



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

43rd PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic

EVIDENCE

NUMBER 012

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Chair: The Honourable Anthony Rota



Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

• (1205)

[English]

The Chair (Hon. Anthony Rota (Nipissing—Timiskaming, Lib.)): I call this meeting to order.

Welcome to the 12th meeting of the House of Commons Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

[Translation]

This will be the first hybrid meeting of the committee. Some members will be participating via videoconference and some will be participating in person. This follows the order made by the House on May 26, 2020.

Members who have already participated in a virtual meeting of the special committee may actually not notice any change, except for the fact that some members are also participating from the floor of the House.

[English]

An additional rubric, that of statements by members, was also added to the proceedings of the committee.

In order to ensure that those joining the meeting via video conference can be seen and heard by those in the chamber, two screens have been set up in the chamber on either side of the Speaker's chair. Sound amplification for virtual interventions will be available, and members in the chamber can listen to the floor sound or interpretation using the earpieces on their desks.

[Translation]

Before speaking, please wait until I recognize you by name. Please also direct your remarks through the Chair. Thank you.

[English]

For those of you joining via video conference, I would like to remind you to leave your mike on mute when you are not speaking. Also, please note that if you want to speak in English, you should be on the English channel. If you want to speak French, you should be on the French channel. Should you wish to alternate between the two languages, you should change the channel to the language that you are speaking each time you switch languages.

[Translation]

Should members participating by videoconference need to request the floor outside their designated speaking times, they should activate their microphone and state that they have a point of order. Those in the chamber can simply rise in the usual way. Please note

that today's proceedings will be televised in the same way as a typical sitting of the House.

[English]

Next we'll move on to ministerial announcements.

I understand that there are no ministerial announcements today, so we'll move on to petitions.

We'll be presenting petitions for a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

[Translation]

I would like to remind members that any petition presented during a meeting of the special committee must have already been certified by the clerk of petitions.

[English]

For members participating in person, we ask that they please come and drop the signed certificates off at the table once the petitions are presented.

First on our list for presenting petitions is Ms. May, who is joining us virtually.

Ms. Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP): Mr. Chair, what an honour to be the first voice coming to you from the screens on either side of the Speaker of the House.

I speak to you from Saanich—Gulf Islands on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEC people. *Hych'ka Siem*.

I'm presenting a petition, number 431-00215, and it has been certified. The petitioners call on this House to take note of the fact that Canada is the only country with a universal health care system that does not include the provision of necessary prescription medications. They note that the system across Canada is a patchwork that leaves three million Canadians unprepared and uninsured to be able to purchase necessary medications. They call on the House assembled to put in place a system of universal national pharmacare, bringing down the cost of drugs through bulk purchasing.

I think I'll call that a summary, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much.

The Chair: The next petition will be presented by Mr. Genuis.

Mr. Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

I'm pleased to be presenting two petitions before the committee today.

The first petition is in support of Bill S-204. This Senate public bill, been put forward by Senator Salma Atallahjan in the Senate, would make it a criminal offence for someone to go abroad to receive an organ for which there has not been consent. It also has a mechanism by which somebody could be deemed inadmissible to Canada for being involved in the horrible practice of forced organ harvesting and trafficking. This bill has been before various Parliaments for over 10 years, and petitioners are hopeful that this Parliament will be the one that finally takes action to address forced organ harvesting and trafficking.

The second petition is put forward by folks who are concerned about Bill C-7, particularly the efforts by the government through Bill C-7 to remove vital safeguards that are currently associated with Canada's euthanasia regime. Petitioners are not happy about the fact that the government is trying to eliminate the 10-day reflection period and remove other safeguards that only four short years ago the government thought were essential for the euthanasia and assisted suicide system that they were putting in place. The petitioners call on the government to address that, and they are not supportive of these particular efforts to remove vital safeguards from that regime.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: Is anyone else presenting petitions?

Seeing none, we'll move on to statements by members.

[*Translation*]

We will now proceed to Statements by Members for a period not exceeding 15 minutes. Each statement will be for one minute. The first will be from Mr. Samson.

Mr. Samson, you have the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Darrell Samson (Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook, Lib.): Good afternoon, everyone. It's an honour to be presenting an S. O. 31.

This spring has been a difficult one for Nova Scotia and the communities of Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook. While residents have banded together to tackle the challenges presented by COVID-19, we have also had to mourn the passing of three remarkable local women: RCMP Constable Heidi Stevenson, well known by many in Cole Harbour and the surrounding areas; our own Sub-Lieutenant Abbigail Cowbrough, who was based out of 12 Wing Shearwater; and Captain Jenn Casey of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds.

