

**PM speaking notes for 16th October presser**  
16 October 2020

Bonjour à tous. Good morning, everyone.

I am pleased to be here with Dr. Tam and Dr. Njoo.

Minister LeBlanc is also joining us virtually.

And Minister Rodriguez is also with us to answer questions about parliamentary developments.

[Pause]

Fighting COVID-19 is a Team Canada effort.

Right from day one, we've been working with all orders of government to keep people safe. And during this second wave, that's exactly what we'll continue to do.

Yesterday, I had my 20th First Ministers' Meeting with the Premiers to discuss what Canadians need for the weeks and months to come.

[Pause]

To begin with, it's vital that frontline workers have access to personal protective equipment.

To date, the federal government has shipped almost 190 million pieces of PPE to the provinces and territories.

At the same time, we're providing support staff who can make over 14,000 contact tracing calls a day.

We're also ramping up our testing at national labs across the country to help the provinces and territories with their surge capacity.

In this second wave, just like in the first, our government stands ready to help partners across the country keep Canadians safe.

[Pause]

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[Pause]

COVID-19 isn't just a health crisis - it's an economic one too.

Workers and businesses across the country need support during this tough time. The fact is that the second wave has the potential to hit people really hard. So we're going to keep stepping up to help.



Last week, I announced that we were creating the new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, which provides direct rent support to tenants.

This is in addition to the extension of the wage subsidy, and the expansion of the Canada Emergency Business Account.

These programs have been – and will continue to be – a lifeline for small business owners. Just take Amarjeet Chandok [Shan-DUK], who owns Taza Xpress in Brampton.

When the pandemic first hit, Amarjeet worried about whether his business would survive.

By using the wage subsidy, the rent support program, and the Canada Emergency Business Account, he was able to keep his employees on the payroll, and keep the lights on.

We'll continue to be there for people like Amarjeet, and for small businesses right across the country that create good jobs and make our communities stronger.

[Pause]

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This is in addition to the extension of the wage subsidy and the expansion of the Canada Emergency Business Account.

These programs have been—and will continue to be—a lifeline for small business owners.

These businesses create good jobs and exist at the heart of our communities.

[Pause]

In our fight against COVID-19, we need all the tools we can get.

With over 4.5 million downloads to date, the free COVID Alert app is a powerful way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

If you download the app, and come into contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 and also has the app, it will alert you to get tested.

This helps you do your part to stop the transmission of the virus.

That's why 8 provinces now have the app. And we'll continue to work with Alberta and B.C. to get them to come on board too.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to go the App Store or Google Play and get the COVID Alert app for free.

[Pause]

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With over 4.5 million downloads to date, the free COVID Alert app is a powerful way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

The process is very simple and protects your privacy.

If you download the app, and come into contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 and also has the app, it will alert you to get tested.

After receiving the alert, you can then go to a screening centre and isolate yourself while waiting for your result.

This application helps you do your part to stop the transmission of the virus.

The app is now fully operational in eight provinces, and discussions are ongoing with British Columbia and Alberta.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to go the App Store or Google Play and get the COVID Alert app for free.

[Pause]



We must keep taking the fight against COVID-19 seriously. This pandemic is still a very real threat.

For several weeks, you've been hearing me, the Premiers, and public health officials urging everyone to double down on what we know works to flatten the curve and beat the second wave.

Frankly, the numbers are still too high. And that has real consequences.

- Our frontline workers are at risk.
- Our parents and grandparents in long-term care facilities are at risk.
- And our loved ones who have pre-existing health conditions are at risk.

For businesses, many of which had just gotten back on the road to recovery, the second wave has pushed them to the brink once again.

This is very serious. But we have the power to turn things around.

So let's all keep doing our part for each other, and for the people that we love.

[Pause]

We must keep taking the fight against COVID-19 seriously.  
Unfortunately, this pandemic is still a very real threat.

For several weeks, you've been hearing me, the Premiers, and public health officials urging everyone to fortify what we know works to flatten the curve and beat the second wave.

Frankly, the numbers are still too high. And that has real consequences for the following people:

- Our front-line workers are at risk.
- Our parents and grandparents in long-term care facilities are at risk.
- And our loved ones who have pre-existing health conditions are at risk.

For businesses, many of which had just gotten back on the road to recovery, the second wave has pushed them to the brink once again.

I understand your concern.

But we have the power to turn things around.

So let's all keep doing our part for each other, and for the people that we love.

[Pause]

This morning, I spoke with Prime Minister Pashinyan of Armenia to express our concern about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

I told him that Canada will continue to work extremely hard with our allies to put an end to the violence.

I encourage all sides to engage in dialogue to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. This was echoed by Minister Champagne on his trip to Europe, which is wrapping up today.

Minister Champagne's trip included a week of meetings with our allies to discuss the global fight against COVID-19.

He also had talks about how we can find meaningful ways to support democracy in Belarus.

Today, Minister Champagne met with opposition leader Sviatlana [SPET-LANA] Tsikhanouskaya [SIKA-NOS-KYAH] to show our support for her, and for the people of Belarus.



We will continue to work with our international partners to ensure that the people of Belarus have their voices are heard.

[Pause]

I just want to finish by saying happy birthday to my son Xav, who is turning 13 this weekend.

Like a lot of families, we're going to find creative ways to celebrate safely this year without the usual party. And I want to wish a happy birthday to all kids celebrating this week!

Thank you.

I will now turn it over to Minister LeBlanc.