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Subject: April 2021 MP Update
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To: pembertonseniors@gmail.com



Dear Friend and Neighbour,

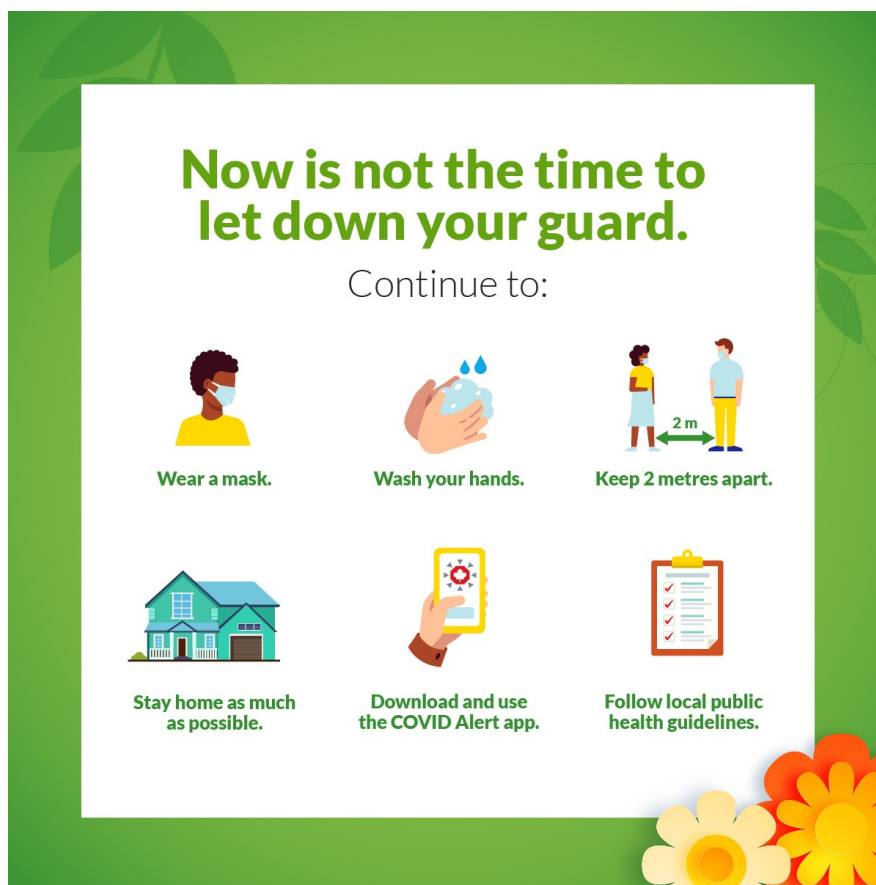
I hope you and your loved ones had a restful, safe, and happy Easter long weekend. I know that many were disappointed in being unable to celebrate in person with friends and family for the second year in a row. As we work to get through this third wave, let us look forward with a renewed optimism to celebrating Easter together in person next year.

The weather is getting warmer and the days longer, while more vaccines are being distributed across the country. With Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and now Johnson and Johnson, Canada has received 10 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to date. By the end of June we will have received over 44 million doses, and nearly triple that amount by the end of September. This number will also increase as the delivery schedule for Johnson and Johnson is confirmed and starts delivery in the coming weeks.

This is of course not the time to let our guard down. We are simultaneously in the third wave of the pandemic with record high cases being recorded and with variants of COVID-19 being transmitted throughout the province that are both vastly more contagious and cause more severe symptoms in all demographics. This emphasizes the need to continue to follow public health advice.

The Province of British Columbia has brought in new public health orders, the details of which can be found below, restricting indoor dining until at least April 19th, while shutting down Whistler Blackcomb. This is a very difficult challenge for all affected businesses, and particularly our local food and beverage sector, and our community members that work in them. I wish to remind these businesses that the wage subsidy is available to keep

affected businesses on the payroll, the rent subsidy is there to help with additional lockdown support for situations like this, and access to liquidity is available with government backed no-interest loans. For those that are laid off, the strengthened EI system is there to support you. The Government of Canada will do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to support Canadians through this. Details on the pandemic support programs are available at: canada.ca/coronavirus. I ask that you also consider the ways that you can continue to support our local businesses through these difficult times as well.



