

COVID-19 UPDATE



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

 /TomKmiec
  @TomKmiec
  /TomKmiec
  /TomKmiec

Dear Constituent,

For many weeks now, we have been patiently waiting for good news on a return to a new normal. Around 8.5 million Canadians are on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit with the devastation continuing from the government enforced shutdown of the free economy.

We know that the months ahead will test the grit of Albertans. The re-opening of the economy must happen in stages, and this will be part of the return to a new normal.

As your Member of Parliament, I wanted to provide you with an update on the government's response to COVID-19 to date and the supports that have been put in place for Canadians who need them.

I am working closely with my colleagues in Ottawa to make sure your voice, the views of proud Albertans, continue to be raised in Parliament. Conservatives have focused on putting forward constructive solutions and working collaboratively with the government to ensure that Canadians get the support that they need and that the free market economy can begin to reopen.

Should you have questions or concerns not answered here, please contact my office at Tom.Kmiec@parl.gc.ca or at 403-974-1285.

Better days are yet to come.

In your service,
Tom Kmiec

Tom Kmiec, M.P.

GET IN TOUCH

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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Prevent the spread.

 **FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON COVID-19, VISIT:**
WWW.TOMKMIEMP.CA/COVID-19



TOWN HALL
LIVE



ASK ME ANYTHING

WITH TOM KMIEMP

HAVE QUESTIONS?

I host regular online live town halls where constituents can ask me anything and I'll do my best to answer. Tune in!


 /TomKmiec



COVID-19 SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Note: Information on support programs and services changes often. This information is current as of May 5th, 2020



SUPPORT FOR WORKERS

- ✦ CERB provides a taxable benefit of \$2,000/month for 4 months for Canadians unable to work due to COVID-19
- ✦ The tax return filing due date has been deferred until June 1st
- ✦ Changes to the Employment Standards Code will allow full and part-time employees to take 14 days of job-protected leave if they are required to self-isolate or caring for a child
- ✦ The Canada Child Benefit will be increased. Parents will receive \$300 more per child with their regular May CCB payment.
- ✦ The government will announce a temporary salary top-up for low-income essential workers
- ✦ Canadian banks have announced that they will be allowing homeowners to defer their mortgage payments for 6 months



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

- ✦ Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance will lower rent by 75% for businesses that have been affected by COVID-19
- ✦ The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy provides help to Employers by covering 75% of wages
- ✦ The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) provides small businesses with access to a \$40,000 loan through their usual lender, with no payments until 2022
- ✦ The Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) will provide \$40 billion of additional support:
 - ⇒ Small Business Loan: Up to \$100,000 can be obtained online
 - ⇒ Working capital loan: For loans over \$100,000 and can support everyday operations
 - ⇒ Purchase Order Financing: Loans to fulfill domestic or international orders



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- ✦ The Canada Emergency Student Benefit provides \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020
- ✦ For students who choose to volunteer and serve their communities, the Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall
- ✦ Effective March 30, the government is placing a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all student loan borrowers
- ✦ Canada's food supply chains are facing a critical shortage of workers, due to COVID-19. Conservatives have proposed a new program to match students and youth employees with jobs in the agriculture and agri-food sector



SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

- ✦ Reducing the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020
- ✦ On April 29th, it was agreed in Parliament that the government implement measures to provide additional support for seniors in order to assist with extraordinary expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, and examine the best way to do this, including looking at Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement as potential mechanisms
- ✦ The government is contributing \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals' needs and connect them to community supports



Federal government programs
and support are constantly changing.



For the most recent information on
programs and services, visit
www.TomKmiecMP.ca/COVID-19



MY WORK ON YOUR BEHALF

I have been working closely with my conservative colleagues in Ottawa to make sure your voice, the views of proud Albertans, continue to be raised in Parliament. I have also been participating in the smaller sittings of parliament to highlight shortcomings in the government's response to COVID-19 and push the Ottawa Liberals to ensure Canadians and business owners get the help they need.