All three women died in the line of duty in separate tragic events while serving our country. These three brave women, who served with honour on land, at sea and in the air, represent the absolute best of us. Heidi, Abbigail and Jenn were inspirational and will not be forgotten.

Thank you.

• (1210)

The Chair: Next we'll go to Mr. Bezan.

Mr. James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Canada needs a prime minister who will create jobs and opportunity, but instead we have a prime minister who is piling up crippling national debt. Yesterday the PBO predicted the federal deficit this year will hit over \$252 billion. That is almost equivalent to an average year of government spending before the Liberal government. After five years with this debt, Prime Minister, Canada's national debt is set to hit \$1 trillion, with almost nothing to show for it. Industries from coast to coast are either closed or are struggling.

Canadian workers need and deserve a prime minister who supports our energy sector and gets our natural resources and agriculture products to market, who supports small business and will make our tax system encourage job creation and growth, and who will bring advanced manufacturing jobs to Canada and keep the automotive industry growing. Most importantly, we need a Conservative prime minister who will get the government finances under control after the massive debt left by this prime minister.

The Chair: Next we'll go to Mr. Anandasangaree.

Mr. Gary Anandasangaree (Scarborough—Rouge Park, Lib.): Mr. Chair, I speak today with a very heavy heart. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, we've seen a disproportionate number of deaths in long-term care homes.

I'm thankful for the Canadian Armed Forces who were deployed to the Altamont care home in my riding and four other facilities across the GTA. The CAF have brought forward horrifying allegations in the operation of these homes. They include residents being given expired or improper doses of medication; not being cleaned or changed for a prolonged period of time; being forcibly fed, causing choking; being bed-bound for weeks; receiving inadequate nutrition, and much more.

Mr. Chair, I call upon Premier Ford to place these five homes under a mandatory management order and to appoint a third party manager to address and rectify these violations. I also call upon the Premier to undertake an independent public inquiry into the tragedy we face in long-term care facilities across Ontario. Finally, Mr. Chair, we need to work with the provinces and territories to set national standards of care for the most vulnerable in our society. We can and must do better.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: We have a point of order.

Go ahead, Ms. May.

Ms. Elizabeth May: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I hesitate to interrupt colleagues, but I'm concerned about the petition practice, which, as I understand it, is to summarize a petition but not make a speech. I felt one of our colleagues was trespassing on our usual rules.

The Chair: I will remind honourable members that when a petition is presented, we're expected to give a précis and make it as concise as possible. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Champoux, you have the floor.

Mr. Martin Champoux (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Chair, I would like to recognize the resilience of Quebeckers concerned for their jobs or their businesses during the COVID-19 crisis.

They need us to plan for after the crisis, and we must do so now. To do so, we need the proper information. We need to know the status of the public finances. That is why the Bloc Québécois is demanding that the government present an economic update, and that it do so before June 17. This is not about making a spectacle. Everyone knows that the deficit will be huge. We had to provide the people with support and we all agree on that. But we have to know to what extent. We also have to know where we are starting from so that we can plan where we are going. This is about respecting the public, because they are the ones who will be paying the bill.

In closing, I would like to remind the government that one group is not really contributing to the public purse at the moment. I am talking about the tech giants, the GAFAM group, that have never before been used to the extent that they are now, and that are still not paying a cent in tax in Canada. The Liberals promised to correct this injustice. Now is a great time for them to do so.

[*English*]

The Chair: We'll now go to Ms. Sidhu.

Ms. Sonia Sidhu (Brampton South, Lib.): Mr. Chair, this week is National Paramedic Services Week. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Peel region police, paramedic and firefighting services for keeping Bramptonians safe.

In my riding, organizations have stepped up to help our community. Organizations such as the Khalsa Aid Society, the Interfaith Council of Peel, the Brampton YMCA, the Prayer Stone Peoples Church, Unity in the Community, Ste. Louise Outreach Centre, Knights Table, the Yogi Divine Society, Vraj Community Service, Regeneration Brampton and many more have made our community stronger during this difficult time.

I also have to address the report that came out yesterday from our brave Canadian Armed Forces. Like many Canadians, I was shocked by this report from the long-term care centres, including one in my riding. The examples of abuse described in the report are unacceptable. Our seniors deserve dignity and respect.

We must find a solution. We need to fix this.

