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## Friday, March 12 Update

Dear Friend,

We have just passed the one-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic. What a horrific year.

It is also a scientific and logistical feat that Canada's vaccination campaign is picking up speed, and we have included information about the local rollout and what it means for you in our newsletter.

Despite the delays, Canadians are luckier than most. I support the growing call to exempt these life-saving vaccines from global intellectual property rules so the vaccines can be made as cheaply and quickly as possible for all.

We have been busy. Please read on for information on the latest bills moving through Queens Park, and what we are doing in our community to ensure a just and safe recovery.

Stay safe,

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

Jessica Bell (MPP for University-Rosedale)

My newsletter for this week includes:


### Queen's Park

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- [As stay at home order lifts, eviction blitz looms](#)
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## Community



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- COVID-19 Community Pop-Up Testing at Cecil Community Centre
- Free Grassy Narrows virtual rally
- Mobilizing in March!
- Join Clean Air Alliance's "No New Nuclear" campaign
- Bargaining between UofT and CUPE 3902 moving slowly



**Heile Hulgaard** - Community Legal Worker at West  
Toronto Community Legal Services

**Prophetess Reid** - Chair of the 440 Winona  
Tenants Association

**Patrick Plestid** - Chair of the 100 Vaughan Road  
Tenants Association

To register visit:  
[jessicabellmpp.ca/tenantsupport](https://jessicabellmpp.ca/tenantsupport)

**Upcoming tenant town hall: What to do when  
you're facing an eviction**

On **Thursday, March 18**, I will be co-hosting a tenants town hall with MPP Jill Andrew. We will be joined by tenant law experts and organizers for a digital information session on how to fight an eviction, what to expect in a Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) meeting and how to organize with other tenants.

This event will take place via Zoom, and you need to [register in advance](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions please email [jbell-co@ndp.ca](mailto:jbell-co@ndp.ca).



## As stay at home order lifts, eviction blitz looms

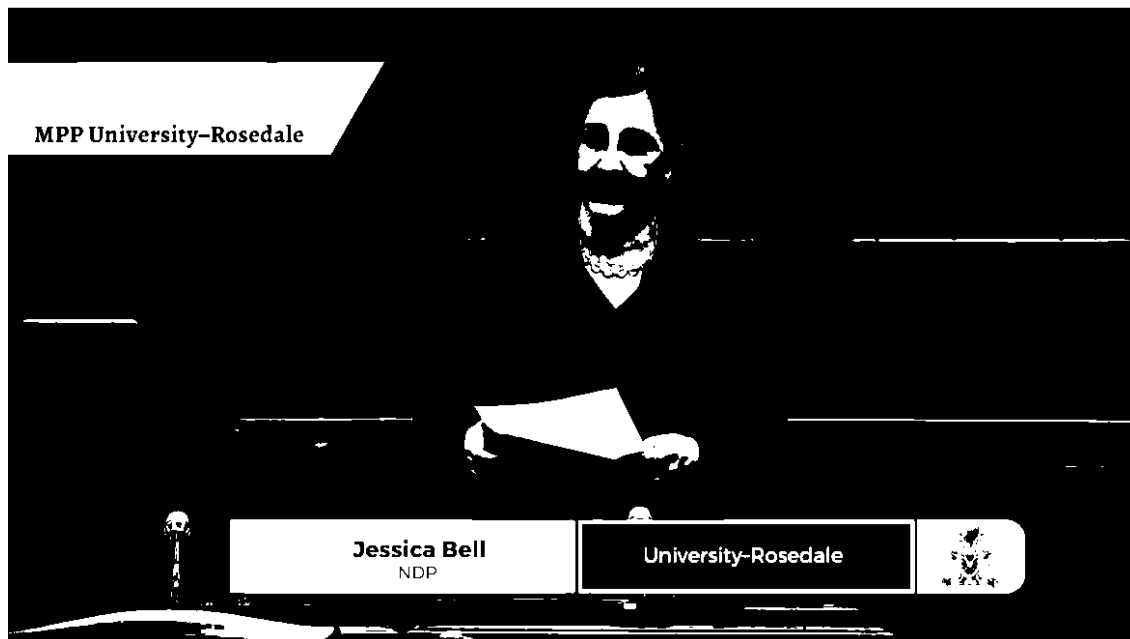
In March 2020, Doug Ford promised no one was going to be evicted because of lost income during COVID-19. He didn't keep his promise.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, and the rise of new, more aggressive COVID-19 variants, the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board resumed its eviction blitz across Toronto on Monday.

