

PM speaking notes for the June 26th presser

26 June 2020

Bonjour tout le monde. Hello everyone.

Today I'm with Lon Ladell at Big Rig Brewery in Kanata, and our MP for Kanata-Carleton, Karen McCrimmon.

Last time I was here was with President Obama, and it's great to be back.

[Pause]

Now, when the pandemic first started, Big Rig took a big hit.

They had to close their doors, and let go of almost all their staff.

Eventually, Lon was able to start hiring back some of his team, and they wasted no time adapting to the new normal.

They set up an online shop with the help of Shopify, and started making home deliveries. But

Lon and his team wanted to do more for their community and our frontline workers.

So, they started making hand sanitizer for local community organisations that do really important work in the region like the Kanata Food Bank, Shepherds of Good Hope, and Chrysalis House.

To keep up with a growing demand for hand sanitizer, food, and beer, Big Rig used the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to hire back almost all members of their staff.

And to save money on rent, they also used the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance.

Big Red is one of the thousands of companies across the country stepping up to help their workers and community during this tough time.

Programs like the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance are there to help them get back on their feet.

We also launched the Canada Emergency Business Account to help small businesses get a loan to bridge to better times.

We recently expanded the eligibility for this program to include even more small businesses, like farmers, and as of today, the expanded CEBA will be available through the major banks.

We are actively working with other lenders, including credit unions, to make sure small businesses have access to the help they need.

As we move into the summer, Canadians can keep counting on our support.

[Pause]

We are entering a new stage of the crisis and all levels of government are working together to ensure that Canadians can return to work safely.

Last night, the Premiers, the Deputy Prime Minister and I held our 15th weekly call.

One of the things discussed was our government's proposal to provide \$14 billion to address the most urgent needs over the next few months.

This money could be used to keep children safe in daycare, speed up contact tracing and buy more personal protective equipment.

As we begin to reopen the economy, we must ensure that Canadians have everything they need to protect their health and the health of their families.

The Premiers and I have also talked about the border restrictions and the need for caution as we move into the summer.

COVID-19 is still a threat to our health.

That is why our government will continue to work closely with the provinces and territories to support people during this difficult time.

I would now like to provide an update on the presence of our Canadian Armed Forces deployed in Quebec and Ontario.

I want to start by thanking our CAF members for stepping up once again in our time of need.

Since April, our men and women in uniform have done great work helping stabilize the situation in long-term care facilities.

As of today, our members remain active in 1 facility in Ontario and we anticipate that they will be ready to leave in the coming days, once the situation is stable.

In Quebec, our Canadian Armed Forces members have done a remarkable job since their arrival in the field on April 20. Our troops have helped stabilize things in a total of 47 facilities and I want to take a moment to thank them for their help.

But our members have not completed their mission. They will be stabilizing another 4 facilities over the next few days.

Overall, the situation in Quebec's long-term care facilities has greatly improved. The needs are not what they were two months ago.

That is why, over the past few weeks, we have been working with Quebec to develop a transition plan that will allow us to transfer current operations from military personnel to civilian personnel.

Today I can announce that it will be done with the help of the Canadian Red Cross.

The Red Cross will be coming to help until September 15.

A few weeks ago, our government gave \$100 million to the Red Cross, which will enable them to provide 900 people ready to serve in Quebec's long-term care facilities. An initial 300 will be deployed by July 6 and an additional 600 will start by July 29.

The arrival of the Red Cross will therefore allow our Armed Forces to return to their usual duties, once they have completed the required isolation period. Between now and September 15, we will still keep the teams ready to respond quickly to emergencies.

Canadians can count on our support.

[Pause]

I'd like to end today by recognising that this is a time when many of us would be heading to a Pride celebration.

But Pride is about so much more than a parade.

It's a space where people can feel safe to be their authentic self.

It's also a chance to take stock not only how far we've come as a society, but how far we still have to go.

Because there's still so much more work to be done to ensure greater rights, protections, and inclusion of all LGBTQ2 people.

I know that many of you are disappointed that you can't get together this year, but I hope that you all still get to celebrate in your own way.

And to the kids out there who are worried about not being accepted for who they are: I want you to know that we're here for you, that we support you, and that we will always stand by you.

To the young people who are listening to us and who are afraid of not being accepted for who they are: We are here for you, we want to help you, and we will always be with you.

Thank you.