• (1215)

The Chair: We'll now go to Mrs. Stubbs.

Mrs. Shannon Stubbs (Lakeland, CPC): Mr. Chair, Canada's oil and gas sector is in crisis, made worse by five years of bad policies, red tape and barriers to pipelines. Just in the last two months, we saw the largest production cut in Canadian history. Active rigs dropped by 92% and tens of thousands of oil and gas workers lost their jobs, adding to the 200,000 since 2015. Energy is Canada's biggest investor, and exporting could lead the recovery if there are actions, not just words.

On March 25, the finance minister promised help in hours or days, not weeks, but he's letting Canadians down. Sixty-three days

later, small oil and gas companies still can't apply for BDC loans, and last week's large employer loan terms are predatory, with interest rates escalating to 14% by year five. Those are payday loan rates. The required stock options being at record lows could make the government the largest shareholder. That's not emergency assistance; it's pandemic profiteering.

Programs can't help workers if businesses can't or won't actually get the support. The Liberals' death-by-delay tactics are doing exactly what foreign activists in other countries want: to shut down Canada's oil.

[*Translation*]

The Chair: Ms. Bessette, the floor is yours.

Mrs. Lyne Bessette (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.): Mr. Chair, in times of crisis, we stick together.

I can state that this is certainly the case in Brome—Missisquoi. In the last weeks, I have been calling volunteer action centres in my constituency so that they can tell me their news.

I would like to take the time that I have to highlight the work that community organizations are doing tirelessly in my constituency. The crisis has made us realize the extent to which food banks and meals-on-wheels can not only relieve hunger, but also relieve thousands of shut-in seniors of their loneliness.

Let me also highlight the devotion of the volunteers giving generously of their time, particularly the initiative of Mabel Hastings in the volunteer aid centre in Mansonville. Like me, she sends out a daily newsletter to keep the public informed about the many resources available for their support.

COVID-19 is bringing out the best in our community and I am certain that, together, we will get through it.

[*English*]

The Chair: We will go to Mr. Virani.

Mr. Arif Virani (Parkdale—High Park, Lib.): Mr. Chair, during the COVID-19 pandemic I have been inspired by the courageous work of so many essential workers. I want to thank everyone on the front lines for keeping us safe, keeping us fed and keeping our communities functioning.

I want to make special note of one particular essential health care worker, a woman who is a quarantine manager with the Public Health Agency of Canada. I have personally seen her working tirelessly over the past three months to keep all of us safe. That woman is my wife, Suchita Jain.

Suchi, I love you, I am very proud of you and I thank you for all the sacrifices you are making.

I want to highlight another woman from my riding of Parkdale—High Park, Rachelle LeBlanc. She is a local designer. When the pandemic broke, she saw the need for protective barriers for small shops in Parkdale, so she set about collecting donations. She then put her design talents to work and started designing free-standing protective shields. Rachelle's team has now delivered 25 free COVID protective shields to small shopkeepers in Parkdale, and the team is on track to building 100 more. It's the compassion of Canadians like Rachelle that gives meaning to the phrase "we are all in this together".

[Translation]

The Chair: Mr. Godin, you have the floor.

Mr. Joël Godin (Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier, CPC): Mr. Chair, the school year has been shattered and our graduating classes must be proud of what they have achieved amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Young men, young women, be proud of your accomplishments! You can believe in the future. Keep learning. It will give you tools that will serve you all your lives. What you have achieved in this extraordinary year will set you apart from the others. I invite you to be inspired by that and turn it to your advantage.

The current government has the obligation to promote the values that will lead you to become involved in your communities. Your willingness to learn or to work makes you into better citizens. Knowledge and experience are irreplaceable and invaluable. I implore this government, which is unaware of the damage it is causing, to immediately announce all the positions that have already been approved under the Canada summer jobs program. Urgent action is needed. Let us have confidence in our organizations, our companies, and let us support our youth, a rich resource that we must equip and motivate.

I congratulate all the young graduates in the beautiful constituency of Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier.

• (1220)

[English]

The Chair: We will now go to Mr. Fergus.

[Translation]

Mr. Greg Fergus (Hull—Aylmer, Lib.): Mr. Chair, this pandemic lets us see what Canadians are made of. This coming Saturday, May 30, more than 2,000 Christians of all denominations are coming together virtually for prayer and for action.

