

A BETTER CANADA—PART II

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A BASIC INCOME STRATEGY IN CANADA

On February 22, I introduced my Private Member's Bill C-273—the first time a bill for guaranteed basic income has been introduced in Canada.

There is already strong and substantial evidence that supports the effectiveness of guaranteed basic income but there is much less information on the best ways or models to implement and deliver basic income. Bill C-273 is focused on enabling the capacity to frame, test and validate different models of implementation and to provide new data.

This comes at a critical time. Canada's current social welfare system was created in the 1970s and no matter how many times it is adjusted too many Canadians continue to fall through the cracks. It has become overly complex, misses many of the Canadians most in need and income inequality continues to grow. At the same time, the world of work is changing faster than ever before. More workers are in the gig economy, there are more temporary and short-term jobs and many other jobs are being threatened by automation.

We need a social safety net that can better manage labour changes and support all workers while being able to quickly adapt to future disruptions—a basic income program can offer that and can be the cornerstone of Canada's innovation and economic growth strategy.

Our government is about to invest \$70-\$100 billion to restart our economy, and now is the time to experiment and test new ideas; to fix structural

SUPPORTING BLACK CANADIANS

Our riding is home to many Black Canadians, including entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders, activists, and—during her career as a teacher—the Honourable Jean Augustine.

In under a year, our federal Liberal government has made an urgent and sustained effort to address systemic racism in Canada, especially anti-Black racism. We made these decisive steps:

- Directed Statistics Canada to collect and share disaggregated data
- Improving diversity and representation of Black Canadians, in senior ranks of the public service by announcing a \$12M investment over 3 years to devise a plan and set benchmarks for inclusion and address systemic barriers
- Provided economic support for an equal recovery by investing in the Workplace Opportunities and Barriers to Equity Program and modernizing the Employment Equity Act
- Launched a \$221M Black Entrepreneurship Program to address the gap in opportunities for Black entrepreneurs by providing start-up loans and access to financial services
- Launched a Black procurement pilot that opens specific government supply contracts to Black-owned or led small businesses
- Invested an additional \$50M in community-led initiatives to fight racism as part of the federal Anti-Racism Strategy

In Budgets 2018 and 2019, our government made major investments in Black communities, including community projects, programs for mental health, and more. We also established a federal Anti-Racism Strategy, which has funded some amazing programs in Davenport.

Systemic racism has drastic effects in the legal system, the public service, employment, economic opportunity, and daily life for Black, Indigenous, and racialized Canadians.

Our federal government will continue to find ways to change this, because only when everyone has equal access to opportunity will our country live up to its potential.



Julie and basic income advocates Sheila Regehr, Floyd Marinescu, and colleagues Hon. Wayne Easter, MP Annie Koutrakis and Sen. Kim Pate at the Press Conference for Julie's Private Member's Bill C-273

issues and to build our economic and social structures back better!

Equal opportunity for everyone to succeed is one of my fundamental values and is at the heart of Bill C-273. Only by ensuring that we have a system that properly supports Canadians, that provides true stability and removes all obstacles to access to opportunity will we enable Canadians, and Canada itself, to achieve its potential.

FIGHTING SYSTEMIC RACISM AND IMPROVING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

According to recent statistics, Black Canadians make up over 7% of the federal inmate population, despite constituting only 3.5% of the Canadian population. Similarly, Indigenous people in 2020 represented 4.3% of the Canadian population but made up 30% of the prison population.

Our federal government has made a very strong commitment to tackling systemic racism and discrimination. That's why we've introduced Bill C-22, which will help eliminate policies that have contributed to higher rates of imprisonment for Indigenous peoples and Black Canadians.

Bill C-22 will help fight racism and discrimination in our criminal justice system by:

- Eliminating minimum mandatory sentences that disproportionately penalize young and racialized peoples
- Helping to ensure drug addiction is treated as a health issue first
- Increasing the availability of conditional sentences as an alternative to prison

The federal government will also invest in programs that tackle the root causes of crime in our cities.