The new Public Health Orders issued by the Government of British Columbia include the following new restrictions:

Gatherings & Events:

✗ No indoor social gatherings of any size with anyone outside your household or "core bubble" (for those who live alone).

✓ Up to 10 people can gather outdoors. These must be the same 10 people.

✗ Patios and outdoor areas at restaurants, pubs and bars are not included as places to gather with 10 people at one table. Stick to your household.

i [Click here](#) to learn more.

Restaurants, Pubs, & Bars:

✗ Indoor dining is closed until April 19 at 11:59pm.

✓ Outdoor patio seating and take-out or delivery is allowed.

✓ Breweries, wineries and tasting rooms can operate outdoor patios. Liquor may only be served on a patio if people are seated.

✗ Patios and outdoor areas at restaurants, pubs and bars are not included as places to gather with 10 people at one table.

 [Click here](#) to learn more.

Physical Activities:

✗ All indoor adult fitness classes must be suspended.

✓ Gyms and recreation facilities that offer individual workouts and personal training sessions can remain open as long as they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan that is strictly followed.

 [Click here](#) to learn more.

Schools:

All K to 12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their work stations (desks)
- On school buses
- Within and outside learning groups

[Click here to learn more](#) about the provincial government's COVID-19 School Plan.

For more information and details on the BC Government's new public health orders, please visit [this webpage](#).

For much of the last month, I have been in Ottawa, working on important legislation in the House of Commons and in committee. In this newsletter, I will detail some of that work and provide updates on federal announcements and constituency events in our community.

1. Legislation & Debates in the House of Commons
2. Housing Roundtable with Minister Hussein

3. BC-Canada Housing Announcement
4. Housing Announcement in Whistler
5. Multicultural Event with Minister Chagger
6. Active Transportation Strategy Consultation
7. Celebrating Nowruz
8. Standing Up Against Anti-Asian Racism
9. Highlighting Small Businesses in our Community

Looking ahead, the parliamentary calendar fills up quickly with Parliament sitting for five straight weeks and ten of eleven weeks, starting on April 12th, 2021. The Government of Canada's 2021 Budget will also be tabled on April 19, 2021.



Legislation and Debates in the House of Commons

Bill C-7 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)

While the response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains the primary focus of all orders of government in Canada, there are two other health matters I will be updating you on this month.

Parliament passed Bill C-7 into law on March 17, amending Canada's Criminal Code provisions on medical assistance in dying (MAID).

I have heard from hundreds of constituents on this important issue, many of whom have relayed their personal experiences that inform their views on how MAID should be addressed in Canada. I thank them for their input they brought to the table as we seek to ensure our laws reflect Canadians' evolving values, including in supporting their autonomy and personal freedoms, while protecting the most vulnerable.

Over 300,000 Canadians provided feedback and 120 expert witnesses provided testimony during the 2020 consultations. This thorough process shaped the following major changes:

- Removing the requirement for a person's natural death be reasonably foreseeable to be eligible for MAID, so it can be compliant with the 2019 Superior Court of Québec's Truchon ruling.
- Introducing new and strengthened safeguards for those whose death is not reasonably foreseeable.
- Temporarily excluding individuals suffering solely from mental illness for 24 months from eligibility for MAID, until an expert panel makes recommendations on protocols.

guidance and safeguards for MAID for such persons.

- Other issues such as advance directives and mature minors must still be explored in a forthcoming Parliamentary Review later this year.

[Bill C-12: An Act respecting transparency and accountability in Canada's efforts to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050](#)

Bill C-12, Canada's net-zero emissions accountability act is continuing to work its way through the House. This bill is arguably the most important piece of climate legislation that has been introduced in our country's history.

