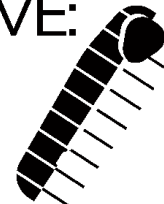
UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE'S NDP RIDING ASSOCIATIONS PRESENTS

UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE ENCAMPMENT SUPPORT DRIVE: PICK UP EDITION



Dec 5 & 6, 2020 | Location: Your Porch

Priority Items



New sleeping bags | New and used tents (pref. 6+ person)



Large tarps | Clean blankets | Fire extinguishers

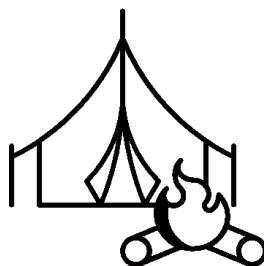
Packs of socks and underwear for all genders

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

● patreon.com/esntoronto  [@esn.to.4real](https://twitter.com/esn.to.4real) [@esn_to](https://twitter.com/esn_to)

SIGN UP
HERE

Uni-Rose Community-Care Project/Encampment Support Drive, Sunday, December 5th 1-4pm

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emergency and refugee shelters was at crisis level before COVID-19, and the pandemic has made this crisis more acute. Physical distancing measures are impossible within the cramped shared spaces, and we know hundreds of people are taking shelter in tents and makeshift enclosures throughout our city.

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.

Our Encampment Support Drive this month will be a pick-up edition: our drivers will come to you!

On Sunday December 6th, we're asking folks to leave their donations for Encampment Support Network on their porch or by their door. Someone will come by for a contactless pick-up and drop your donation off to the Encampment Support Network.

[Fill out this form and we will be in touch via email to arrange your donation pick-up!](#) 📄



Mobilize Mondays!

Mobilize Mondays! Stop Covid Evictions Phone Blast and Call to Action Monday Dec. 7, 6-7:30pm

No one should be forced out of their home in the middle of the pandemic. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of having a safe, secure place to call

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Right now thousands of tenants are unable to pay their rent and are about to be evicted. Many have nowhere to go. They are on the verge of becoming homeless - in winter, in the middle of the pandemic. Lives are at risk.

On December 9th MPP Suze Morrison will be forcing a vote on a motion to stop COVID-19 evictions NOW.

On Monday we are asking you to join us to call our neighbors and encourage them to take the following action:

Call and email the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Ask them to stop COVID evictions.

We will meet up via Zoom, chat, hear updates from Jessica and make outreach calls using Callhub to our neighbours in University-Rosedale. Email jbell-co@ndp.on.ca , express your interest and to receive more information on "Mobilize Mondays". 📞

North of Bloor Mutual Aid Pod

North of Bloor Mutual Aid Pod is a network of neighbours working to provide connection and support to each other during this pandemic. Organizers are looking for people who could use a helping hand or someone to talk to during this stressful period as well as volunteers who are able to drop off groceries, check in on neighbours, provide telephone support, organize food and clothing drives or be involved in countless other ways.

You can learn more by visiting their Instagram account - [northofbloormutualaid](#) or call Linda at (416) 627-8430. 📞

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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.
- 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
Canada

Santé
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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