

PM speaking notes for the October 13 COVID update

13 October 2020

Hello, everyone.

Bonjour tout le monde.

It's good to be here this morning with Dr. Tam and Dr. Njoo, as well as Minister LeBlanc who's joining us virtually.

I want to start this morning by addressing the unacceptable threats that were sent to a Toronto mosque over the weekend.

Islamophobia and right-wing extremism have no place in our country or our communities.

We must always stand united against hate and intolerance of any kind.

[Pause]

I would also like to come back to the tragedy that occurred in Wendake over the weekend.

My thoughts are with the relatives of the young victims of this terrible tragedy, and with the people of the Wendake community.

We need to get to the bottom of what happened.

These young children had their lives ahead of them, and we are all shaken by the situation.

[Pause]

We find ourselves in unusual circumstances.

Thanksgiving weekend has just ended and many were unable to gather with their loved ones as they would have liked.

But despite the difficulties caused by this global crisis, Canadians are more united than ever.

In the spring, we flattened the curve by doing our part.

This fall, I know we can do the same thing.

By continuing to download the free COVID Alert app—as 4.3 million people have already done—by wearing our masks and keeping our distance, we will flatten the curve again and get through this pandemic.

And as you work hard to help your loved ones and your community, you can count on your government to be there by your side.

[Pause]

With rising COVID-19 cases, quick and accurate testing, deployed with the right strategy, has become more important than ever.

That's why our government has been working around the clock with the provinces and territories to boost their testing capacity, while at the same time securing the world's best rapid testing technology.

These efforts are paying off.

(As Minister Anand announced, Canada recently secured up to 28.4 million rapid tests from Abbott.

And on that front in particular, we're continuing to move forward.

Shortly, the federal government will be sending these new rapid tests - Abbott Panbio and Abbott ID NOW - to the provinces and territories.

Both of these new testing technologies are quick and reliable, so we're getting them out to the frontlines as soon as possible.

[Pause]

Our government is also continuing to provide surge support on processing tests, including for Ontario.

And for the First Nations communities of Kasabonika [casa-BONE-ick-ah] and Pikangikum [pih-CAN-ji-come], National Microbiology Lab employees are on the ground with testing kits.

It is vital that these communities - with cases of COVID-19 - have the necessary testing capacity to control the spread of the virus and keep people safe.

[Pause]

From day one, we have worked with the provinces and territories to protect the most vulnerable.

Moving forward, that is what we will continue to do.

Soon, more Canadian Red Cross support will be deployed to a number of long-term care facilities.

Seniors must be safe and well-cared for, and our government stands ready to help provincial counterparts in that work.

This is a point I will continue to make with Premiers at our twentieth First Ministers Meeting on Thursday.

Our government is working tirelessly to purchase new rapid screening tests, distribute them to the provinces and territories and provide emergency support in communities to process the results.

Progress on vaccines is also continuing.

Late last week, Health Canada received an application for authorization for the vaccine candidate from Pfizer and Bio-N-Tech.

As with AstraZeneca's application two weeks ago, this is another step towards a safe and effective vaccine for Canadians.

And on that note, I would also like to remind everyone to get a flu shot this fall.

That is a good way to protect yourself, while helping hospitals and testing clinics focus on fighting COVID-19 without getting distracted by the flu.

[Pause]

Our top priority is keeping you - and your family - healthy and safe.

That means protecting you from this virus, and also means ensuring you have the support you need to weather this storm.

Yesterday, applications opened for the new Canada Recovery Benefit.

The CRB provides \$500 each week, for up to 26 weeks, for people who are self-employed or don't qualify for Employment Insurance.

Since yesterday morning, over 240,000 applications have been received.

If you need this help but haven't applied yet, go to CRA's My Account through Canada.ca, or call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041.

The application process is simple.

In fact, if you used the CERB, it's very similar.

Our government will continue to do everything we can to support people through this crisis, whatever it takes, as long as it takes.

- If you get COVID-19 and aren't covered at work - the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit is there for you.
- If a family member gets sick and you need to care for them - look to the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.
- If you're affected by COVID-19 - we've strengthened Employment Insurance to be there for you.
- And if you can't access EI - the Canada Recovery Benefit is able to help.

For business owners, there's more support, too.

This crisis has been very difficult for businesses across the country.

So we're strengthening major programs we created that have been a lifeline for them.

On Friday, we outlined the new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, an expanded Canada Emergency Business Account, and the extension of the wage subsidy.

The new rent subsidy will provide support to businesses directly, not through landlords.

And the CEBA includes an additional \$10,000 forgivable loan.

We'll also work to help businesses that temporarily shut down because of local public health directions.

Canadian businesses create jobs and drive our economy, and we'll continue to be there for them.

[Pause]

Many people are back at work, but many are still affected by the crisis.

We have therefore strengthened Employment Insurance to support you.

As of yesterday, self-employed workers and those who do not qualify for Employment Insurance can apply for the new Canada Recovery Benefit.

This benefit is \$500 per week, for a maximum of 26 weeks.

If you need it, but have not applied for it yet, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's My Account page through Canada.ca or call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041.

The application process is simple.

In fact, if you applied for CERB in the past, you will find that the procedure is very similar.

If you get COVID-19 and are not covered at work, or if a family member gets sick and you need to care for them, there are also the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit to help you.

There is also more support for business owners.

Last Friday, expanded measures for rent, wages and interest-free loans were introduced, as well as targeted measures for businesses affected by local public health authority guidelines.

Canadian businesses create jobs and stimulate our economy, and they can count on us.

[Pause]

We're all waiting for the moment when this pandemic is over:

For the time when we can once again have a big family dinner, go to a crowded festival, or just have life return to normal.

Those days will be back, but only if we all keep doing our part.

The numbers are still rising.

This is the time to double down on our efforts to stop the spread.

Our loved ones, our vulnerable family members, our frontline workers - they're counting on us to do the right thing.

So follow public health guidelines and wear a mask.

Keep your distance and join the over 4.3 million people who have already download the free COVID Alert app.

Together, we will get through this.

Thank you.