

# Update from Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket-Aurora

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Mona Fortier, Minister of Middle Class and Prosperity and Associate Finance Minister recently launched pre-budget consultations for Budget 2021.

We want to hear the best ideas from individuals and experts across sectors and across the country on how **Budget 2021** can support Canadians through the pandemic and help us build back better. This pandemic has been a setback for our economy, and once the virus is under control, it will be time to rebuild.

Our Federal Government will continue to support Canadians, keeping their health and safety at the forefront of our decision making. We invite you to share your vision and provide valuable insights on stimulating job creation, strengthening and growing the middle class, and setting the stage for a robust recovery.

All of this depends on our collective success in fighting and defeating the COVID-19 virus. Let's continue to do our part to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safe. Let's stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, wash or hands and download the [COVID Alert App](#). Together, we can do this.

## Let's Talk Budget 2021 – Online Questionnaire

In addition to roundtables and consultation discussions across our community, all are invited to share ideas through the online questionnaire at [letstalkbudget.ca](#) until February 19. This is another opportunity for Canadians to share their thoughts about how the government can make investments to grow our economy.

## \*New\* Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP)

The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, recently [announced](#) the launch of the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP) to provide relief to businesses, workers and their families.

HASCAP will help hard-hit businesses across the country with their day-to-day operating costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes, but is not limited to those in tourism, restaurants, and other sectors that rely on in-person services.

Through HASCAP, the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with participating Canadian financial institutions to offer government-guaranteed, low-interest loans of up to \$1 million.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bdc.ca/en/special-support/hascap>

## Supporting Black Businesses

Our Federal Government is committed to pursuing economic empowerment for marginalized communities, to increase diversity in procurement, and to support Black entrepreneurs.

We announced an investment of up to \$221 million to create Canada's first-ever [Black Entrepreneurship Program](#) and support Black Canadian entrepreneurs grow their businesses and thrive for years to come. The program is built on three pillars:

**The National Ecosystem Fund** to provide funding to Black-led not-for-profit organizations to strengthen their capacity to provide business support and services to Black entrepreneurs and business owners, and to connect support ecosystems across the country.

**The Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub** to gather data on Black entrepreneurship in Canada and help identify critical gaps, barriers to success and opportunities for growth.

**The Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund** to provide Black entrepreneurs and business owners with access to capital with loans of up to \$250,000. This is a partnership between the Government of Canada, some leading financial institutions, and Black-led businesses, entrepreneurs and business owners.

Recently, the Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, also announced last month the launch of the [Black Business Pilot \(BBP\)](#) to expand bidding opportunities for Black owned and/or operated businesses for various goods and services.

#### **Contact us**

My offices are open for inquiries and assistance via e-mail at [Tony.VanBynen@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](http://vanbynen.ca/get-updates).