

PM speaking notes for the Quebec Virtual Town Hall

14 October 2020

Welcome

- Good evening, everyone! Thank you for that introduction, Mélanie, and thank you, Veronica, for all your work as president of the Quebec Manufacturers and Exporters.
- Thanks, too, to everyone who is joining us for this virtual conversation. I am eager to hear your questions and suggestions and to discuss them with you.
- As Ms. Joly said, the manufacturing sector occupies a very important position in the economy of Quebec and Canada, and our government is here to support you.
- *Your work powers our economy, including in these difficult times. My friends — thank you.*

COVID-19

- As you know, we are currently facing a second wave of COVID-19.
- We were expecting it, so we were well prepared, but we must keep up our hard work to flatten the curve.
- The best thing to do for our economy is to end this pandemic.
- While we wait for approval of a safe and secure vaccine, everyone is continuing to do their part to slow the virus.
- *Millions of Canadians have already downloaded the COVID Alert app, and that's great because this is a tool to help keep people safe.*
- *Testing is another important tool. Our government is working with the provinces and territories to increase testing capacity and roll out new rapid tests.*
- *Our top priority — for people's health and for the economy — is to keep Canadians safe.*

Supporting businesses

- Ms. Joly often speaks to me about your concerns.
- We are listening.

- The pandemic hit hard, and we quickly created programs to help businesses.
- Last week, we announced that our measures for businesses would be expanded and extended.
- Commercial rent assistance is being adjusted by creating the new **Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy** that goes directly to businesses.
- The subsidy can be as much as 65% for businesses that have lost revenue and as much as 90% for businesses that have temporarily closed as a result of local public health decisions.
- The **wage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible wages** is being extended to December.
- The **Canada Emergency Business Account** is also being adjusted, including by adding \$10,000 in conditionally repayable loans for small businesses that need them.
- There will also be targeted support for businesses that have to temporarily close.
- *We know this second wave will be even harder for those who get hit. That's why our response needs to be targeted and effective.*

Closing

- *After a very tough spring, many businesses are still not back to full capacity, and many more are worried about the uncertainty of a second wave.*
- *On Friday, we learned that 378 000 jobs were added to the economy in September — which represents five straight months of job gains — but there's still more work to be done.*
- We want to hear your ideas, your suggestions and your experience.
- Again, thank you for being here.
- Special thanks to the people who have contributed their expertise to fighting COVID-19 during recent months.
- By working together, we will find solutions to help us get through the crisis.
- I am happy to answer your questions.