



**John Nater, M.P.
Perth—Wellington**

Good Afternoon:

I hope everyone continues to be doing as well as possible during these challenging times. I want to update you on a few government programs.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit:

Changes have been announced to address some of the gaps in the original program.

Among those now eligible are those who have lost much (but not all) of their income due to COVID-19. The changes now allow for up to \$1000/month in income while maintaining eligibility for the CERB.

Also included are those who may have been receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, but have now exhausted those benefits. An example of this group would be seasonal employees.

As of right now, specific changes to help students who have lost their planned summer employment have not yet been announced. I will continue to advocate for this group.

Canada Emergency Business Account:

The Canada Emergency Business Account is being administered through financial institutions. They provide loans of up to \$40,000, with up to \$10,000 being forgivable if repaid prior to December 2022.

Originally, businesses needed to have at least \$50,000 in payroll to qualify. This has now been reduced to \$20,000. I am hopeful this will open up the program to more small businesses. I am still advocating for amendments which would allow those who are sole-proprietors and who don't take a salary, to become eligible.

Commercial Rent:

The Government has announced its intention to work with Provincial Governments to develop a commercial rent program for businesses struggling to pay their rent. Unfortunately, I can't provide a timeline on when this might be implemented, but I hope we will see details sooner rather than later to provide some certainty to businesses that are struggling.

Agriculture:

I am in frequent contact with both local farmers as well as provincial and national farm organizations. Processing capacity has been a challenge for Ontario farmers for some time. However, it has significantly worsened due to the effects of COVID-19. There is not a perfect solution at this time, but I have encouraged the Government to ensure they have adequate CFIA inspectors to maintain the food supply chain. I also support the "set aside" program that is being proposed by the beef industry.

Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC):

Our local Community Futures Development Corporations have always been an important part of our community. As such, I am very pleased that an additional \$962 million has been announced for these corporations. I am hopeful that this funding will help many of those local businesses that have fallen through the cracks of previously-announced programs. Our local CFDCs have been highlighted in the past for their exceptional work, and I know they will rise to the challenge once again.

Arts, Culture and Sports Sector:

Earlier today, \$500 million was announced for funding to this sector of the economy. Locally, I know this will be welcome news for the arts and culture industry. I look forward to the details being rolled out on this program.

As I have said in the past, there are no perfect solutions to the problems we are facing. I remain committed to working co-operatively and across party lines to do all I can for those affected by COVID-19.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance or require additional information.

Take care,

John

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Note: You are receiving this email because you have contacted my office in the past or are a community partner organization. If you would rather **not** receive future emails, please let me know.