

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: June 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - June 17

CLR Members,

In his daily address, the Prime Minister (PM) highlighted the following:

- In the House of Commons on July 8, the government will be presenting and publishing an *“Economic and Fiscal Snapshot”* outlining Canada’s financial position, how we compare to other countries, and what we can expect going forward.
 - Media asked about the PM’s reversal from his position a couple of weeks ago when he said that the government was not in a place to be able to present an economic update. He stressed that what will be offered on July 8 will not be a full economic update, but a snapshot of where the Canadian economy is and where it is “expected” to go over the next several months.
 - He says the snapshot should give a sense of the scope and scale of what the government has been dealing with. He stressed again the need to compare Canada’s response to other countries (implying that Canada has done better than most?).
 - The PM continues to caution that the models the government has developed require assumptions that will be constantly updated and reported through regular reports on the fiscal snapshot going forward.
 - The PM insisted that he has been consistent and transparent in his updates on the finances of the country and the message that it is difficult in the present uncertainties to make reasonable predictions.
 - Regardless of what the snapshot shows, with more focus starting now on economic recovery, the PM stressed that his government will continue to monitor the pandemic situation and that more may be needed to help Canadians.
- The PM announced that more deals have been reached with Canadian companies to provide the necessary goods and services we need during this difficult time in our history.
 - A deal has been signed with a Montreal company to fabricate silica which is an essential ingredient for tracking the virus.
 - Two more Canadian companies have been contracted to manufacture ventilators.
- \$500 million is being offered through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to support Canadian researchers and their ground breaking work.
 - These funds are not earmarked specifically for COVID related research but is open to all fields of research as a means to encourage innovation overall in our country.
- Next week, the government will begin accepting applications for support from fisheries and seafood processing companies to help them pursue markets for Canadian related products.
- Without offering any details, the PM announced that Parks Canada will gradually begin reopening some of their camping sites.
 - He cautioned the need for Canadians to follow the health authorities recommendations if they do begin to visit our Parks.

Media asked about yesterday's announcement to extend the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to the end of August and the potential disincentive it creates for Canadians to return to work. Critics think that it is time to review the program. The PM talked of the 3 million Canadians that are unable to find jobs and the assistance they still require in order to pay their bills while they search for work. He said that measures are in place to encourage people to return to work, but we are far from a situation where we can employ everyone. Media would not let the PM off the hook with his usual and general answers and pushed for a response to how fraudsters of the program will be penalized. The PM acknowledged that it was necessary from the onset to get the program in place and the funds released with minimal verification. He stressed as he has in the past that when the time is right, any Canadian who defrauds the system will be found and dealt with.

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