



TONY Van Bynen

Member of Parliament Newmarket-Aurora

Update from Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket-Aurora

Since the start of this pandemic, the federal government has prioritized keeping Canadians healthy and safe, and readily responding to the needs of businesses and workers. A strong recovery is one where Canadians can stay healthy and go to work safely. While many Canadians have returned to work, we know there is more work to do.

As Canadians continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and public health measures, we are providing financial support to Canadians and businesses impacted by the pandemic to help businesses keep their employees and ensure that no Canadian is left without support.

In the months leading to November 2021, 85 million rapid tests had been directly shipped to the provinces and territories. In December 2021 alone, the number was 35 million. This month, our federal government announced the delivery of 140 million tests to be allocated on a per-capita basis and deliveries are well underway. While it is the federal government who provides these rapid tests to the provinces and territories, each province and territory is in charge of its own distributions.

As of January 10, 82% of Canadians over the age of 12 have received one dose, and 76% are fully vaccinated. Ten million booster shots have been administered across the country to eligible Canadians. Over 45% of children aged 5-11 have received their first dose of a pediatric COVID-19 vaccine. In the coming weeks and months, more doses will be delivered so there is enough supply in Canada for first, second, booster and pediatric doses.

Together with testing and vaccines, local public health guidelines continue to be of utmost importance during these challenging times. Stay safe, be vigilant, and continue to follow public health guidelines.

Helpful Resources:

[York Region COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics](#)

[COVID-19 in Canada](#)

COVID-19 Supports

The [Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program](#) and the [Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program](#) to provide supports to businesses that have faced deep losses due to the pandemic.

The [Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#) gives temporary income support to employed and self-employed people who cannot work due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

The [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit](#) and the [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#), have been extended to May 7, 2022. This will ensure eligible caregivers and those who become infected by COVID-19 are allotted income supports in certain circumstances.

For more information on supports that may be available to you, visit this [website](#).

Repayment Deadline for CEBA extended

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, announced that the repayment deadline for [Canada Emergency Business Account](#) (CEBA) loans to qualify for partial loan forgiveness has been extended to December 31, 2023. CEBA has provided more than \$49 billion in liquidity to over 898,000 Canadian businesses to help cover their operating costs during a time of reduced revenue.

The repayment deadline to qualify for partial forgiveness for CEBA-equivalent lending through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) is also extended to December 31, 2023. The RRRF has been a key support for businesses unable to access other federal pandemic support details.

[News release](#)

December Job Growth

The [December 2021 Labour Force Survey](#) was released earlier this month by Statistics Canada. It shows that Canada's labour market gained 55,000 jobs in December, bringing the unemployment rate to 5.9% - the lowest since the start of the pandemic.

Our federal government remains focused on supporting businesses and workers impacted by COVID-19 and the long-term recovery of our economy.

Canada Summer Jobs: Employer Application Open

The Canada Summer Jobs Program aims to provide flexible and holistic services to help all young Canadians develop the skills to gain paid work experience to successfully transition into the labor market. This will help young people develop the skills to succeed now and in the future. The Call for Applications for employers is open until January 25, 2022. You can find more information [here](#).

Call for Proposals: Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund

The Women Entrepreneurship Strategy is a \$6 billion investment to create a more inclusive and supportive environment: to grow women's entrepreneurship; to remove barriers to support networks, to deliver resources needed to start up, scale up and access new markets; and provide affordable microloans to women entrepreneurs.

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, announced a [call for proposals](#) for new projects under the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund. Consideration will be given to organizations focused on intersectionally diverse and/or underserved women entrepreneurs, and to projects that will contribute to strengthening the network of women entrepreneurship in Canada.

Get Involved: Valentines for Vets

This Valentine's Day, thank Canadian Veterans by sending them a hand-made valentine.

Each year, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) invites Canadian schools, individuals and organizations to make Valentines for Vets. VAC then distributes the valentines to Veterans in long-term care facilities across the country by February 14.

If you would like to send a valentine thanking a Veteran, please send it by February 1 to:

*Valentines for Vets - Veterans Affairs Canada
Commemoration, Distribution Unit
125 Maple Hills Avenue
Charlottetown, PE C1C 0B6*

Mental Health Supports

As we cope with the reality of the ongoing pandemic and the winter season, many Canadians find themselves struggling with their mental health. If you, or a loved one, are in need of help, know that there are supports available to you.

[Wellness Together Portal](#)

PocketWell app: [Google Play Store](#) or [App Store](#)

My offices are open for inquiries and assistance via e-mail at Tony.VanBynen@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 905-953-7515. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are not accepting in person appointments. You can also sign up to receive bi-weekly e-mail updates on vanbynen.ca/get-updates.