I hosted a press conference with two Torontonians who are facing evictions and [Toronto ACORN](#) to talk about why Doug Ford's decision to lift the eviction ban in the middle of a pandemic is unethical and unsafe. [You can watch the full video here](#).

We are calling on the Ford government to [provide rent relief](#), bring in an eviction ban during COVID-19, and legislate real [protections against illegal evictions](#).

To add your name in support of no COVID evictions, [click here](#).



## Fords housing programs are failing to meet demand

The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario's (FAO) recent report confirms Doug Ford is failing to address Ontario's growing housing and homelessness crisis.

The FAO report shows the number of people in core housing need is expected to grow by more than 80,000 families, yet projected funding from the province for affordable housing will see an annual average cut of \$160 million.

Last week, I asked Minister Clark why the Ford government is making cuts to affordable housing projects when more and more Ontarians are in need.

The NDP housing platform commits to extending the lifespan of 260,000 affordable homes, building 69,000 affordable homes and 30,000 homes with supports over a decade, and providing rent supports for 311,000 families.

## NDP releases its Green New Democratic Deal

Over the last year, the Ontario NDP has been consulting on its Green New Democratic Deal discussion paper, getting input and ideas from industry, labour, climate scientists, First Nations, educators and everyday Ontarians. As a lifelong climate activist, I am proud of the NDP's bold and effective climate plan.

In Climate. Jobs. Justice. A Green New Democratic Deal the Ontario NDP commits to a comprehensive strategy to make Ontario net-zero by 2050, and orchestrate a just transition including the creation of 100,000 permanent jobs from an ambitious building retrofit program, and as many as one million total jobs throughout the life of the deal.

Highlights of the plan include:

- A mandate for all newly built public, residential and commercial buildings to be net-zero emissions by 2030, alongside a world-leading building retrofit program
- Ontario's first zero-emissions vehicle strategy, ramping up electric vehicle sales to hit a 100 per cent target by 2035
- A new, more fair cap-and-trade program
- Electrifying all municipal transit by 2040
- Giving \$600 to households to install electric vehicle charging stations at home, and requiring new homes to have vehicle charging capacity
- Establishing Ontario's first Youth Climate Corps
- Restoring the powers of the Environment Commissioner
- Planting one billion trees by 2030

Our plan is based on values we all share: equity, affordability, and reconciliation. It's rooted in justice and committed to a just transition – which promises nobody, and no community, will be left behind.

Stay tuned for upcoming virtual events and action alerts in support of our green new deal.



## MZOs should be the exception, not the rule

Ministerial zoning orders (MZOs) give the provincial government the power to override local planning rules and set their own. It's the nuclear planning option.

But right now, the Ford government is issuing an unprecedented number of MZOs, some of which are being used to help developers who donate to the Conservative party. For instance, one MZO allows the Triple Group of Companies to build a warehouse distribution centre and film studio on the ecologically sensitive Duffin's Creek wetland in Pickering. The firm's CEO and co-owner Steve Apostolopoulos has donated to the PCs in recent years.

I am concerned by this trend and urged the government to rethink its approach to pay for access style development this week in the legislature. We need

development that seriously considers impacts on the environment and input from local communities.

## Bill 245 is in committee: this is what I'm hearing from you

For much of this week, I have been sitting in committee hearing Ontarians speak to Bill 245, the Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021.

Thank you to the many people who spoke, including representatives from the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Grange Community Association, the Federation of South Toronto Residents' Association, the Moore Park Residents Association, George Thomson, the Wilderness Committee, Tribunal Watch, Democracy Watch.

