

PM remarks for the June 17 COVID-19 update
17 June 2020

Good morning, everybody.

Before we get started, I want to recognize the great work that all of Team Canada has done ahead of today's United Nations Security Council vote.

We're running for the Security Council seat because we saw a unique opportunity to engage with our partners across the UN, to build sustainable peace, and to make real progress on the issues that matter.

Around the world, people want many of the same things:

Clean air, a real shot at success, a fair economy, and a just society.

And to make that happen, we have to work together.

Today, and every day, that's something our government is ready to do.

[Pause]

At the beginning of the year, I don't think anyone could have predicted what the coming months would hold.

COVID-19 is a truly unprecedented challenge.

And right from the start, it was clear that we needed to put everything we had on the table in response.

So that's exactly what our government did.

[Pause]

In the space of a few weeks, we introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

We created loans for small businesses and put in place support for specific sectors that were hardest hit.

We rolled out help for seniors, for students, for families.

And every step of the way, we kept Canadians up to date about what we were doing to respond.

[Pause]

Taken together, we have now introduced the largest economic measures of our lifetime - measures that are helping millions of people.

Because that is what the situation demanded.

[Pause]

Now, as we begin to safely and gradually restart, I know people are wondering what this pandemic will mean for their jobs in the long-run, and what the impact has been on the economy and on our path forward.

We hear that, and we want to make sure that you have the best information possible.

So today, I can announce that in the House of Commons on July 8th, our government will be releasing an economic and fiscal snapshot.

This will give Canadians a picture of where our economy is right now, how our response compares to that of other countries, and what we can expect for the months to come.

Later today, Minister Morneau will formally announce in Parliament that we will be presenting this economic and fiscal snapshot.

[Pause]

From the very beginning of the crisis, we knew that COVID-19 represented an unprecedented challenge for our country.

So our response had to take that into account.

In just a few short weeks, our government has put together a series of measures to help people get through this difficult time.

The Emergency Response Benefit and the
Emergency Wage Subsidy were introduced.

Small business loans have been made available and targeted
support has been provided to those sectors that have been
hardest hit by the crisis.

Whether you are in school or retired, employed or
unemployed - we wanted to be there for you.

[Pause]

As we start to resume some activities, many people are wondering what to expect over the next few months and what the crisis means for our economy.

That is why we are announcing today that our government will provide an overview of the economy and public finances on July 8 in the House of Commons.

This will give us an update on the economy, how our response compares to other countries and what we might expect down the road.

Later today, Minister Morneau will inform Parliament of our approach.

[Pause]

Adopting measures to mitigate the impact that the crisis has had on our economy is only part of the challenge.

We are also working very hard to ensure that hospitals and front-line workers have the equipment and materials they need.

And on that note, I have some good news to share with you.

First, our government signed an agreement with Galenus of Montreal to manufacture silica beads, which are essential for screening.

And this week, Health Canada also certified respirators produced by two Canadian groups: CAE and the Ventilators for Canadians consortium.

They will now be able to increase their production to manufacture the 20,000 respirators ordered.

Two years ago, I was at CAE to announce an investment in worker training.

Today, we see why it is so important to support not only our country's talent, but its innovation as well.

[Pause]

Researchers across the country make incredible discoveries every day, from rapid advances in understanding COVID-19 over the last few months, to years-long studies of climate change and cancer treatments.

It's in everyone's interest that they continue doing their vital work.

So today, we're announcing almost \$500 million in funding through NSERC's annual Discovery Grants program.

This money will support thousands of Canadian researchers and their groundbreaking work, whether they're studying viruses, developing AI, or making strides in chemical engineering.

Canadians are innovative and creative, and that's something we'll always support.

[Pause]

This morning, I also want to speak about help for another group of Canadians who do vital work: our fish and seafood producers.

The women and men who work on fishing boats and in processing plants keep our families fed.

But they've been facing some really tough times lately.

That's why in the next week, we're opening applications for two additional programs to support the sector.

[Pause]

As of today, the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund is available to help producers access new markets, reach new customers, and maintain a foothold internationally.

Canada's seafood is among the best in the world and this fund will help spread the word.

On Monday, processors will also be able to apply for help through the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund we created this spring.

The fund will provide support for everything from buying PPE to keep workers safe, to purchasing freezers so products stay good while producers find buyers.

[Pause]

Today's announcement is the reopening of the Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund.

This program will help seafood producers access new markets, serve new customers and maintain an international presence.

And on Monday, processors will also be able to apply for funding under the Canada Seafood Stabilization Fund, which was created earlier this spring.

They can use this support to purchase personal protective equipment, protect their employees or buy freezers to preserve their products if it takes longer than usual to find buyers.

[Pause]

I want to end today with an update on Parks Canada.

For a lot of people, no summer is complete without getting the tent packed, the kids in the car, and the time off to go camping.

Now, because of the pandemic, many campgrounds had to close temporarily.

But the good news is that as of Monday, Parks Canada will gradually start reopening some of their camping sites.

No matter what you're planning this summer - whether it's camping or barbeques - keep following public health recommendations, and keep doing your part to protect the people around you.

Together, we will get through this.

Thank you.