

## **Weston King Neighbourhood Centre – Greetings**

I want to begin by acknowledging those who continue to serve York South—Weston during this challenging period. Whether you are frontline staff, an administrator, maintenance staff, or volunteer, you are doing an incredible job. Thank you.

I also am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and the suffering experienced by those in our community, across the country, and around the world.

In the past weeks and months, York South—Weston residents and Canadians across the country have had to grapple with the new reality posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This unprecedented pandemic is a powerful reminder of our interconnectedness.

From the beginning, our federal government has continued to take all necessary health measures and financial support to ensure that those who are most vulnerable in our communities are taken care of. In total, we have invested \$152.7 billion in funding for Canadian workers, families and businesses.

Central to our emergency response plan is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). The CERB provides those who have lost their income as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, \$2,000 every four weeks for up to sixteen weeks. To ensure that businesses have access to capital during this challenging period, this government introduced the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). Businesses can enroll in the CEBA through their financial institutions and receive interest-free loans of up to \$40,000. Repaying the balance of the loan before December 31, 2022, will result in 25 percent of the loan to be forgiven. To help businesses retain their workforce, or rehire their workers, this government introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). Eligible businesses could have 75 percent of their employees' wages covered for 24 weeks retroactive from March 15, 2020.

Community organizations such as the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre are providing essential resources and services for the most vulnerable in our communities. Their mission during this challenging period has not changed. We know that their staff and resources are spread being challenged by the effects of this pandemic. That is why our federal government has provided \$350 million in support through the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) so that non-profit organizations and charities can continue to provide essential services to our communities.

For those who are most vulnerable in our community, our federal government has introduced measures to help them cope with the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Reaching Home Program, our federal government has provided an additional \$157.5 million in support for Canadians experiencing homelessness, and \$50 million in funding for women and children fleeing violence.

My team and I are working remotely to support the constituents of York South—Weston with all federal issues and COVID-19-related concerns. You can reach me by emailing me at [ahmed.hussen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ahmed.hussen@parl.gc.ca) or by calling (416) 656-2526.

