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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Members of City Council
Chambers of Commerce
Media

Date: May 1, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 – Update

SUMMARY

On Monday April 27th, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program opened up for applications. We launched the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund and we released our latest models on the Coronavirus.

UPDATES

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:

As of Monday April the 27th, Canadian business owners across the country were able to begin applying for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, that will cover 75% of an employee's wages and help employers keep their staff on payroll, rehire those previously laid off, ensure workers can access a decent income, and position themselves to rebound when the outbreak has passed.

Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund:

The women and men in the fish and seafood sector are the driving economic force behind many coastal and rural communities, and they are facing unprecedented challenges due to the impact of COVID-19. That's why today, our Government is investing \$62.5M for the new Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund, to help Canada's seafood sector adapt to these current challenges.

These funds will help the industry as they:

- Increase their storage and freezing capacity in order to be able to buy and process more fish and seafood
- Retool their technologies and marketing efforts to meet the changes in consumer demand
- Put in place health and safety measures to minimize risk to workers

This will help stabilize the industry right now by:

- Reducing wasted food
- Supporting access to the retail space and increasing consumers, and;
- Helping protect workers in the industry.

These measures will provide immediate support and help secure the food chain to ensure the sector is well-positioned to return at full strength when the pandemic is over. We know there is still more to do, and we will continue to explore other ways to support harvesters and the industry as we move forward.

COVID-19 Modelling:

Our priority is protecting the health and well-being of Canadians. The Government of Canada continues to work with provincial, territorial and international partners to base our response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the latest science and situational assessment. We continually analyze data and clinical and epidemiological studies as they emerge to determine when public health measures are working and when we may need to do more to control the pandemic.

We are also collaborating with federal, provincial and territorial governments and universities to forecast the possible future spread of COVID-19 in Canada and to estimate a range of possible numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths that may occur in the coming weeks and months.

Based on these models, we can prepare our health system to provide care for the projected number of patients and assess what additional public health measures we may need to change the course of the pandemic in Canada. The models are highly sensitive to our actions. We can all help lower the impact of COVID-19 in Canada, by keeping up our physical distancing efforts. Just as case rates are different across the country, so too are projections about the impacts in various provinces and territories.

Models cannot predict what will happen. But they can help us understand what might happen, which can help us plan and take actions to achieve the best possible outcome. Modelling for COVID-19 requires that we make assumptions based on incomplete data and evolving science. These assumptions change as we get new information about the virus and more data about the pandemic in Canada. We are continually improving the models to provide the best available information to Canadians about possible outcomes.

For More Information:

For more information on help for individuals and businesses, as well as the latest information on COVID-19, please visit Canada.ca/Coronavirus.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all residents, our front-line workers, essential service providers, government partners at all levels, businesses and students, for your ongoing efforts to help in this time of crisis. We are in this together! Your daily efforts are ensuring that we will get through this together. If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.