With Emanuel Melles, Executive Director of the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities, and friends celebrating Black History Month (pre-COVID)

WORKING HARD FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Meeting up with the team at West Toronto Legal Services



Stopping by Urban Gardener while visiting Dupont businesses



Helping deliver food to those in need at Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club



Dropping by for a pick-me-up at Two Hot Babs Coffee



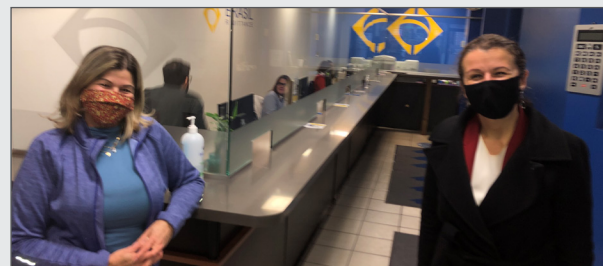
Meeting with Akin Collective at their Sterling Ave. location



Davenport Indigenous Townhall with the Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services



Davenport Environment Townhall with Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment & Climate Change



Calling in on Angela de Mesquita, President of Brasil Remittance



Prime Minister Trudeau, Julie and Liberal colleagues take part in anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day



Visiting Dundas Street's Nevada Rose



Celebrating Vietnamese New Year with Canada Vietnam Society's Julie Nguyen, Min. Mary Ng, Mayor Tory & others



Visiting Lisboa Hardware in Davenport's Little Portugal



At Davenport's Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) with Executive Director Kathleen Bartels



With Pia at the Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Movement



Davenport Federal Budget Townhall 2021

MARCH 2021



JULIE DZEROWICZ MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DAVENPORT

PARLIAMENT HILL OFFICE

Room 502, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
613.992.2576

COMMUNITY OFFICE

1202 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M6H 1N2
416.654.8048

EMAIL

julie.dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca

WEBSITE

juliedzerowicz.ca



@juliedzerowicz



@juliedzerowicz



@juliedzerowicz



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, JULIE DZEROWICZ

Davenport friends and neighbours: amis et voisins de Davenport:

It's spring! The daylight is brighter, the days are longer, more birds are singing and, in terms of this pandemic we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Four vaccines have now been approved by Health Canada, and millions of vaccines are arriving in Canada on a weekly basis. It's now just a matter of time before all who want to be vaccinated get a vaccine.

This issue provides an update on the fight against COVID-19 with updates on vaccines, and a summary of the program supports that have been extended for businesses and Canadians until the summer.

It also focusses on the tremendous work the federal government is doing on items not related to the pandemic including climate change, criminal justice reform and tackling systemic racism, addressing gun violence, and investment in public transit. There is not enough space in this householder to relay everything the federal government is working on, but you will get a sense of key priority items. If you would like a more comprehensive update, I encourage you to sign up for my weekly email updates sent out most Friday evenings. You can sign up by clicking on the "Get Updates" tab on my website (juliedzerowicz.ca) or you can follow me on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram—@juliedzerowicz.



Walking along St. Clair with community leader Joe Pinto while visiting Corso Italia businesses

There is also information on Bill C-273, the Private Member's Bill I introduced in the House of Commons on Basic Income. Created in the 1970s, our social welfare system simply is not set up to meet the needs of 21st century workers; and no matter how many band-aids to the system we attempt, still too many people fall through the cracks. It's time for the federal government to start experimenting with different ideas that will set us up for future economic success and provide every Canadian with an equal opportunity to succeed.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Davenport Vaccine Town Hall I hosted with special guest Steven MacKinnon, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Anita Anand and to all those who took part in the Davenport Tax Town Hall with special guest Jeanne Cheng. My next roundtable will be with Davenport Small Businesses. As we come out of this pandemic, I want to hear what more the federal government can do to support our local economies and our small businesses that are the lifelines of our communities. This will take place on March 24 at 7pm. Feel free to contact my office if you would like to sign up and let's continue to support our local businesses!

Finally, keep an eye out for Federal Budget 2021—it is anticipated to come out in the coming weeks. I will be hosting a Zoom session to update the community regarding the Budget when it comes out and to answer any questions. Stay tuned for more details. As always, do not hesitate to connect with my office if there is something I can do to be helpful—we are here to serve you.

It's an honour and privilege to serve you Davenport.