[English]

When the going gets tough, Canadians get going. This could not be more true than with respect to what will be happening on May 30. This Saturday, in more than 2,000 churches and homes, thou-

sands of faith-filled Canadians are gathering to pray and act on those prayers as part of Stand United Canada. They will gather through television, Facebook Live and Instagram Live. Then they are going to deliver much-needed support to at-risk Canadians who live in disadvantaged areas. This is faith in action.

I'm sure I speak for all parliamentarians when I wish success to Stand United Canada. I hope it inspires more Canadians to follow in its footsteps.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: We will now go to Ms. Harder.

Ms. Rachael Harder (Lethbridge, CPC): The best way to safeguard the truth is to allow people to speak freely, but from the very beginning of this pandemic, the Liberals have silenced dissent. Sadly, their short-sightedness has been to the detriment of Canadians. Early on, they propagated the notion that human-to-human transmission wasn't possible. They said that closing the borders wasn't necessary. They told us that wearing face masks wouldn't help.

It is undeniable that the Liberal government has put Canadians in danger by silencing alternative points of view and has spread misinformation. Ironically, however, they have now gone ahead and crowned themselves the arbiters of truth. They are spending millions of dollars to censor what Canadians can and cannot say. They are determining what is true and what is not, what is right and what is wrong, what is in and what is out. When freedom of speech is repressed, it is safe to say that democracy is under siege.

I call upon the government to restore the personal liberties that are granted under our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This is Canada. We are not an autocracy; we are a democracy.

The Chair: We will now go to Mr. Nater.

Mr. John Nater (Perth—Wellington, CPC): Mr. Chair, small businesses have always been the cornerstone of communities across this country. They provide employment and economic stability and are always the first to support community functions and activities, but small businesses have been particularly hard hit due to COVID-19. They have shut their doors temporarily, and now many worry they'll never be able to open their doors again.

With the season cancellations at the Stratford Festival, Drayton Entertainment and Stratford Summer Music, businesses in the tourism, hospitality, accommodation and retail sectors in Perth—Wellington are struggling. Every day, I talk to small business owners who can't access the Canada emergency business account, and others who find the convoluted commercial rent assistance program to be out of reach. The program is needlessly complicated, frustratingly slow and excessively restrictive. Mr. Chair, the government needs to go back, fix these programs and ensure that support goes to the small businesses that need it.

The Chair: We will now go to Ms. Collins.

Ms. Laurel Collins (Victoria, NDP): Mr. Chair, Canadians have been shaken by this pandemic. It has exposed the gaps in our health care system and our social safety net. It has shown how vulnerable we all are when disaster hits.

It has brought us to a crossroads. We can go backwards to so-called business as usual, with horrific conditions in long-term care homes, widespread inequality and no real action on climate change, or we can build for better.

In Victoria, people in the community, organizations and municipal leaders have been calling for a new way forward. The City of Victoria has a plan for reinvention, resilience and recovery. Organizations like Greater Victoria Acting Together; Common Vision, Common Action; and Kairos Victoria are exploring ideas for a sustainable and just recovery.

We can build for better. We can invest in the infrastructure. We need to fight climate change, homelessness and inequality. We can build a Canada where we take better care of the planet and each other.

• (1225)

[*Translation*]

The Chair: We now move to Ms. DeBellefeuille.

Mrs. Claude DeBellefeuille (Salaberry—Suroît, BQ): Mr. Chair, in this time of pandemic, it is with heartfelt emotion that I want to highlight the excellent work of all the guardian angels at the CISSS de la Montérégie-Ouest. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the entire staff, as well as the retirees who have come back to provide their assistance. I admire the managers, at all levels and in all services, working tirelessly so that their teams can answer the call in this difficult situation.

My fellow managers and the management teams of the Support Program for the Autonomy of Seniors, both in home support and in residential care, you have my heartfelt congratulations for the herculean work you have done.

My thoughts go particularly to Lyne Ricard and Véronique Proulx, managers working diligently with their teams of professionals to support the seniors living in intermediate resources, as we call them.

I also warmly recognize the director of nursing services, Chantal Careau, who is facing the current challenge with passion and humanity.

Once again, my congratulations go to the entire organization of the CISSS de la Montérégie-Ouest for their remarkable work in this difficult and very demanding time.

[*English*]

The Chair: We will go to Mr. Barlow.

Mr. John Barlow (Foothills, CPC): During the worst of times, we see the best in people. Heroes are born, characters revealed, resiliency is sowed. I cannot say enough about my constituents in Foothills—front-line health care workers, grocery store clerks, restaurateurs, farmers—for all they are doing to keep our community safe and healthy.