Conservatives have focused on putting forward constructive solutions to gaps and flaws in the existing financial support measures
Just some of the solutions conservatives have put forth include:

-  ⇒ **FOR SMALL BUSINESS:** The emergency business loan and wage subsidy programs continue to exclude businesses that pay themselves and their employees through dividends. In Parliament I questioned the Minister responsible for small businesses on why these businesses are excluded and what steps are being taken to speed up the process of getting funds to small business owners. Other solutions to fix gaps in the support programs that conservatives have put forward include removing the requirement to have a business account to qualify for the emergency business loan account, and expanding the eligibility criteria for the program to include revenue decline so that more small businesses qualify for the \$40,000 loan. No government program should disincentivize Canadians from working. Importantly, conservatives have been calling on the government to modify the CERB benefit to ensure that workers are not punished for returning to work, whether that be for reduced hours or modified shifts. To provide additional support to small businesses, conservatives have proposed rebating the GST small businesses have collected in the last twelve months.
-  ⇒ **FOR WORKERS:** The initial proposal for the wage subsidy was 10% of payroll, and was amended to 75% once conservatives made suggestions for changes. The initial proposal for the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit was for \$2,000 tax-free at source every 4 weeks that prohibited those still working a few hours per week from applying despite perhaps losing a majority of their income. That is now changed thanks to Conservative questioning to allow for \$1,000 to be earned and still be able to apply.
-  ⇒ **FOR SENIORS:** Conservatives are calling on the government to allow seniors a special one-time withdrawal from their RRSP in 2020, which if repaid by December 31, 2023 will be tax-free. We are also calling on the government to waive mandatory RRIF withdrawals until December 31, 2020. We have also championed providing additional support for seniors through increases to Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
-  ⇒ **FOR STUDENTS:** Conservatives were successful in our efforts to require that the government connect all students looking for financial assistance to the Canada Job Bank, providing them with job availability information before they are able to apply for government benefits. Conservatives have also proposed a new program to match students and youth employees with jobs in the agriculture and agri-food sector, as Canada's food supply chains continue to face a critical shortage of workers.
-  ⇒ **FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS:** Conservatives have been calling on the government to fast-track Health Canada approvals for new drugs and tests. Many tests continue to be stalled and delayed by the federal government's slow review process. My colleagues and I are also pushing the government to make sure that front-line healthcare workers have the personal protective equipment that they need.

RETURN SURVEY POSTAGE FREE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

RATE MY PERFORMANCE AS YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

RIGHT TRACK

WRONG TRACK

UNSURE

HOW CAN I BEST REPRESENT YOUR CONCERNS IN PARLIAMENT AS WE RELAUNCH OUR ECONOMY:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____



JOIN MY e-NEWSLETTER

For the latest updates on my work representing you in Ottawa, sign up to receive my monthly e-newsletter direct to your inbox.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CANADIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

A \$500 PER WEEK BENEFIT FOR 16 WEEKS. **YOU QUALIFY IF:**

- 🍁 You are without employment or self-employment income due to the economic shutdown.
- 🍁 You earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 from employment income.
- 🍁 You have no income or are making less than \$1,000/month (before taxes)
- 🍁 You have exhausted your EI benefits and cannot return to work or find a job

Apply for CERB through your My CRA or My Service Canada account, **not both.**

For more information on how to apply, visit:

www.TomKmiecMP.ca/COVID-19



KNOW YOUR PROVINCIAL HEALTH CONTACTS.

- ⇒ Call **811** for all health inquiries
- ⇒ Alberta Government General COVID-19 Hotline: **310-0000**
- ⇒ For questions about financial relief, government programs, or services related to COVID-19: **310-4455**
- ⇒ Income Support Contact Centre: **1-866-644-5135**
- ⇒ Mental Health Support Line: **1-877-303-2462**
- ⇒ Health Canada COVID-19 Hotline: **1-833-784-4397**

DONATE!

The need for blood continues.

Please consider donating blood today.

WWW.BLOOD.CA



ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC RELAUNCH

We know that the re-opening of the economy must happen in stages, and businesses will be returning to new normal operations.

The Alberta government continues to announce how and when we will begin reopening parts of the economy on an ongoing basis:

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES HERE:

www.TomKmiecMP.ca/RELAUNCH



1. DETATCH



RETURN, POSTAGE FREE,
NO ENVELOPE REQUIRED

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2. FOLD



3. TAPE