Sincerely,

Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament | Davenport

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

THE ROAD TO SEPTEMBER

Canada is well on track to ensure that everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination can receive one by September! In fact, all signs are now pointing that this date will be moved up to sometime this summer.

For over 10 years, Canada did not have the capacity to create its own vaccines so the federal government in the early days of the pandemic in 2020 pursued a two-prong strategy: to mobilize the scientific, manufacturing and industrial sectors to start working on building the capacity to produce vaccines, and in the meantime to procure contracts to purchase the most promising vaccine options. Based on advice from our best scientific and medical experts, seven vaccine contracts were signed: Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Novavax, Sanofi/GSK & Medicago. Four have already been approved for use by Health Canada—with 118 million doses on the way to Canada between now and the end of the summer.

The federal government buys the vaccines and then distributes them to the provinces free of charge. Maj-Gen Dany Fortin is in charge of the herculean task of distributing the vaccines across the country. He provides a schedule with dates and number of vaccines going to each province. Provinces in turn are responsible to determine the order of vaccinating their citizens and ensuring that the vaccines are safely administered. Note that all 24 Toronto Liberal Members of Parliament unanimously sent a letter to Premier Ford to ask him to ensure Toronto obtains its fair share of vaccines, accommodating the fact that the city has a disproportionately high number of front line workers, vulnerable populations and new Canadians. To view the letter please visit my website: select *Davenport* then *Statements & Letters*.

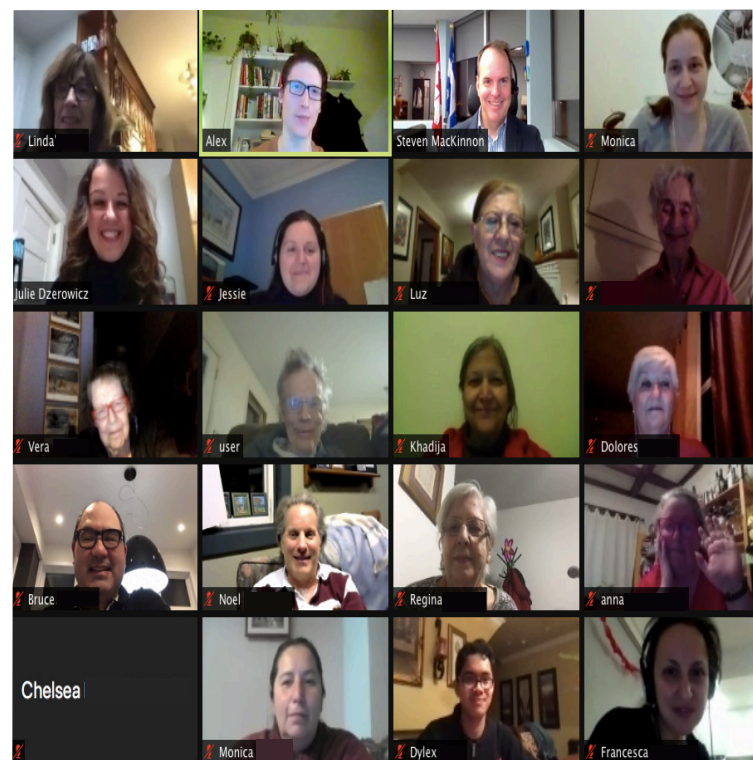
The federal government has also purchased and distributed nearly 40 million rapid tests to the provinces and territories, with over 13 million rapid tests provided to Ontario. Rapid tests are part of the plan to ensure Canadians stay safe while they are waiting for a vaccine.

MADE IN CANADA VACCINES

As part of our COVID-19 recovery plan, the federal government is investing in building out Canada's biomanufacturing capacity to support, amongst other things, vaccine production at home. Apart from producing vaccines in Canada, funding is also being given to establish our ability to produce boosters and treatments within our borders.

