



CP SCOOP – March 18th, 2021

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Public Works Construction Update – March 18th, 2021 - The Public Works Department strives to keep our residents informed regarding municipal construction activities. With so many construction projects planned within the Town of Carleton Place this year, we recognize there is going to be a lot of information to be shared with the public. Descriptions of all our construction projects for the 2021 season are now available on the Town of Carleton Place website on the [Infrastructure Projects](#) page.

We would like to advise our residents of the following activities for the days and weeks ahead, however, the schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, changes in the provision of materials and/or availability of staff:

Mill Street Watermain Crossing

Residents may notice in the coming days some activity in the vicinity of McArthur Island and the Gillies Bridge linking Mill Street to Rosamond Street. In preparations for the replacement of the Central Bridge along with the suspended watermain in 2022, the Town of Carleton Place must install an additional watermain crossing at McArthur Island to supply drinking water to residents on the north side of Carleton Place.

This contract has been awarded to Louis Bray Construction. Residents directly impacted by construction will be receiving information from the Town. Construction is slated to begin March 29th so crews will begin erecting signage, mobilizing equipment and installing protective fencing, where required over the course of the next week.

The Town of Carleton Place understands this area is a vital part of many residents' daily commute. Pedestrians and cyclists are encouraged to utilize the OVRT to cross the river and we are asking residents, once construction begins, to find alternative routes for their commute as detours will be in place.

Residents are encouraged to follow updates through CP Scoop and the Town's websites which will be provided on a weekly basis once construction begins.

The Town of Carleton Place would like to ask for everyone's help in ensuring safe and efficient work zones. We would like to encourage residents to avoid the construction zones, however, should



residents be travelling within the construction zones we urge you to proceed with caution and follow the directions provided by traffic control personnel and posted construction signage.

We ask for everyone's patience and cooperation during the construction season, however, should a member of the public have any concerns or questions of a general nature, please contact the Public Works Office at 613-257-2253.

Composter & Rain Barrel Rebate Program - In an effort to reduce the amount of waste at the curb each week, the Public Works Department is offering residents the opportunity to apply for a \$40 rebate for the purchase of a backyard composter. Residents can also receive a \$40 rebate for the purchase of a rain barrel. After purchasing the backyard composter and/or rain barrel of your choice, complete and submit the [rebate form](#) located on the Town's website. A copy of your receipt clearly indicating the purchase of a composter or rain barrel is required.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Border Update from Prime Minister Trudeau – Non-essential travel restrictions between Canada and the U.S. have been extended by another 30 days until April 21st. We'll continue to do whatever is necessary to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Support to Workers and Families Increases With the Passage of EI Legislation and the Coming Into Effect of Recovery Benefit Regulations - The Government of Canada continues to help and support Canadian families and workers struggling to make ends meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, this support has included the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, three recovery benefits and a more flexible and accessible Employment Insurance (EI) program.

To give workers the certainty they need should their job be affected by COVID-19, the government put forward legislation to increase the maximum number of weeks available to workers through EI regular benefits. Last night, this legislation, Bill C-24, received Royal Assent. Workers claiming EI regular benefits can now access up to a maximum of 50 weeks for claims established between September 27th, 2020 to September 25th, 2021.

In addition, self-employed workers who have opted in to the EI program to access special benefits are now able to use a 2020 earnings threshold of \$5,000, compared to the previous threshold of \$7,555. This change is retroactive for claims established as of January 3rd, 2021 and applies until September 25th, 2021.

As part of this legislation, all international travelers who need to quarantine or isolate upon their return to Canada, including people returning from vacation, are ineligible to receive support from any of the recovery benefits for the period of their mandatory quarantine or isolation. These changes are retroactive to October 2nd, 2020.

As previously announced, individuals who would normally be exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements under the *Quarantine Act*, such as health care workers who need to cross the border for work or truck drivers, are still eligible to apply following their return to the country. An exemption also applies to those who travel to receive a necessary medical treatment or to accompany someone who is travelling for such treatment and requires assistance.

In addition to Bill C-24, new regulations to increase the number of weeks available under the Canada Recovery Benefits have come into effect. This includes an increase in the number of weeks available

under the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) by 12 weeks, extending the maximum duration of the benefits from 26 weeks to 38 weeks. It also includes an increase in the number of weeks available under the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) from 2 weeks to 4 weeks. Individuals can access these additional weeks through the Canada Revenue Agency beginning on March 18th, 2021.

By increasing the number of available weeks through EI and the Canada Recovery Benefits, the Government of Canada is continuing to support Canadian workers through the next phase of the pandemic recovery.

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

[Ontario Making it Easier to Administer Rapid COVID-19 Testing in the Workplace](#) - Province also expanding the testing program to more sectors - The Ontario government is making it easier for businesses to test for COVID-19 in the workplace by providing guidance to employees who want to self-swab for a rapid antigen point-of-care test on a voluntary basis under the supervision of a trained individual. Based on the success of the initial deployment of rapid antigen testing, the government is also expanding the program to more sectors including first responders, emergency medical services, trucking and transportation, wastewater management, and post-secondary institutions.

[Ottawa Public Health Region Moving to Red-Control Level of COVID-19 Response Framework](#) - Province taking immediate action to stop the spread of COVID-19 - In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario Government is moving the Ottawa Public Health region to the Red-Control level in the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#). The decision was made at the request of the local medical officer of health due to the concerning trends in public health indicators in the region.

[Ontario Extending Temporary Wage Enhancement for Personal Support Workers](#) - Supporting frontline health care heroes across the Province - The Ontario government is investing \$239 million to extend temporary wage enhancements for personal support workers and direct support workers in publicly funded home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services sectors. These temporary wage enhancements will continue until June 30th, 2021 and will help stabilize, attract and retain the workforce needed to provide a high level of care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Ontario Investing in Wastewater Testing System to Detect COVID-19](#) - Provincial wastewater surveillance initiative expanding capacity of communities to quickly identify and manage outbreaks - The Ontario government is investing more than \$12 million in a new initiative to detect COVID-19 in wastewater. The province is partnering with 13 academic and research institutions to create a surveillance network to test wastewater samples taken from communities across Ontario. This will enhance the ability of local public health units to identify, monitor and manage potential COVID-19 outbreaks.