



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

STEVEN GUILBEAULT

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Winter 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Dear residents of Laurier-Sainte-Marie,

We have faced some particularly difficult challenges in the past year and have united in the face of adversity. We have every reason to be confident about the future as the vaccine rollout continues across the country.

Our Government has done everything possible to protect the health and safety of Canadians while ensuring that they are supported during the COVID-19 crisis.

In response to the emergency, we quickly put in place two flagship measures to assist workers : the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which 8.9 million Canadians have benefited from, and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which has helped maintain 4.4 million Canadian jobs.

As the spokesperson for the Conseil national des chômeurs et chômeuses, Pierre Céré, said, "it's a real 'Social Marshall Plan'", referring to the American aid plan for the reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War. "[...] The plan meets many of the expectations of the various categories of workers previously forgotten by Employment Insurance."

We now continue to work together to limit the social and economic impact of COVID-19.

At Canadian Heritage, I have ensured that the arts and culture sector has adequate support to help it through the crisis. In total, the federal government has provided close to \$5 billion in assistance to workers in the arts, heritage and sports sector, which is a vital part of our economy.

Together with my colleagues at Environment and Infrastructure, I have been working on a green stimulus plan and several environmental initiatives - because the environment must remain a priority, inseparable from our work to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

Locally, I have worked to ensure that seniors, families and community organizations in Laurier-Sainte-Marie have all the help they need and that no one is left behind. But it's not over yet. The work continues.

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In these unprecedented times, people are turning to newspapers, television, radio stations and the Web for factual information from reliable sources. Many of us have also gathered online to listen to our favourite artists who have had to be creative in order to reach their audiences. Thanks to them, we are getting through the health crisis with some comfort.



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Supporting community organizations – a priority

With the pandemic, many community organizations have experienced a significant increase in demand for their services, often working with reduced staff. I worked to ensure employer assistance measures are accessible to not-for-profit organizations. Many organizations in the riding have benefited from the wage subsidy and the emergency account, among other assistance measures.

Food Security and Housing – Essential Fundamentals

The needs are particularly acute in terms of food aid and housing. Our government has established the Emergency Food Security Fund and the Emergency Community Support Fund to support community organizations that provide immediate essential services. COVID-19 has also exacerbated the consequences of the shortage of safe and affordable housing. A \$1.8 billion housing agreement was reached with the Government of Quebec last October.

Supporting our merchants and ensuring the vitality of our neighbourhoods

Laurier–Sainte-Marie businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic. I have observed the impact on businesses in the Plateau–Mont-Royal, the Village and Chinatown, where the drop in traffic has had dramatic consequences for businesses. In recent months, we improved several assistance measures we had put in place, in particular by offering direct assistance to tenant merchants through the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), and we will continue to be there for them.

2021 will be a year of renewal. Let's take care of ourselves and our loved ones, let's help those in need. Let's continue to be there for each other. I am very much looking forward to seeing the people of Laurier–Sainte-Marie again, when that is possible. Until then, my team and I are here for you.

Sincerely,

Steven Guilbeault
Member of Parliament for Laurier–Sainte-Marie
Minister of Canadian Heritage



Chinatown businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic, with a marked decrease in traffic as early as January and February 2020 and unacceptable acts of racism and discrimination targeting the Asian community.

BILL C-10: MODERNIZING THE BROADCASTING ACT

After consultations and the release of an expert report, I introduced Bill C-10 in November, which is designed to modernize the Broadcasting Act. This legislation dates back to 1991, before the rise of the Internet, the ubiquity of smart phones and the domination of web giants. Bill C-10 modernizes the Canadian broadcasting system and makes it fairer by requiring online broadcasters to contribute to the creation, production and promotion of

Canadian stories, whether they are French, English or Indigenous.

The Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo (ADISQ) calls it a "historic moment for Canadian music", while the Association québécoise de la production médiatique (AQPM) calls the bill "a decisive first step for the future of the Canadian audiovisual sector".



Photo Alexandre Tétreault

ONLINE PLATFORMS : TOWARDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ILLEGAL CONTENT

While Bill C-10 is still being debated in Parliament, I am actively working on new regulations, this time targeting online platforms and the hate speech, child pornography and terrorist propaganda that can be found on them.

This new legislation would require these platforms to remove illegal content, while providing victims with an independent, streamlined and safe complaint process. This is a commitment stemming from the mandate letter I received from the Prime

Minister and I intend to fulfill it as soon as possible.

To achieve this, I am working closely with my colleagues at Justice, Public Safety and Women and Gender Equality, among others, as well as with my international counterparts who have taken action or are planning to do so. Our goal is to introduce effective and sustainable regulations to ensure the removal of illegal content and to better protect Canadians.