I want to shine a light on some of our hidden heroes, such as Owen Plumb, a grade 9 student in Okotoks who is using his 3D printer to build PPE for front-line health care workers. He partnered with the Rotary Club and Evergreen Solutions in Okotoks to help with the manufacturing and assembly.

There is also Sam Schofield, the volunteer president of the Pincher Creek Chamber of Commerce, overnight built a resiliency website for COVID-19 by building training tools for businesses throughout his area. He also helped develop the Foothills Business Recovery Taskforce, which is a resource for businesses throughout southern Alberta in my riding.

Finally, to the employees of Cargill Foods in High River, I know this has been a very difficult time and that many of you have lost loved ones. I want to say thank you for tirelessly doing all you can to protect our food supply and keep food on our table.

Each and every one of you is a hero. Thank you.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Chair: We will now go to Mr. Simms.

Mr. Scott Simms (Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame, Lib.): Thank you, Chair.

I would like to take this time to salute those who go above and beyond the call of duty to provide care and comfort to others.

In my 16 years in the House of Commons I have never experienced anything like this, when we find our lives are at a standstill and there is so much sorrow felt by families who suffer from the effects of COVID-19.

However, here are two examples of kindness right here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Shanna and Fred Patey of Bishop's Falls, along with a few of their friends, spend hours next to the Trans-Canada Highway with just a barbeque and a cooler. They serve free meals for truckers crossing our province each and every day. So far they have provided over 1,500 meals.

There is also Mitch Strickland of Grand Falls-Windsor, who owns Appy's Diner. He has continually provided food for the local hospital and other front-line workers through his donations.

To all our front-line workers in grocery stores and delivery trucks, and to doctors, nurses, LPNs, paramedics, first responders and, of course, our brave women and men in the military, we will be forever grateful and blessed because of you.

Thank you.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Chair: That's all the time we have today for Statements by Members.

Before going on, I just want to remind all the members that it is a one-minute statement, so if you don't mind, please time it before coming in because we do have limited time.

The other thing that has come up is that some of you just naturally speak very quickly. I'm not here to judge anybody's way of speaking, but try to consider the translators and interpreters to make sure that everyone understands what is said, because they are working diligently to try to get both languages out.

In sum, there are two things: please slow down and please make sure the statement is confined to one minute.

[Translation]

We now move to Questions to Ministers.

Please note that we will suspend the proceedings every 45 minutes in order to allow the employees who are providing support for the sitting to substitute for each other safely.

[English]

Our first question goes to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Scheer.

• (1230)

Hon. Andrew Scheer (Leader of the Opposition): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

In the early days of the pandemic and the lockdown that followed, Canadians were told by this government that programs would be rolled out very quickly and that gaps and shortcomings would be changed as time went on. While many Canadians are being let down by this government's response and its unnecessarily rigid programs, Conservatives identified solutions weeks ago, yet here we are, two and a half months later, and many of these programs still have not been improved.

I have a simple question for the Prime Minister.

On April 26 the Conservatives asked the Prime Minister to change the criteria for the Canada emergency business account so that small businesses that don't happen to have a business bank account could qualify for those types of programs. It's now May 27. Is the Prime Minister going to make that change?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Chair, we knew from the beginning of this pandemic that we did need to move extremely quickly, and that's what we did. We rolled out the Canada emergency response benefit extremely quickly. Eight million Canadians have had that as a replacement for paycheques lost because of COVID-19. We also moved forward on the wage subsidy and a range of other programs to support workers and small businesses.

What we've done in terms of helping small businesses with the Canada emergency business account has had a massive impact on small businesses across the country, but we understand that certain companies and businesses have particularities that mean it's a little more difficult for them to qualify. We are working with them through their regional development agencies, and we encourage them to approach their local RDAs, which will be able to help them get the money they deserve.

Hon. Andrew Scheer: Mr. Chair, these are very simple technical fixes that can be made by this government. There's no excuse for the delay. It's May 27. They've known about these problems for weeks. They're trying to get patted on the back for actions they took back in March, and yet they are letting so many Canadians down by not making these very simple changes.

For example, companies that have acquired another company in the last year have employees whose jobs are threatened. The businesses are not allowed to qualify for the wage subsidy because their revenue is now counted together. We have identified this gap.

Again, it's a simple question. Will companies that have acquired another company still be allowed to use the wage subsidy to keep workers on the job, yes or no?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, I know that there are many different types of businesses across this country that need support. We have moved forward on supporting as many of them as we possibly can, and we continue to work on filling gaps.

