

**PM remarks for the May 3 COVID-19 update**

3 May 2020

Good day, everybody.

I want to start by recognizing that today marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

As we remember the sailors, soldiers, and pilots who helped turn the tide of the Second World War, we honour all our veterans who stepped forward so we may live in peace.

We think of the brave women and men who serve today, and we mourn the six heroes we lost just last week.

To their loved ones, to those serving on HMCS  
Fredericton, and to all CAF members - I want to once  
again offer the deepest condolences of all Canadians.

[Pause]

Over the last four months, Canada has faced challenge  
and heartbreak on a scale we could never have expected.

So if you're feeling overwhelmed - that's  
understandable. If you need support - that's ok.

In April, we launched Wellness Together Canada, a website where you can find people to talk to if you're in crisis.

And today, we're taking another step forward.

Our government is investing over \$240 million to bring healthcare online.

We're expanding existing online tools, and creating new virtual platforms for mental health and primary care.

Let me start with the new platform for mental health.

Whether you're looking for strategies to manage stress, or support from a professional, this will be a resource for you.

And if you're part of a marginalized community and you need specialized tools, there will be specific help for you as well.

[Pause]

If we can provide mental health support online, there's no reason we can't leverage technology in other areas of healthcare, too.

This \$240 million will also include funding for virtual care, for times when you don't need to see a doctor in person.

Just take videoconferencing.

By helping doctors run appointments online, you can stay safe at home while getting care, and our hospitals can stay focused on those who need it most.

If we can use apps to order dinner and videochats to stay in touch with family - we can use new technology to keep each other healthy.

Today, our government is investing over \$240 million to bring health care online.

This investment will allow us to expand access to services and provide more resources for Canadians.

Among other things, the funding will be used to create an online platform that will offer numerous mental health services.

It's money that will also allow us to provide a wider range of virtual care services, for times when you don't need to see a doctor in person.

Offering online services means we can reach more people and reduce the pressure on our healthcare system.

And since we're all practising physical distancing these days, now is the time to invest in these solutions.

[Pause]

To beat COVID-19, we have to think outside the box.

When Canadian researchers have a solid lead, we need to make sure they can follow it up.

That's exactly what we've been doing over the last two months, and we're starting to see real results.

Today, I can announce that we are investing over \$175 million to support Canadian company AbCellera for their very promising COVID-19 research.



They've identified antibodies that could be used in drugs to treat this virus.

This new funding will help them continue their vital work, and will support human trials beginning as early as July.

But until we have effective treatments - or better yet a vaccine - we'll still need a reliable supply of everything from masks to ventilators.



Later today, Minister Anand will announce the details of a new COVID-19 Supply Council.

This council will be tasked with finding innovative solutions to ensure our country continues to have the vital supplies necessary to keep Canadians safe.

[Pause]

We are going to invest more than \$175 million to support the Canadian company AbCellera for their very promising research.

The company is currently trying to identify antibodies that could be used to develop drugs to treat this virus.

Our investment will allow the company to continue its research and, at the same time, will support clinical trials as early as July.

Later today, Minister Anand will announce the details of a new COVID-19 Supply Council.

This council will be tasked with finding innovative solutions to ensure that we always have the equipment we need, such as masks and hand sanitizer.

[Pause]

I want to end today by talking to families.

To parents - I know this is a tough time to be raising kids.

Right now, you should be able to focus on keeping your family safe, not worrying about the bills.

So this May, you'll get more help through the Canada Child Benefit.

When you receive this month's payment, you'll see an extra \$300 per child.

For families with 2 kids that means an extra \$600, for 3 kids an extra \$900, and so on.

This is money for whatever you need, whether it's online tutoring or groceries.

And to all the kids out there - I know things are hard for you, too.

- You probably miss your friends, and it's not easy to do schoolwork online.
- But this isn't going to last forever.
- So keep planning fun things to do with your friends once this is over.
- Keep up on your homework.
- And remember - we're going to get through this.

[Pause]



If you're a parent, we're putting more money in your pocket this month.

You'll see, when your Canada Child Benefit comes in, you're going to receive an extra \$300 per child.

For families with two kids that means an extra \$600, for three kids an extra \$900 and so on, to support yourselves, whether it's for online tutoring or groceries.

It's tough for families these days.

So we're giving parents a hand so as to make things easier for them.

But I know it's hard on the kids, too.

You miss your friends.

You want to be outside and go to the park.

I know you can't wait for this to be over.

The good news is that we've come a long way in the last few weeks, but we need to keep going.

If everyone does their part, we'll get through this.

Thank you.