Based on the recommendations of the COVID-19 Vaccine and Therapeutics Task Force and Joint Biomanufacturing Subcommittee, on February 2, the federal government announced the following:

- A memorandum with Novavax to pursue the production of its vaccine in Canada at the National Research Council's Biologics Manufacturing Center in Montreal
- Funding for Medicago in Quebec City for a candidate vaccine and large-scale biomanufacturing facility, for the University of Saskatchewan for its candidate vaccine and enhanced manufacturing, and more



Davenport Vaccine Townhall with Julie and Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Anita Anand, Steven MacKinnon

Doses Approved (to date)

76M	
44M	
20M	
38M	

Doses Optioned (to date)

76M	
72M	
76M	

ADDRESSING OUR LONG-TERM CARE CRISIS

There has been a devastating loss of life in our long-term care homes during the pandemic. For too long, we have collectively neglected the dignity, safety, and security of our seniors.

While provincial governments are responsible for long-term care homes and healthcare, our federal government took decisive action from the beginning of the pandemic to provide additional support to protect our seniors:

- Brave women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces were deployed to 54 affected long-term care facilities across Quebec and Ontario to contain outbreaks
- This support was then transitioned to the Canadian Red Cross, with the help of \$39M in federal funding
- Through the Safe Restart Agreement, we gave \$287 million to Ontario to protect long-term care, home care, palliative care, and other vulnerable populations
- We also gave Ontario \$465M for health care capacity, and \$1.1B for PPE

No provincial request for help or resources went unanswered. To make sure these tragedies are not repeated, the federal government has committed to:

- Create new national standards for long-term care
- Provide \$1 billion for a Safe Long-term Care Fund to help provinces and territories protect people in long-term care and support infection prevention and control

WE HAVE YOUR BACK!

EMERGENCY SUPPORTS

Emergency Supports continues as we move out of the second wave, out of lockdown and await our turn for a vaccine. The federal government will continue to be there for Canadians. The following extensions to supports have been announced:

EXTENSION TO EI, CRB, CAREGIVING BENEFIT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT

In February four key COVID-19 emergency supports for workers have been expanded and extended:

- Increase the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) & the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) by 12 weeks, extending benefits from 26 to up to 38 weeks
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) extended from 2 to 4 weeks
- Regular benefits available for more weeks, to a maximum of 50 weeks for claims that are made between Sept 27, 2020 and Sept 25, 2021

KEEPING BUSINESS SUPPORTS AT CURRENT LEVELS UNTIL JUNE

On March 3, we announced that the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support will stay at their current levels until June 5, 2021:

- the maximum wage subsidy (CEWS) rate will remain at 75%
- the maximum rent subsidy (CERS) rate will remain at 65%
- Lockdown Support will remain at 25% and continue to be provided along with rent subsidy, providing eligible businesses with rent support of up to 90%

Also, as we are approaching a full year since the pandemic, the government is announcing that applicants will continue to be able to reference a pre-pandemic 2019 reference month.

CERB: GROSS INCOME FOR SELF-EMPLOYED PEOPLE IS A-OK

In February, the federal government announced that self-employed people who accessed CERB based on their gross income instead of net income will not have to return your CERB payments, as long as you met all the other eligibility criteria.

This means those whose net self-employment income was less than \$5,000 in 2019, but who met all other requirements and had gross income over \$5,000, won't have to repay their CERB. Anyone in this situation who already voluntarily repaid their CERB will have the repaid amounts returned.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

Davenport seniors have rightly been worried about leaving their residences during this second wave—even when they needed basic necessities. In February, my office delivered free three-layer masks to seniors' residences across the riding as part of our overall efforts to keep our seniors and Davenport residents safe. **If you are a senior and have difficulty accessing a three-layer mask, please feel free to contact my office.**

Supporting seniors through the pandemic has been a top priority for our federal government. Here's how we are helping:

- Through one-time payments in April and July 2020, we provided over \$1500 in tax-free support for low-income seniors couples
- Helping seniors and others get essential services and supplies, such as the delivery of groceries, we invested over \$500 million through partners like the United Way, food banks, and charities
- Through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, we launched over 2000 community pandemic support projects for seniors (Approximately \$300,000 was awarded to 11 organisations in Davenport for their vital and creative senior programs)
- Investing an additional \$6 billion in home care and community care
- Starting work on at least 7,000 new affordable housing units for seniors

PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

In case you missed it! The federal government continues to invest in important priority areas:

- Women: a \$100M Feminist Response and Recovery Fund was announced to support projects in 3 key areas; ending violence against women and girls; improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity; and encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles
- LGBTQ2+: \$15M was announced to fund 76 LGBTQ2 Community Projects to help to strengthen LGBTQ2 organisations and build equity
- Indigenous communities: 99 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted since 2015. For the 57 advisories that remain, each one has a project team, action plan, and people dedicated to lifting it
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) legislation was introduced in the House of Commons in December



Visiting with Residents at Terra Nova in pre-COVID times

HISTORIC PUBLIC TRANSIT FUNDING

Davenport residents represent some of the highest users of public transit in the city. That is why I know you will be happy to note that the federal government has made major commitments to increase spending in public transit. It will allow people to move more efficiently and it will allow us to live more sustainably—our investments are part of our plan to create one million jobs, fight climate change, and rebuild a more sustainable and resilient economy.

PM Trudeau announced \$15B for public transit across the country over the next eight years including funding for major public transit projects like subways and light rail transit, zero-emission buses, improved accessibility, walkways and bike paths.

To date, our federal government has already spent over \$13 billion on more than 1,300 public transit projects across Canada. These investments have helped build more than 240 kilometres of new public transit subway and light rail line, purchase over 300 zero-emission buses, and create almost 500 kilometres of active transportation trails, bike and pedestrian lanes, and recreational paths.

GETTING GUNS OFF OUR STREETS & ELIMINATING GUN VIOLENCE



Julie and Public Safety Minister Bill Blair at a pre-COVID-19 event

PROGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

We are all in! The federal Trudeau government is firmly committed to meeting its Paris Accord targets and reaching Net-Zero by 2050. We owe it to our current and future generations to be as aggressive as possible in tackling climate change, and urgently moving to a low carbon economy and future.

I was proud when the Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson introduced Bill C-12 in November of 2020. Bill C-12 legally binds Canada to its commitment of net-zero emissions by 2050 by laying out a framework of accountability and transparency to reach this goal.

The Act requires the tabling and publication of targets, plans, progress and assessment reports. In addition, the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development must examine and report on the Government of Canada's implementation measures within 5 years of coming into force and every 5 years afterwards.

In December 2020, Davenport residents met with Min. Wilkinson via Zoom and made a number of excellent suggestions to improve and strengthen C-12. I sent a letter to Min. Wilkinson to summarize our top recommendations. To view the letter, please go to my website: juliedzerowicz.ca, select *Davenport* then *Statement & Letters*.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with President Joe Biden in late February to discuss key issues including climate change. With the new American administration fully committed to tackling climate change, we expect our progress to be turbo-charged with a renewed commitment to work on a clean fuel standard, reducing methane emissions, investing in zero-emissions vehicles, cross-border clean electricity transmission and other important priorities.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau held a virtual bilateral meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden on Feb. 23

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

- Innovation and Science Minister Francois-Phillipe Champagne announced an investment of \$55M in 20 leading clean tech projects across the country.
- Fisheries Minister Bernadette Jordan launched the engagement phase in the development of Canada's Blue Economy Strategy in order to develop a whole of government sustainable ocean strategy that will protect our oceans for generations, drive growth to coastal communities and create jobs in marine industries
- Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan announced the next step in our strategy to plant 2 billion more trees in Canada: the Growing Canada's Forests Program.
- Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson launched the Net-Zero Advisory Body, an independent group of 14 experts from across the country, who will provide the Government of Canada with advice on the best pathways to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Since first being elected in 2015, our federal Liberal government has been committed to getting guns off our streets and tackling gun violence. In our first mandate, we successfully passed Bill C-71 to strengthen the gun registration process. And last year, we banned 1,500 assault-style weapons and strengthened efforts to combat gun trafficking. But we are far from done in our fight against gun violence.

Earlier this year, we introduced Bill C-21, which will ensure that the 1,500 assault-style weapons we banned last year can't be used or sold again. We will also be moving forward with a buyback program in the coming months to remove these weapons from our communities for good, and we will be supporting municipalities in the banning of handguns through bylaws. The proposed legislation will also prevent self-harm and gender-based violence by creating laws that allow friends and family to come forward to the police if they think a violent individual should have their firearms confiscated. Our federal government is doing whatever it takes to strengthen our gun laws, save lives, and make our communities safer.