This is what I heard:

- The Government did no-to-little public consultation to residents or environmental groups. The Government should have posted this bill on the Environmental Registry.
- Schedule 6 and 10 are plain bad. These schedules:
  - merge five tribunals, which will mean that adjudicators could hear and rule on cases they have little expertise on.
  - undermine due process and access to justice by restricting appeals and judicial reviews on some decisions
  - allow an adjudicator to dismiss a case if they believe there's no reasonable chance of success before hearing evidence, and
  - limit non-party participation in hearings to written comments, which means local residents, for example, would not be able to express concern at a hearing about a new waste site.
- The Bill changes the process of appointing judges. The new selection process - which is explained well here - risks politicizing what has been universally praised as one of the best examples anywhere in the world of a truly independent appointment process.

I raised these concerns directly with the Attorney General in committee. I will be introducing amendments to this bill in the coming days, along with my colleague MPP Gurratan Singh. I encourage you to raise your concerns with the Ford government and please make sure to cc-me at [jbell-gp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbell-gp@ndp.on.ca).

## Doug Ford is bringing big money back into politics

While Ontarians continue to struggle with the province's failed response to COVID-19, the Ford government is making changes to Ontario's election laws that will shield them from public criticism and increase the Conservative party coffers.

The major changes in Bill 254 include changing election financing rules by doubling the legal maximum political donation limit from \$1650 to \$3300, tightening advertising rules for third parties, extending the public subsidy for political parties until 2024, and allowing independent MPPs to fundraise before the writ drops.

Doubling the maximum contribution limit increases the influence of wealthy insiders and lobbyists at the expense of most people who do not have \$3300 to spare for a political donation.

Organizations like the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario have expressed concerns the proposed changes will silence everyone who's been working to push the province to take urgent and necessary action to keep Ontarians safe, like the families of long-term care COVID victims, health care workers and so many more.

Scientists, educators, and parent groups deserve to be heard. Suppressing dissent and repressing alternative voices undermine democracy. Queen's Park should work for everyone. No matter how much money you have, and no matter how much money you give to politicians.

## Ford government ignored advice that could have saved lives

New expert testimony at the LTC Commission reveals the Ford government rejected proposals that could have saved lives in long-term care homes because of cost.

In testimony transcripts posted to the commission website, Dr. Allison McGeer, a professor and public health expert from the departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Dalla Lana School of Public Health and a member of Ontario's Science Table, said that when it came to saving lives in long-term care, "a number of proposals went to the Ministry about what could be done; and all of them were deemed by the Ministry to be too expensive."

McGeer said those proposals included proposals from hospitals to send help, getting seniors out of crowded ward rooms, and hiring staff like Quebec did.



It is heartbreaking to learn Doug Ford could have done so much more to help those who got sick or died in long-term care. The Ford government made a callous decision to put money ahead of public health – and some precious people died a preventable, lonely, and painful death as a result.

The NDP has been calling for a plan to get seniors out of three- and four-bed ward rooms to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and has committed to eliminating these types of rooms as part of its plan to overhaul home care and long-term care in Ontario.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Shared from [Mike Laytons's newsletter](#).

Many residents have been reaching out looking for information about vaccination rollout since it was announced the City of Toronto would be responsible for immunization efforts. I have worked to break down what we know, right now, below. However, this information is changing quickly and constantly. By the time you read this, circumstances could change, so it is integral you receive your updates from the [City of Toronto website](#).

### Mass Vaccination Updates

With large shipments of vaccines set to start arriving next week, starting this Friday, March 12, approximately 133,000 individual COVID-19 vaccination appointments for people age 80 and over will be available at the City of Toronto's mass immunization clinics. At the time of booking, residents will schedule their first vaccination appointment and an appointment to receive their second dose.

Three City-operated sites will be opening between March 17 and April 11 to vaccinate people 80 years of age and older in 2021:

1. Toronto Congress Centre
2. Scarborough Town Centre
3. Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Those who will be 80 or older in 2021 and wish to make an appointment – or a trusted person they have delegated to make vaccination appointments on their behalf – can visit [toronto.ca/covid-19](https://toronto.ca/covid-19) and click on a dark blue “Register” button that will be in a grey box at the top of the webpage. The link will bring registrants or delegates to the Province of Ontario's online booking system where they will be asked for information on the registrant's provincial health card, birthdate, postal code and email and/or mobile phone number.