I know the member opposite has talked to me a number of times about a tractor company in his riding. I can assure you that finance officials are engaged with that company to see if there's a way to make sure we're getting them the support they need.

Hon. Andrew Scheer: It's actually a very simple fix. I can save him and his officials a lot of time.

The government used the word "amalgamation" when it announced the changes to that program. He can make this very clear, and save a lot of work, just by including the word "acquisition". Will he do that?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, I can assure you that finance officials are working closely with Brandt Tractor.

They're continuing to work with a range of businesses across the country that, for various reasons, are not able to apply for the help we have now. We will continue to work to make sure people who need the help get it.

Hon. Andrew Scheer: Mr. Chair, it's literally one word. We can email him the text. We can send him the page in the dictionary where that word is defined, if that would help.

Another gap that is letting people down is in the rent relief program. The government has set the parameters to qualify for the rent relief program for companies that have experienced a 70% revenue loss. There are untold thousands of businesses that have experienced a 50%, 55%, 60% or 65% loss that are ineligible but have no capacity to pay the rent.

We called on the government weeks ago to have a more flexible sliding scale to allow more companies to access this program to keep more people on the job and more businesses open. Will the government introduce some flexibility to this program to help more businesses survive?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, from the beginning of this pandemic, our public servants and policy-makers have been moving creatively and quickly to try to get help to as many people as we possibly can, with our focus being on the people who need it the most. Obviously, this pandemic is affecting everyone and every business across the country in different ways, but our focus has been on ensuring that those who most need it are getting the help they can.

We will, of course, continue to work with the parties opposite and all Canadians to ensure that we're getting help to everyone who needs it, but our focus has always been on the most vulnerable, first and foremost.

• (1235)

[Translation]

The Chair: The floor now goes to Mr. Blanchet.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Beloeil—Chambly, BQ): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My question is for the Prime Minister.

If the Liberal Party of Canada had not taken advantage of the emergency programs, would it have laid off all its staff?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we recognized that a number of organizations and companies were facing difficulties because of COVID-19. People work for those organizations, as accountants, receptionists, assistants or labourers, and those people need to be supported.

We are supporting people all over the country through that program.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Is the Liberal Party one of those organizations in difficulty?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Any company or organization that can demonstrate a significant drop in its income, whether that be in donations, receipts, profits—

The Chair: The floor goes to Mr. Blanchet.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Is the Liberal Party of Canada in difficulty, as an organization?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we created specific criteria to help organizations in difficulty. Any organization experiencing those difficulties can apply.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: In the Magdalen Islands, fishing companies in difficulty and in need of assistance will not have the money that the Liberals are going to take.

Is the Liberal Party of Canada in difficulty, as an organization?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we have invested in assistance for fishers all across the country. We recognize that it is a difficult situation because of COVID-19. We will be here for our fishers and for industries in difficulty.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: I am not catching many answers, it seems to me.

A company in Drummondville that manufactures isolation membranes is in difficulty because a federal program is inadequate.

Compared to that company, is the Liberal Party of Canada in difficulty, as an organization?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, there are clear criteria for submitting applications under these programs. Companies and organizations that receive money qualify for those programs.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: If the program criteria establish that the Liberal Party is an organization in difficulty, does that mean that the criteria to determine whether an organization is in difficulty are poorly designed?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, all through this pandemic, our priority has been to be here for workers in difficulty so that they do not lose their jobs. This applies to all organizations and companies in the country to the extent possible. That is what we are in the process of doing.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Given the answers from the Prime Minister, let me ask this question: is the Prime Minister in difficulty?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: No, Mr. Chair. We are doing important work for all Canadians, every day.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Restaurant owners on rue Ontario in Montreal feel that they will not make it through the crisis and that they will never open their doors again. They are in difficulty.

By comparison, is the Liberal Party of Canada an organization in difficulty that will not open its doors again after the crisis? We can but hope.

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we established criteria for that program in order to help those working for various organizations. Any organization that receives the subsidy has qualified for it.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Is there a consensus in the Liberal Party caucus that the Liberal Party is in difficulty as an organization?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we are working every day to help Canadians and workers in difficulty. We are going to continue to do that work.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: Does answering a question put the Prime Minister in difficulty?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, it is a pleasure to be here in the House and to answer questions from Canadians and from members of the opposition.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: You are going to answer a question from a Quebecker, I hope.

