



## CP SCOOP – January 26th, 2021

### FEDERAL UPDATES

**Government Launches Budget Consultations to Hear from Canadians** - Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, and the Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance, the Honourable Mona Fortier, have launched pre-budget consultations. These discussions allow the government to hear the best ideas from Canadians and experts across the country about how Budget 2021 can support Canadians through the pandemic and help us build back better.

When COVID-19 is under control and Canada's economy is ready to rebound, the government has a plan to make smart, targeted investments to jumpstart the country's economic recovery and begin to repair the damage done by the pandemic. These pre-budget consultations are an opportunity for Canadians from across the country to share their ideas and priorities for how the government can best invest to create jobs, strengthen the middle class, and build a greener, more competitive, more inclusive, and more resilient economy.

Over the coming weeks, the Government of Canada will hold virtual roundtables with diverse groups of people from a range of regions, sectors and industries, including those hardest hit by the pandemic. These roundtables are an opportunity to discuss the very real challenges Canadians are facing and listen to ways that the government can ensure a robust recovery that leaves no one behind.

Most importantly, all Canadians are invited to share their ideas through an online questionnaire at [LetsTalkBudget2021.ca](https://LetsTalkBudget2021.ca), which will be available until February 19th, 2021.

### PROVINCIAL UPDATES

**Further Action Needed to Protect the Border and Stop the Spread of COVID-19** - Ontario makes steady progress testing travellers at Pearson Airport - Over 6,800 international travellers have been tested for COVID-19 as part of the Ontario government's [voluntary and free border testing pilot program](#) at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. This program was implemented to help quickly identify and stop the spread of COVID-19 in the province. Despite this steady progress, the province is calling on the federal government to take further action to protect the border, including mandatory testing of all incoming international passengers and a temporary ban on direct flights from countries where new variants are detected.

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**Ontario Delivering Support to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies** - Funding will help offset lost revenue from cancelled fall fairs and exhibits - The Ontario government is providing \$5 million to support the province's Agricultural and Horticultural Societies impacted by the pandemic. The funding is flowing through the [Agricultural and Horticultural Support and Recovery Funding Initiative](#).

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**[Ontario Supports the Development of the Next Generation of PPE](#) - **Leading universities to carry out research and testing to better protect frontline workers** - The Ontario government is providing more than \$2.3 million to [McMaster University](#) and the [University of Toronto](#) through the Ontario Together Fund to carry out research, development and testing of the next generation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These projects will help improve the technology and better protect frontline workers.**

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**[Ontario Supports Modernization of Small and Rural Communities](#) - **Funding helps municipalities improve delivery of critical programs and services** - The Ontario government is investing over \$40 million during COVID-19 to help small and rural municipalities improve the delivery of critical programs and services. The funding, under the Municipal Modernization Program, is part of the government's \$125 million investment through 2022-23 to help small and rural municipalities become more efficient and save taxpayers' dollars.**

## **OTHER UPDATES**

**Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit – Vaccine Roll-out** – The Health Unit's [COVID-19 Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan](#) helps facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark and aligns with the [Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#).

Information is available on their website related to:

- [Local Vaccine Status - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)
  - [COVID-19 Protection & Vaccines - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)
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**Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority - Water Safety Statement - High Flows Will Continue Downstream of Crotch Lake** - As the excess water from the December rain/melt is released, flows downstream of Crotch Lake will remain high for the balance of the winter. Crotch Lake is actively being drawn down to increase storage in preparation for the spring freshet. Based on current forecasts, no flooding is expected.

At this time there is a risk of ice jamming and/or frazil ice increasing river levels. Air temperatures below -8°C can result in frazil ice formations in open flowing water. Similarly, high flows can dislodge ice sheets creating jams. Both result in water levels rising quickly, without warning.

Residents are advised to maintain a close watch on levels and flows and take the necessary precautions to protect their property by:

- Regularly testing and maintaining sump pumps and backwater valves.
- Removing or securing items that might float away if levels increase.

Additionally, ice thickness can change drastically due to high flows. The shoreline adjacent to lakes, rivers and creeks is very slippery and poses a serious hazard. Falling into open water can result in hypothermia or drowning.

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) reminds the public to exercise extreme caution around all water bodies by:

- Regularly testing ice thickness and staying off all ice that may cover flowing water.
- Remind children about the dangers of playing on or near ice covered surfaces and open water.
- Keep pets on leash near frozen water bodies.

Please note that the MVCA does not monitor ice conditions.

This message will be in effect until (or updated before) Monday, February 22nd, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.