People with existing confirmed appointments at a hospital or health sector partner COVID-19 vaccination clinic do not need to book another appointment at a City-run clinic; their existing appointment remains confirmed. Anyone with an existing appointment who chooses to book appointments at a City-operated

clinic instead should cancel their hospital or clinic bookings so as many people as possible are able to receive their vaccine as quickly as possible.

The City has also developed an [FAQ](#) for any other questions you may have.

### **Other Vaccine Opportunities**

Currently, health sector partners in Toronto are vaccinating priority group residents – including people age 80 and over – by using the vaccine allocated to them directly by the province. Registration information for those eligible to be vaccinated by health sector partners can be done at [vaccineto.ca](https://vaccineto.ca) or 1-888-385-1910.

For people aged 60-64, a number of pharmacies have started booking appointments for the Astra-Zeneca vaccine provided directly by the province, and [a map of those locations are posted here](#). Please contact the pharmacy directly for information about appointments. You can also [use the province's search tool](#) to determine the closest one near you which I found buried under 5 different links on the province's website.

### **Future Planning**

As vaccine supply for the general population becomes widely available from the Government of Canada and the Ontario Government, more than 350 clinics, including pharmacies and mobile clinics across Toronto, will vaccinate people based on the priority framework established by the Province.

The City also has the capacity to expand to include some 24h models of vaccine delivery, should supply increase to the point that this can be sustained for a prolonged period.

The City of Toronto, Toronto Public Health, hospitals and community healthcare centres are all working together to get Torontonians vaccinated as quickly as possible. Getting vaccinated protects individuals, their close contacts and the community.

免费投放COVID-19测试

# Cecil Community Centre 58 Cecil Street



时间：3月1日，15日和29日，星期一

无需预约



时间：下午12点到下午6:30

“如果您有COVID-19症状或认为您可能需要检查，我们鼓励您进行检查”



OHIP不是必需的，但是请带上ID或带有您名字的东西

PARKDALE  
QUEEN WEST  
Community  
Health Centre



**UHN** University Health Network  
University of Toronto  
Mount Sinai  
St. Michael's  
Toronto Western

Toronto Community Housing

 **TORONTO**

 **GLOBALMEDIC**



**FREE DROP-IN COVID-19 TESTING**  
**Cecil Community Centre**  
**58 Cecil Street**



**When: Mondays, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

**No Appointment Needed**



**Time: 12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**



"If you have COVID-19 symptoms or think you may need a test, you are encouraged to get tested"



OHIP is not required, but please bring ID or something with your name on it.



Toronto Community Housing



**PRUEBA DE COVID-19 INICIAL GRATUITA**  
**Cecil Community Centre**  
**58 Cecil Street**



**Cuándo: lunes, 1, 15 y 29 de marzo**

**No se necesita cita**



**Hora: 12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**



**Todos son bienvenidos**



No se requiere OHIP, pero traiga una identificación si es posible



Toronto Community Housing



## COVID-19 Community Pop-Up Testing at Cecil Community Centre

Cecil Community Centre and their partners will be hosting two more COVID-19 Community Pop-Up Testing days at 58 Cecil Street. It is open to the public, no appointment is necessary, and there is no cost for the test. Translation is also available.

**Dates: Monday, March 15 and 29, 2021**

**Time: 12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: Cecil Community Centre, Main Floor Auditorium, 58 Cecil Street**

**You can access more information by clicking here.**



## Free Grassy Narrows virtual rally

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 1960s. The damaging effects are still seen today. In all this time, the people of the Grassy Narrows First Nation have never received the help they need to deal with the devastating, and still ongoing, consequences of the poisoning of their river system.

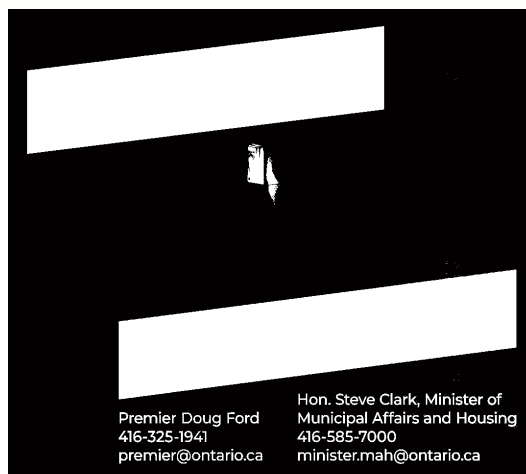
On **Saturday March 27 at 2pm** Join Grassy Narrows leaders along with Leanne Simpson and Tanya Talaga to speak out on Zoom and launch a new phase of the campaign for mercury justice.

