



MARYAM MONSEF

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
PETERBOROUGH-KAWARTHA

I want to start by wishing everyone a blessed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and the best of health.

These are unprecedented times, and as much as we would like to get together with our friends, family and loved ones during this holiday weekend, all of us must continue to do our part to flatten the curve and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Let us find strength in one another, in community, and in doing our part to protect the most vulnerable among us.

In this E-Newsletter you will find some information that has been sent out before but is imperative that we all know. I have also included updates on some of the actions our federal government has taken over the past week.

Resources & Information

To find the most up-to-date information, including travel advisories, news updates, and prevention advice, head to canada.ca/coronavirus.

This resource includes information about [Canada's response to COVID-19](#).

For more information about COVID-19 and any questions you may have, the Public Health Agency of Canada has also set up a dedicated hotline and email address:

. Phone: 1-833-784-4397 (open 7 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week)

. Email: phac.info.aspc@canada.ca



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

For more information:
Canada.ca/coronavirus
or phone 1-833-784-4397

CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS

Canada

Prevention:

Social distancing - physical distancing - is the single best way to keep the people around you safe. What does that mean? It means keeping two metres between yourself and someone else. It means avoiding groups. It means staying home as much as possible. It is not an easy request, especially as we head into what would normally be a long weekend filled with family and loved ones, but it is an essential one. We all need to do our part.

Peterborough-Kawartha has been doing well adhering to these preventative measures, [and the results are already being seen](#). But the fact remains, [we can always do better](#). Each of us has the ability to slow the spread of COVID-19 by following the public health guidelines.

You can find more information on preventative measures [here](#).

If you think you might have COVID-19 but aren't sure what to do, use the [Public Health Agency of Canada's Self-Assessment Tool](#). It'll help determine if you should be tested for the virus.

If required, contact the Peterborough Public Health Unit at 705-743-1000 or covid19@peterboroughpublichealth.ca, or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. These health care providers can help assess your symptoms and advise you on any further action that may be required.



THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT AGAINST INFECTION:

CANADA.CA/CORONAVIRUS

Canada

Canada Emergency Response Benefit rollout:

This week, our government's [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) began arriving in millions of Canadians' bank accounts who have lost their wages due to COVID-19. Many received a \$1,000 payment retroactively to March 15, and another \$2,000 payment for the month of April. Individuals can re-apply monthly if necessary, for up to four months.

Nearly 6 million Canadians are either self-employed or do not have enough hours of work to qualify for EI benefits. This benefit means that workers, including the self-employed, who are unable to work because of COVID-19 have the income support they need.

The CERB payments are in addition to a top-up of GST payments made yesterday for low and modest-income earners, an average of \$400 per person and \$600 for couples.

We recognize that the CERB might not address all the various work situations Canadians have right now and we continue to look at ways to support everyone during this difficult time. Our priority remains to make sure all Canadians have the support they need, and we will continue working to do so.

You can find a more detailed breakdown of how our government's first phase of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan [is helping individuals in our community](#).

THE CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT:

\$2,000 a month for up to 4 months

You qualify if you:

- must stop work due to COVID-19 and do not have other income
- are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is
- are a parent who must stay home without pay to care for children
- are still employed but not being paid

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy tweaked to improve accessibility:

To help small business owners pay workers even if they've slowed down or stopped their operations because of COVID-19, we introduced the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#). The wage subsidy aims to prevent further job losses, encourage employers to re-hire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19, and help better position

Canadian companies and other employers to more easily resume normal operations following the crisis.

We asked for your feedback on how we can use this to help as many people as possible, and thanks to your input, we're putting in place more flexible rules.

We said businesses would have to show a 30% drop in revenues when comparing one month this year to one month last year - but that could be hard for some non-profits, start-ups, and new businesses. To ensure that isn't a barrier, we'll let them use January and February as reference periods.

If businesses use March to compare revenue, they'll only need to show a 15% drop because many only felt the impacts of COVID-19 halfway through the month. And as for charities and non-profits, they can either include or exclude government funding in their revenues.

Our government is working hard and look forward to passing the required legislation to get the wage subsidy underway so that employers have the supports that need as soon as possible.

For more on how our government is helping businesses throughout this crisis, [click here](#).

NEW MEASURES TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES



BUSINESS LOANS

We're giving small businesses loans of up to \$40,000 interest-free for one year



WAGE SUBSIDY

We're providing a wage subsidy of up to 75% to make sure employers can keep employees on the payroll



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

We're making \$40 billion available to support businesses with operational cash flow gaps



DEFERRING TAXES

We're deferring GST and HST payments, duties, and taxes owed on imports until June

Canada Summer Jobs program adjusted for COVID-19:

Right now, our students and young people are facing serious challenges finding work. That's why we are changing the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program this year to help employers adapt to the realities of COVID-19 and support young Canadians as they begin to look for summer employment.

Small businesses increasingly depend on the employment of young Canadians. The changes we are making to the CSJ program will help small businesses hire and keep the workers they need so they can continue to deliver essential services. We had already earmarked \$263 million in funding for the program, and now the intent of these

enhancements is to align the funding to support the government's [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#).

These enhancements will include:

- 1) an increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employees can receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee;
- 2) an extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021;
- 3) allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services;
- 4) allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis.

Keeping in mind the safety of everyone, these are some suggested types of work this could include:

- Supporting community programming: This could include jobs with small businesses or organizations that are using digital tools for preparation and delivery of programming, such as youth education and recreation activities, or community support services such as tele-health and online health services.
- Supporting Canada's food security and supply chains: This may include jobs at local co-ops, farms, and/or food distribution that play a critical role to Canada's food security.
- Filling temporary vacancies due to COVID-19: This could include clerical or administrative positions in small businesses or not-for-profits where older staff are required to stay home with children and/or avoid the workplace due to other COVID-19 related issues.
- Supporting for vulnerable populations: This may include local activities to support populations facing new vulnerabilities under COVID-19, such as seniors or persons with disabilities.

The CSJ program has a successful history of providing opportunities for youth to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business, and public sectors, and supports the delivery of key community services. To date, our government has supported 1,236 youth summer jobs in Peterborough-Kawartha and approved funding to more than 100 local employers annually. Nationally, the CSJ program will help create up to 70,000 jobs for youth between 15 and 30 years of age.

We're working to make sure this program helps as many people as possible during this time. If you are an employer in Peterborough-Kawartha, please share your ideas on how best to utilize this program.

OUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOW
PROVIDE A WAGE SUBSIDY FOR

UP TO 100%

OF STUDENTS' WAGES HIRED
THROUGH

**THE CANADA SUMMER
JOBS PROGRAM**

Peterborough-Kawartha rocks:

It would be easy to focus on the negative in these trying times, but we need to celebrate how our community has responded throughout this crisis. Whether it be [local manufacturers stepping up to produce needed supplies](#), [individuals using 3D printers](#) to [help chip in](#), [healthcare workers being shown love for their dedication and hard work](#), or musicians from [Fleming College](#) and [Lakefield](#) sharing their talent, this challenging period has also provided a platform to show the best in all of us. I can't put into words how proud I am of our community and know that when this is all over, we will be even closer to our neighbours, friends and loved ones.

As always, please reach out through any of the methods of contact featured below, emailing Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca, or by calling us at 705-745-2108.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Maryam Monsef', written in a cursive style.

Maryam Monsef, P.C.,M.P.

Peterborough-Kawartha



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