Companies are struggling in Saguenay, in the Gaspé, in Beloeil.

Would those companies not deserve to be saved by the money that the supposedly struggling Liberal Party has taken?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: I am always very happy to answer questions from all Canadians currently sitting in the House.

We will be here to help workers in difficulty all across the country, including in Quebec.

Mr. Yves-François Blanchet: If the Prime Minister is so happy to answer questions, I hope he will be delirious with joy to answer this one.

Is the Liberal Party in difficulty?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we established a program to help those working in organizations and who could lose their jobs because of COVID-19. We are here to help workers in organizations and companies all over the country.

● (1240)

[English]

The Chair: We'll now go on to Mr. Singh.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh (Burnaby South, NDP): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

The conditions of seniors as outlined by the military were appalling, but seniors need more than just compassionate words. They need action. Will the Prime Minister stop hiding behind excuses and actually show leadership to fix long-term care?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, the Constitution of Canada is not an excuse. It lays out the divisions of powers and responsibilities, and we respect the provinces' jurisdiction over long-term care facilities. However, from the very beginning, we have indicated our willingness to support the provinces on this very important issue. We need to make sure our seniors right across the country are properly cared for, which is why we sent in the military and why we are there to help the provinces.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: The former federal health minister, Dr. Philpott, said, "We need to stop using jurisdiction as an excuse to not have federal leadership." That is a former federal health minister. Now, we know from the military report that staff were afraid to use vital equipment because of the cost. Will the Prime Minister call for an end to profit in long-term care?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, over the past couple of days I've had very good conversations with the premiers of both Quebec and Ontario on this important issue. I look forward to discussing issues around long-term care with all the premiers of the provinces and territories tomorrow evening as well. This is something that Canadians have seen needs concerted action. We will be there to support the provinces.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: Needles were reused and expired medication was used, according to military reports. Will the Prime Minister call for an end to profit in the care of our seniors?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, the contents of that report were deeply disturbing and troubling for all Canadians. That is why we are committed to working with the provinces to fix this situation. Ontarians and indeed people right across the country are deeply preoccupied by what they've seen going on. We need to fix this, and we will do that together.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: The military report found that cockroaches and flies were present and that food was rotten.

Will the Prime Minister call for national standards so that long-term care is governed by the same principles as the Canada Health Act?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, our priority right now is ensuring that we are supporting the provinces in their need to make sure that all seniors are protected right across the country in all those institutions.

Going forward, we absolutely will need to have more conversations about how we can ensure that every senior across the country is properly supported.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: The military report found that "respecting the dignity of patients was not a priority".

Will the Prime Minister call for national standards and for long-term care to be governed by the same principles as the Canada Health Act?

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, all Canadians know we need to do better by our seniors. This is something we all take very seriously, and all orders of government will work together to make sure that right now, and going forward, we improve our systems. The federal government will be there to work with the provinces on making that happen.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: Mr. Chair, the Prime Minister has said that he's willing to work with the provinces. I'm saying that we need to see federal leadership. We need a commitment at the federal level that the Prime Minister will push for things that people need, which is to remove profit from long-term care and to establish national standards.

Will the Prime Minister go beyond working with provinces and show some leadership?

[Translation]

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, I will always be here to stand up for Canadians in all different situations. We are going to work with the provinces, fully respecting jurisdictions, to make sure that, all across the country, Canadians in long-term care are supported as required and receive the services and the care they deserve.

[English]

The Chair: Mr. Singh, we have 30 seconds. Ask a brief question, please.

Mr. Jagmeet Singh: Thank you very much.

The COVID-19 crisis should not be used as an excuse to avoid presenting solutions to the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls committee, in particular by delaying action on the calls for justice. This is the same government that would not recognize it as a genocide, the same government that delayed the United Nations declaration legislation and the same government that is still taking indigenous kids to court.

Will this government commit to core funding for indigenous services to help women and girls and ensure that the calls for justice are implemented without delay?

• (1245)

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau: Mr. Chair, we continue to work very closely with partners on the calls for justice even as we act in many areas, including better funding for shelters and for victims of domestic violence. We will continue to work with those partners, but people will understand that many of those partners are very focused right now on helping front-line workers, not on establishing the report. We will continue to work with them on the report, but the COVID-19 situation has made that more difficult.

The Chair: I want to thank the honourable members who are shouting “time”, but I do have a timer here, and I am taking care of it. I appreciate the help, but I do want to remind them that I have the proper machinery here.

We will now go to Mr. Bezan.