The Campaign Launch will be followed by a Phone Zap.

[Click here to register and learn more.](#)



MPP University-Rosedale



## Mobilizing in March!

Please join us every week for the month of March as we come together to send clear messages to this government that we demand change. **NO COVID EVICTIONS & PAID SICK DAYS NOW!** We are in this together.

We meet up via ZOOM before each event to discuss the issue and use Callhub to make the calls. To register please email **[jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jbelle-co@ndp.on.ca)** and someone from our team will set you up with everything you need.

### Stop Covid Evictions

Phone Blast and Call to Action Wednesday, March 17, 6-7:30 pm

<https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/nocovidevictions>

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

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

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

### **PAID Sick Days NOW!**

Phone Blast and Call to Action Monday March 22, 6-7:30pm

<https://www.jessicabellmpp.ca/paidsickleave>

The Ford government continues to vote against paid sick leave.

Public health officials, frontline health care workers, mayors from across the province, small business owners, and workers all agree – paid sick days will help stop the spread of COVID-19. Workers need to be able to stay home as soon as they feel symptoms or may have been exposed without the fear of losing income.

In December, the Ontario NDP tabled Bill 239, the Stay Home If You Are Sick Act, which lays out exactly how we can ensure anyone who has fallen ill can stay home without the fear of lost wages. Last Friday, the Ford government voted against Bill 239.

The Ontario NDP is not done fighting. We need to do everything we can to keep the momentum going. That's why on March 9, we are organizing a phone bank to demand Premier Ford, the

Minister of Labour Monte McNaughton and the Minister of Health Christine Elliott bring Ontarians paid sick days now! To get involved, reply to this email or [click here](#) to take action.

### **Community Outreach Calls**

Monday March 29 6:00pm-7:30pm

Many in our community are facing additional challenges due to COVID-19. Our office has access to resources and information to share, and with your help we will be able to reach more people. Please join us and make outreach calls to friends and neighbors in our community.

## **Join Clean Air Alliance's "No New Nuclear" campaign**

This week I shared my concerns with MP Chrystia Freeland on the federal government's \$20 million investment in Oakville-based Terrestrial Energy for the development of a small modular reactor (SMR).

Not only does Canada not have a plan to safely dispose of its high, intermediate, and low-level toxic radioactive waste stockpiles, subsidizing nuclear energy hinders our progress by detracting from better and more affordable, climate forward technologies like solar and wind.

Now is not the time to invest in an untested technology that will accumulate more toxic waste, burdening future generations.

To learn more about Clean Air Alliance's campaign, [click here](#).

## **Bargaining between UofT and CUPE 3902 moving slowly**

Right now, CUPE 3902 (Unit 1) academic workers are negotiating with the University of Toronto for a fair contract to meaningfully improve their experience as workers and students.

The bargaining unit comprises 8,000 academic workers including teaching assistants, course instructors, and exam invigilators who are dealing with increased workloads, mental health challenges, lack of job security and financial stress, all of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Although the two parties have made some progress on the bargaining table, U of T has not yet meaningfully addressed the union's high priority issues including hiring and pandemic-related working conditions.

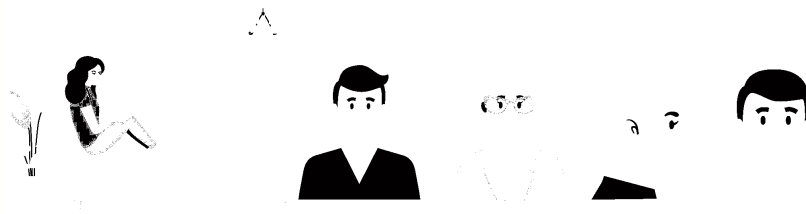
I have been assured by the administration they are committed to reaching a negotiated settlement as soon as possible.

To learn more about CUPE 3902's bargaining effort, [click here](#).



## 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.

**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](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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