Bill C-12 mandates national emissions targets on five-year increments, based on the best scientific information available, and requires detailed strategies for achieving these targets and transparent reporting in efforts on the way to get there. It provides for a [Net-Zero Advisory Body that has already been established](#) and requires detailed reporting by government on all of its climate related risks and opportunities. I had the opportunity to join the debate on this piece of legislation on March 10th. [You can see the video here.](#)

Several private members bills are also being debated in Parliament. I had the opportunity to join the debate on Bill C-231: An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan on March 12th, which would mandate that the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board follow certain practices for all its investments. I also had the opportunity to speak in support of Bill C-230: An Act Respecting the Development of a National Strategy to Redress Environmental Racism on March 25th. Bill C-230 is now being looked at in committee, while Bill C-231 was defeated in a vote.

Housing Roundtable with Minister Hussein

On March 18, I was pleased to welcome the Honourable Ahmed Hussein, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, to join us for a community roundtable on safe and affordable housing with housing experts from throughout West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country.

We discussed how we can find innovative solutions to the housing crisis and further build on partnerships with local organizations to tackle these important issues.

The federal government is committed to investing in our communities to tackle affordable housing and ensure everyone has a safe place to call home. Minister Hussein is the minister responsible for delivering Canada's National Housing Strategy, the largest federal investment in affordable housing in generations, which relies on the strong collaboration of local organizations and housing experts.

Thank you to all of our panelists for a productive discussion. [You can watch the full roundtable here.](#)

BC-Canada Housing Agreement

In March, we launched the Canada Housing Benefit in British Columbia, a jointly funded program with the BC Government that will make another positive step towards ensuring that all Canadians, especially the most vulnerable members of our community, have a safe, secure, and affordable place to call home.

This is particularly important in BC, where many are struggling with the high cost of housing. This Benefit will support more than 25,000 households across British Columbia with their monthly rent with an investment of \$517 million over 10 years.

The new Benefit will be provided directly to those who need it the most to provide relief from high housing costs. Priority groups include women and children experiencing or at risk of domestic violence, Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, veterans, youth leaving care, people with disabilities and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who are not eligible for other assistance programs.

As part of the program, half of the investment is already being used to support enhancements that were made to the provincial Rental Assistance Program (RAP) or Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) in 2018.

The program will be delivered to households that are not eligible for RAP or SAFER and fall within one or more of the aforementioned targeted priority groups. The benefit will be provided directly to selected qualifying households through non-profit housing providers or by [BC Housing](#), through [The Housing Registry](#).

The Canada Housing Benefit is the next step in our National Housing Strategy, and it will provide thousands of British Columbians with the peace of mind that comes with having a secure and affordable home in their community.

Housing Announcement in Whistler

On March 26, Minister Hussen announced details of a total investment of \$25.1 million dollars for the [recently completed Granite Ridge affordable housing project in Whistler](#).

This project is a partnership between the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the Province of B.C. through BC Housing, the Whistler Housing Authority, and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

The project provides 45 affordable rental homes for people for who work in Whistler with monthly rents set well below the local average market rental rate. This project will help address the urgent need for workforce housing in the community.

Whistler Housing Authority has also partnered with Zero Ceiling, a non-profit organization in Whistler committed to ending youth homelessness, to provide a stable, secure, affordable rental units for marginalized young adults working in Whistler.

Multicultural Event with Minister Chagger

I had the distinct pleasure of attending a recent virtual event with the Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth and members of the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) to discuss issues related to multiculturalism in Canada, immigration settlement, discrimination and racism, and ongoing barriers for new immigrants.

The event highlighted the incredible work being done by Multicultural & Settlement Service Organizations across the province. Representatives from agencies such as the North Shore Multicultural Society and Squamish Settlement Society provided an excellent perspective of their work.

Active Transportation Strategy Consultation

The Government of Canada has announced \$400 million for Canada's first active transportation fund, and the development of Canada's first [National Active Transportation Strategy](#).

On Friday, March 26, I joined Parliamentary Secretary Andy Fillmore for a virtual discussion on active transportation and this strategy with over 150 participants from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Yukon. The discussion was hosted and moderated by Brian Pincott of Vélo Bikes Canada.

We discussed a number of topics, including the importance of ensuring equal access to active transportation infrastructure for all ages and demographics, including for persons with impaired mobility and those in Indigenous communities.