THE CANADA EMERGENCY RENT SUBSIDY : AN IMPORTANT DIRECT SUPPORT

The small businesses in Laurier–Sainte-Marie, hard hit by the effects of COVID-19, asked us to provide direct rent assistance. We listened.

The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) provides direct, targeted and accessible support to eligible organizations affected by COVID-19 without having to go through their landlord. Businesses, charities and not-for-profit organizations can apply for the grant, which covers up to 65 % of costs, with an additional 25 % for those who must temporarily close their doors due to a public health prescription.

For more information on federal aid measures under Covid-19, visit www.canada.ca/coronavirus or contact my office.



Photo Alexandre Tétreault

TWO BILLION TREES BY 2030 : PLANTING IN THE SPRING

Launched in December, Canada's plan to plant two billion trees over the next 10 years is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12 million tonnes by 2050. This commitment will help Canada fight climate change by reducing carbon pollution. It is a key element in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. This initiative, which represents a 40 % increase in the number of trees planted in Canada on an annual basis, will target both urban and rural areas of the country. Tree planting will begin this spring in urban areas across the country.

CYCLING WILL BE EVEN MORE ACCESSIBLE THIS WINTER!

Those who know me know that I am a cycling enthusiast, no matter what the season is, and I have not changed my mode of transportation much since I was elected.

Cycling is a way to get around that is as efficient as it is safe. Thanks to collaborative efforts with Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, as well as the City of Montreal, we have reached an agreement to clear the snow from the Jacques-Cartier Bridge multifunctional trail and the Lachine Canal trail, which will be open this winter.

With these announcements, we hope that four-season cycling will experience a record winter. It's better to travel by burning calories than oil!

NATIONAL LGBTQ2 SURVEY : TOWARDS A FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

As a first step towards developing a federal LGBTQ2 action plan, our government launched a national LGBTQ2 survey to better understand the realities and experiences of LGBTQ2 people in areas such as employment, health care, housing and homelessness, and safety. Deadline: Sunday, February 28, 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/free-to-be-me/lgbtq2-action-plan>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The federal government publishes opportunities for appointments to a large number of boards, commissions, Crown corporations, agencies and tribunals across the country. These selection processes are open, transparent and merit-based. You can view these appointments and apply on the Governor in Council Appointments web page : <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/topics/appointments/governor-council.html>

WELLNESS TOGETHER CANADA PORTAL - HELPING US TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES

If you or someone you know needs help, the Wellness Together Canada portal offers free and confidential mental health and substance use support. It provides access to self-assessment tools, self-guided courses and applications, a support community, online coaching and one-on-one consultations with professionals by phone, text message or video. <https://ca.portal.gs/>



ARE YOU BETWEEN 16 AND 25 YEARS OLD? JOIN OUR YOUTH COUNCIL!

Are you between 16 and 25 years old and looking for an enriching experience? Are you interested in public policy and want to get involved? Join our Laurier-Sainte-Marie Youth Council! Hearing the views of youth in our riding will allow me to bring new ideas on issues affecting our community and our country. Apply for the Laurier-Sainte-Marie Youth Council by filling out the form on my website : <https://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/>

A STRONGER CLIMATE PLAN - FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND A HEALTHY ECONOMY

I got into politics because I firmly believed that we needed to do more to fight climate change. I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues at Environment and Infrastructure and our entire team since my election, and we took a giant step forward in December with a historic climate plan that will not only meet our Paris Climate Accord target for 2030, but exceed it.

The plan includes 64 new measures and \$15 billion in investments, in addition to the \$6 billion for green infrastructure that the Infrastructure Bank of Canada announced this fall.

The five pillars of this plan :

1. Energy efficiency : we will make the places where we live and gather more efficient and affordable through investments in energy efficiency.
2. Transportation : we will ensure that clean, affordable transportation and energy is accessible in every community through major investments in public transit, and investments in active transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes and electrification of transportation with our municipal partners.
3. Carbon pricing : we will continue to put a price on pollution and redistribute income directly to households.
4. Renewable energy : we will strengthen Canada's clean industry advantage.
5. Nature : we will do more to protect nature in order to contribute to health and make our communities more resilient. In particular, we will support sustainable agriculture and improve the management, conservation and restoration of our natural environment.

A CARBON NEUTRAL CANADA BY 2050

In November, we introduced legislation to require the federal government to meet its commitment of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. I am proud to have worked with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson, on its development. This legislation is necessary to ensure that in the future, all parties will take the threat of climate change seriously.

The bill sets mandatory national targets to reduce emissions, and requires plans to achieve them as well as reports on progress. The five-year targets will be legally binding to ensure that they are met.

Canada has joined more than 120 countries that have committed to reducing their net emissions to zero by 2050. Several provinces and cities across the country have already made commitments to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, including the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal.

