

Question Period Summary for Wednesday, July 8, 2020/Sommaire de la période de questions du mercredi 8 juillet 2020

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Hello,

Please see below for a summary of today's meeting of the Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic (COVI).

QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO THE HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Health-related questions focused on travel restrictions, public delivery of healthcare and LTC, PPE production, Health Canada's approval process, and the opioid crisis.

Emmanuella Lambropoulos (LPC): Asked what the GoC is doing to protect health of Canadians as it relates to travel regulations.

Patty Hajdu (LPC): Replied that the GoC encourages Canadians to avoid non-essential travel. Added that Canada is making progress in flattening the curve, but cases are rising at astronomical rates in some countries. Said that the GoC continues to advise Canadians to stay home. Added that the GoC's advice will continue to evolve over the course of the pandemic.

Daniel Blaikie (NDP): Said that the MB government is planning to invest in private clinics. Asked what the GoC is doing to promote the public delivery of services. Added that for-profit LTC homes have been shown to have poorer health outcomes. Asked if the GoC would remove profit from the LTC system.

Patty Hajdu (LPC): Replied that the GoC will always stand up for access to health care through the *Canada Health Act*. Said that the GoC will support PTs to ensure seniors can live in dignity and safety. Added that the GoC has invested over \$4 billion in home care across PTs.

Nelly Shin (CPC): Asked if the GoC would prioritize domestic production and supply chains for PPE.

Anita Anand (LPC): Replied that the GoC has placed priority on domestic production and over half of the face shields being distributed to PTs are made in Canada. Added that Canada is well on its way to becoming self-sufficient in terms of PPE production.

Philip Lawrence (CPC): Asked what the average delay is for Health Canada to license hand sanitizers. Asked if the PMO favours expedited approvals for certain companies over others.

Patty Hajdu (LPC): Replied that the average time for approval is one to seven days and that there are many degrees of separation between Health Canada's regulators and politicians.

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Kerry-Lynne Findlay (CPC): Asked if Health Canada would work with the FDA and other foreign health authorities to streamline Health Canada's approval process for medications to treat ALS and cystic fibrosis. Also asked what else Health Canada is doing to expedite approvals.

Patty Hajdu (LPC): Replied that the GoC is focused on the accessibility and affordability of medications. Added that the GoC is ready to work with the manufacturer of Trikafta and that they are encouraged to apply to market Trikafta in Canada.

Marc Dalton (CPC): Asked what actions the GoC is taking to address the opioid overdose crisis.

Patty Hajdu (LPC): Replied that the GoC has been working hard to address this issue and will continue to do so.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Andrew Scheer (CPC): Asked about WE Charity's involvement in administering the student grant program, and whether the PM would waive privileges and cabinet confidences for the Ethics Commissioner's investigation. Asked about WE's real estate holdings.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ): Asked about Air Canada's service in Quebec.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP): Asked about increasing taxes on the wealthy and ending the use of offshore tax havens. Asked about targeted financial support for people living with disabilities. Asked if the PM would commit to a review of wellness checks conducted by police.

Pierre Poilievre (CPC): Asked if anyone in the PMO discussed the contract with WE directly. Asked if the GoC would table the list of other organizations that were considered to administer the student grant program.

G rard Deltell (CPC): Asked about Canada's bid for a seat on the UN security council. Asked about the unemployment rate. Asked about incentives for returning to work while collecting CERB. Asked whether the GoC's emergency relief programs would be modified to reflect the current phase of economic recovery.

David Sweet (CPC): Asked what measures the GoC has taken to protect the human rights of Uighurs in China as well as child labourers in the DRC. Asked what steps the GoC has taken to welcome refugees from Hong Kong as well as assist Canadians living in Hong Kong.

Garnett Genuis (CPC): Asked if the GoC would acknowledge that China is committing genocide against Uighur Muslims. Asked if the GoC would impose sanctions on China.

James Cumming (CPC): Asked about financial support for the energy sector. Asked about funding for the CEBA program. Asked if the Emergency Wage Subsidy program would be extended. Asked when the GoC would provide an economic recovery plan.

Pat Kelly (CPC): Asked about interest payments on Canada's debt. Asked about the increase in the cost to service Canada's debt resulting from the downgrading of its credit rating. Asked about funding for the Office of the Auditor General.

Ken Hardie (LPC): Asked what the GoC has done to improve community outcomes and create jobs in BC.

Leah Gazan (NDP): Asked about CERB clawbacks and commercial rent assistance.

Ted Falk (CPC): Asked how the GoC planned to safely restore CRA's services. Asked about the enforcement of removal orders.

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Nelly Shin (CPC): Asked about restrictions on Chinook salmon fishing. Asked about funding for ethnic media.

Colin Carrie (CPC): Asked about victims of crime participating in parole hearings. Asked about the GoC's recovery strategy for the travel industry.

Arnold Viersen (CPC): Asked about AB's unemployment rate. Asked how many years have passed since AB has received a net equalization payment. Asked if the GoC would remove the cap on the Fiscal Stabilization Program.

Kerry-Lynne Findlay (CPC): Asked about improving railway infrastructure and safety in her riding.

Chris Lewis (CPC): Asked if the GoC would provide targeted financial support to businesses in his riding.

Elizabeth May (GP): Asked if the GoC would allow virtual voting to pass legislation remotely. Asked about restricting non-essential travel across the US border.

Lindsay Mathysen (NDP): Asked if the GoC would commit to establishing a universal childcare program.

Scott Duvall (NDP): Asked about improvements to the Wage Earner Protection Program.

Kristina Michaud (BQ): Asked if the GoC would invest in regional airlines in QC and eliminate subsidies to Air Canada. Asked when Service Canada would resume services in their regional offices.

Marc Dalton (CPC): Asked about funding for businesses in his riding. Asked about consequences for Americans who violate travel restrictions by coming to Canada for non-essential travel.

FUTURE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The House of Commons then proceeded to a Take Note Debate on the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Minister of Finance began this debate by providing the House with an Economic Update.

The House will meet again on July 22 (in a hybrid sitting) at noon to continue the proceedings of the Special Committee on COVID-19.

Regards,

Chris Wilton

Executive Assistant | Adjoint Exécutif

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