

**PM speaking notes for the June 1 COVID-19 update**  
1 June 2020

Good morning, everyone.

I want to start by addressing the situation that's unfolding south of the border, which is also having an impact here at home.

For far too many Canadians, the images and stories coming out of the US are all too familiar.

As a country, we can't pretend that racism doesn't exist here.

We can't pretend that it's someone else's problem.

Anti-black racism is real.

Unconscious bias is real.

Systemic discrimination is real.

And it happens here, in Canada.

Over the weekend, we saw thousands of people gather across the country to join peaceful protests against anti-black racism.

By standing together - and denouncing the few who would try to derail these demonstrations - Canadians are sending the message that they will never tolerate injustice.

To young Black Canadians:

- I hear you when you say that you are anxious and angry
- When you say that this brings back painful experiences of racism that you've faced
- I want you to know that I am listening
- Your government will stand with you
- Together, we will keep taking meaningful action to fight racism and discrimination in every form

The status quo - where people face violence because of the colour of their skin - is unacceptable.

No parent should have to once again explain to their kids, that they, or their friends, might face racism.

It is time - it is past time - for this to change.

As leaders and as allies, we must do the hard work needed to listen and learn.

We must ensure that everyone is safe and respected.

That includes journalists, who need to be able to do their work on the frontlines to expose the truth and tell the stories we need to hear.

And we must, as Canadians, always keep working to build a better, more equitable country for all.

[Pause]

For far too many Canadians, what is going on across the border right now is a familiar scene.

Racism against Blacks, systemic discrimination, injustice—it's here too.

Over the weekend, we saw thousands of people gather across the country to join peaceful protests against racism.

By standing together—and denouncing those who are as always trying to disrupt these protests—Canadians are sending a message that they will not tolerate injustice.

I want to address young Black Canadians:

I hear you.

I hear your worry, your anger, your grief.

I can hear you when you say that this brings back painful experiences of racism and discrimination that you've faced.

I am listening to you.

Our government is here for you.

And we take action to fight racism and hate in every form.



The status quo where people face violence because of the colour of their skin is unacceptable.

No parent should have to once again explain to their kids that they, or their friends, might face racism.

As leaders and allies, we must ensure that everyone is safe and treated with respect.

That includes journalists, who need to be able to do their work on the frontlines to expose the truth and tell the stories we need to hear.

And we must, as Canadians, keep working together, to build a better, more equitable country for all.

[Pause]

It has been a very difficult spring for many people.

And although the path forward won't be easy, things will get better.

Over the last month, we have started to see promising signs that the curve is beginning to flatten in Canada.

Now, the situation remains very serious, but the more we can control the spread of the virus, the more we can begin restarting.

In many parts of the country, this is already happening.

In others, where the situation remains more uncertain, steps are being taken more slowly.

Each province and territory will have its own approach.

But as we move forward with restarting the economy, we must keep working together.

[Pause]

On Thursday, as part of our weekly call, I spoke to the Premiers about our collaboration on the path ahead.

I am working closely with them - just like with Mayors and other leaders - on what this approach should include.

Because there are a whole range of issues that will require us to take action together.

As I've said before, to keep Canadians safe, to give businesses the confidence to reopen their doors and people the confidence to walk through those doors, we need to cooperate on country-wide testing and contact tracing.

On this front, we are making good progress.

At the same time, our government is ready to be a partner for the provinces and territories in supporting vulnerable people, securing personal protective equipment, and working on childcare, to name a few.

In other words, we are ready to be a partner in a safe, effective restart of the economy.

And today, we're demonstrating a first step forward, with support for municipalities as they face a cash crunch.

[Pause]

From testing clinics to programs for seniors, cities and towns provide essential services.

So it's crucial they have the resources they need.

In response to COVID-19, we will make available \$2.2 billion for municipalities in the coming weeks, through their yearly federal support with the Gas Tax Fund.

Normally, municipalities receive these payments in two instalments, but we know that cities and towns need this money right away as they deal with COVID-19.

That's why we're making the full 2020/2021 payment available now.

Minister McKenna has sent letters to all of her provincial and territorial counterparts to outline how this accelerated process will work.

But here's the bottom line:

This is support to keep Canadians safe and our communities strong.



And it's support that will give businesses the confidence to reopen, getting hardworking Canadians back on the job.

This is a start.

We know there's more to be done to support municipalities, and to support the entire reopening process.

In the days and weeks to come, we'll keep working with the provinces and territories on this, and on a whole range of other measures.

[Pause]

Now more than ever, we're going to have to work together to get the economy moving again.

Our government will therefore continue to work with its partners to address the crisis, particularly with respect to contact tracing and testing.

We are also ready to be a partner for the provinces and territories in supporting vulnerable people, securing personal protective equipment, and working on issues such as childcare.

We are ready to work together to ensure a safe recovery.

That is why, today, we are taking a first step forward by providing support for municipalities as they face a cash crunch.

[Pause]

Today, I am announcing \$2.2 billion in annual federal funding to municipalities in the coming weeks.

Normally, municipalities receive these payments in two instalments, but we know they need this money now so they can continue to provide essential services.

We will therefore make a single payment for 2020–2021 available now.

Minister McKenna has sent letters to her provincial and territorial counterparts to outline how this accelerated process will work.

But here's the bottom line:

This investment is being made so that municipalities can continue to keep Canadians safe.

We are supporting services that will help businesses reopen and get people back on the job.

We are also looking at other ways to support the vital work that cities and municipalities across the country do.

[Pause]

There is still a lot to do to get our communities up and running again, to get our businesses open again, and to get people back to work.

But I know that we can do it, together.

Thank you.