Participants also discussed the scope and design of an active transportation strategy, including support for bike-sharing and e-bike subsidies, cross collaboration between orders of government to improve standards and safety issues, and addressing deterrents to active participation transportation.

Finally, we looked at funding mechanisms for active transportation projects and discussed timelines and action items to move forward with as we develop this strategy.

Celebrating Nowruz

On March 20, Persian, Afghan, Kurdish, Zoroastrian, Bahá'í, Central Asian, and Ismaili communities rang in Nowruz, the Persian New Year which begins on the spring equinox. Although we had to spend this Nowruz safely at home, many were able to continue their joyous celebrations by connecting virtually with family and friends.

[I was happy to set up the traditional Haft-sin table in our Ottawa office and to visit a number of Iranian small businesses earlier in March.](#) I encourage everyone to share your spirit by supporting local businesses that have been particularly hard-hit through the pandemic.

Har Ruz etan Nowrouz, Nowruz etan Pyrouz!

Standing Up Against Anti-Asian Racism

This past year, we have seen a dramatic rise in acts of harassment and violence against Asian-Canadians and Asian communities across Canada. Between 2019 and 2020, the Vancouver Police Department saw a rise of 717% in reported cases of Anti-Asian hate crimes. This is abhorrent, and we need to take action.

Anti-Asian discrimination has no place here in our community and anywhere in Canada. I strongly condemn the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, discrimination, and violence and urge everyone to be active bystanders if you witness these acts of ignorance, violence, and unacceptable discriminatory behaviour.

We take pride in our multiculturalism and diversity. Asian Canadians have helped build our country and have contributed to the diverse cultural fabric of our communities. They are our neighbours, doctors, nurses, essential workers, caregivers, family, and friends. If we want to live up to our values, we must stand up, stand united, and work together to stop Anti-Asian racism.

Highlighting Small Businesses in our Community

Small businesses are the heart of the Canadian economy. They are integral parts of our communities, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, providing us with high quality products and services, and leading the entrepreneurial innovation that drives the 21st century economy. During the difficulties of the pandemic, we have also seen their incredible adaptability and the spirit of generosity that has helped our communities support those most affected by the pandemic.

Small Business BC does a fantastic job of highlighting some of the top businesses in our province during their annual [BC Small Business Awards](#), and I would like to share with you 2021 award nominations from our riding, all of which this year are in the Sea to Sky Corridor:

- [Skwalwen Botanicals](#), **Squamish** – founded by ethnobotanist Leigh Joseph, Skwalwen Botanicals is an Indigenous business creating small batch botanical skin care products. Their plant ingredients are harvested in a sustainable and respectful manner. They are nominated for the Premier's People's Choice Award and the Best Community Impact Award.
- [Chiwis Kiwi Chips](#), **Squamish** – founded by nutritionist Sarah Goodman, Chiwis is dedicated to creating 100% natural snack foods that taste amazing and do wonders for the body. They are nominated for the Best Innovation Award
- [Sea to Sky Sourdough BReD Inc.](#), **Whistler** – they are a 100% plant-based, organic sourdough bakery nestled at the base of Whistler mountain. They take pride in stating that they are the only bakery in town that you can ski to. They are nominated for the Best Youth Entrepreneur Award.

Every year Yelp releases a list of their top 100 restaurants in Canada. For the first time, this year Yelp compiled their list with the help of thousands of suggestions from people

this year. Help compiled their list with the help of thousands of suggestions from people across Canada. I am proud to see a number of restaurants in our riding make [Canada's Top 100 Places to Eat in 2021](#).

- **#4 – [The Rimrock Café, Whistler](#)** – Upscale seafood restaurant with an intimate vibe & a large, global wine list plus regional fare.
- **#26 – [Peaked Pies, Whistler](#)** – Bright, Australian-inspired bakery & cafe specializing in meat pies, plus tarts & crumbles.
- **#34 – [Saha Eatery, Squamish](#)** – Saha made its debut in downtown Squamish in 2017 as a place to sample Moroccan and Lebanese flavours.
- **#56 – [The Red Door Bistro, Whistler](#)** – High-end French & fusion fare served in a cozy, refined space with an open kitchen behind the bar.

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