For additional content and relevant hyperlinks, consult this newsletter in electronic format on my website, where you can also sign up to receive news by email : <https://stevenguilbeault.libparl.ca/>



The Cooperative les Valoristes, which recovered 2.4 million containers in 2020, is an essential player in Quebec's recycling ecosystem. It offers an outdoor collection service under the Jacques-Cartier Bridge during the summer season, to which it recently added a second drop-off point, at the former Îlot Voyageur, thanks to the efforts of the City of Montreal, which allows it to operate year-round indoors. I raised awareness of their work with the federal Crown Corporation Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridges Incorporated (JCCBI), a key partner that has confirmed its commitment to support them.

ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The issue of housing is dear to me. I founded an ecological housing cooperative, the Coteau Vert, near Rosemont metro station. It was created in 2010 and now brings together around 300 residents.

Everyone deserves to have an affordable home that meets their needs. Over the past four years, our government's investments have restored the federal government's role as a leader and partner in the fight against poverty, vulnerability and homelessness.

A \$1.8 billion agreement that supports the first National Housing Strategy

It is in this context that I am pleased with the \$1.8 billion agreement announced last October between the federal government and the Government of Quebec to provide long-term funding for social housing in Quebec.

This good news supports the implementation since 2017 of the National Housing Strategy. This is an ambitious 10-year, \$55-billion investment plan to provide safe and affordable housing for an additional 530,000 families, to build 100,000 new affordable housing units, to repair more than 300,000 units and to help people live with dignity in their communities.

The recent agreement with the Quebec government ensures the renewal of federal assistance to low-rent housing, not-for-profit organizations and housing co-ops that were threatened by the former federal government before 2015 to no longer receive this assistance.

These federal investments demonstrate our commitment to supporting housing needs so that everyone can live in a safe, dignified and affordable home.

Services offered by my office

- COVID-19 Support Measures
- Employment Insurance
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Passport Canada
- Veterans Affairs
- Canada Student Loans
- Federal funding for organizations
- Federal Crown Corporations
- Acquisition of Canadian flags and pins

MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCIAL SECURITY OF SENIORS

Our government is committed to strengthening the financial security of seniors and improving their quality of life.

- We put more money in seniors' pockets by strengthening Canada's public pension and benefit system.
- We restored the age of eligibility for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement from 67 to 65.
- We increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement by \$947, improving the financial security of about 900,000 vulnerable single seniors.
- We increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement earnings exemption to allow seniors to earn up to \$5,000 without any reduction in benefits, and a partial exemption for the next \$10,000.
- We are reducing taxes for Canadians through an increase to the Basic Personal Amount, which when fully implemented in 2023, will benefit 4.3 million seniors, including 465,000 whose federal income tax will be reduced to zero. That means up to about \$300 for single seniors, and \$600 for senior couples.

Support during the COVID-19 pandemic

- We responded swiftly when this crisis hit. In April, more than 4 million low and middle-income seniors received a GST Credit top-up — worth an average of \$375 for single seniors and \$510 for senior couples.
- We created the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit to provide \$500 a week for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for COVID-19 patients and others.
- In July, we provided a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for Old Age Security and a further \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- We temporarily extended Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowances payments for seniors who couldn't file their income information on time.
- Under the New Horizons for Seniors Program, we launched over 2000 community projects that reduced isolation, improved seniors' quality of life, and helped them maintain a social support network during the pandemic.

Together, these ambitious measures are making a real difference in the financial security of seniors.

We have invested an additional \$100M over five years in the New Horizons for Seniors Program. This program helps community organizations offer computer training, physical activity classes, community kitchens, financial literacy classes, fraud awareness and other programs, as well as make improvements to their facilities.



I attended the launch of the 2020-2021 programming of the Centre St-Pierre, a unique training, support and social intervention center that has adapted brilliantly. The Centre St-Pierre team is working on the realization of the Carrefour St-Pierre, which will offer affordable rental spaces, collaborative spaces and a large self-managed kitchen.



Many community organizations have experienced a significant increase in demand for their services, often working with reduced staff. This is the case of Chez Émilie Maison d'Entraide Populaire in the Sainte-Marie neighbourhood. I have worked to ensure that support measures for employers are accessible to not-for-profit organizations.

DOWNLOAD THE COVID ALERT APP

You haven't downloaded the COVID Alert application from the App Store or Google Play yet? Do it now! More than 6 million Canadians are already using it to notify other users of the application in case of potential exposure.

COVID Alert does not use GPS and does not track your location. The application has no way of knowing your location, name, address or phone contacts. The application uses Bluetooth to exchange random codes with nearby phones. It checks a list of random codes from other users who have reported a positive test to the application. If you have been near a user who has tested positive in the last 14 days, you will receive a notification. This is an additional tool to protect you and your loved ones.