Mr. James Bezan: Thank you, Chair.

My question is to the Prime Minister. He was just talking about the tragic conditions in long-term care facilities in Ontario, and there was a report out from Quebec today.

I want to commend the Canadian Armed Forces for witnessing these appalling conditions, putting it in the context of a report, and providing care to our loved ones in these long-term care facilities.

The government is saying they didn't receive the report from the department until May 22, but this report came out on May 14. What happened to that report for eight days?

The Chair: We will go to the honourable minister.

We seem to have a technical issue, Mr. Sajjan. We can't hear you. You might want to put down your bar and keep it down while you're speaking.

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Chair, I want to thank our Canadian Armed Forces members for the tremendous work they are doing. They did their duty, noted down their observations and reported them.

While those observations were being reported directly to the managers, a report was being compiled. This report was given to me on the 21st. I then forwarded it to the Minister of Public Safety on the 22nd, and that report was then given to the provincial authorities very quickly afterwards.

Mr. James Bezan: I trust that you got the report on the 21st, but the report was written on the 14th, so what happened with that report for seven days? Why wasn't it acted upon? Could you just explain that? Our loved ones were at risk during that entire time.

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan: Mr. Chair, as we stated, this report was done and given up through the chain of command, and the appropriate leadership did their due diligence. Once we received this report, it was forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Again, I want to commend our Canadian Armed Forces members for not only the tremendous work they are doing but also for doing their duty.

Mr. James Bezan: That report from Ontario documented appalling conditions, horrific care that was being given to the clients, and also the way that the staff conducted themselves.

We know that there are 39 members of the Canadian Armed Forces currently infected with COVID-19. Minister, do you believe that the infection could have been transmitted from staff to our soldiers serving in long-term care facilities because proper protocols were not being followed?

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan: Mr. Chair, when it comes to any type of activities that we send our Canadian Armed Forces on, we do our due diligence to make sure that we have the right protocols in place and the appropriate training.

This is why we have taken the time to make sure our folks not only did the appropriate training but had the appropriate equipment. We have the right protocols in place, and we will make sure that our members who are infected by COVID will get the appropriate treatment as well.

Mr. James Bezan: Does the Minister of National Defence believe that our soldiers serving in Operation Laser, who have put themselves in harm's way in battling the COVID virus as a war, deserve to have hazard pay benefits?

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan: Mr. Chair, when it comes to looking after Canadian Armed Forces personnel, yes, we are actually in the process as we speak of making sure that our members have the appropriate hazard pay. This is currently being drafted, and we will have more to say on this shortly.

• (1250)

Mr. James Bezan: I hope that means it's a yes. I do encourage the government to provide that compensation to our soldiers and troops serving in Operation Laser.

I would finally like to come back to the issue of the timeline from May 14 to May 21, when that report was in the department for one week.

Under our parliamentary system, ministers are accountable for the conduct of their departments. Will the minister take responsibility for that report sitting on someone's desk for seven days and not being turned over to the proper authorities?

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan: Mr. Chair, I want to make it very clear: When it comes to the observations that were made, those were immediately reported to the appropriate management of the care facilities and to the appropriate links within the province.

At the same time, this report was being compiled and pushed up to the chain of command, and they did their due diligence. As I stated, it was given to us, and on the same day it was forwarded to the Minister of Public Safety, who immediately then sent it to the provincial authorities.

Mr. James Bezan: Was one of those authorities that this was sent to the RCMP?

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan: Mr. Chair, as stated, this will not only be given to the proper authorities but the appropriate steps will be taken now.

The Chair: We'll now go to Ms. Falk.

Ms. Falk.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk (Battlefords—Lloydminster, CPC): Thank you, Chair.

Yesterday it was revealed that the Minister of Digital Government has been promoting a fundraising campaign to sue Global News for their story criticizing the Chinese Communist Party. Why is the minister using her authority to support the Communist Party of China and threatening our media and freedom of expression?

Hon. Joyce Murray (Minister of Digital Government): Mr. Chair, we value the important work of media right across the country. Attacking the integrity of hard-working journalists is simply not acceptable. Like many members on all sides of the House... WeChat is a social media platform used to engage and share information with—

The Chair: Now we'll go back to Ms. Falk.

Ms. Falk.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Is the minister aware of the efforts that the United Front carries out on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party to influence how Canadians view the People's Republic of China?

Hon. Joyce Murray: Thank you for that question.

Mr. Chair, I want to just be clear. The participation in the WeChat group, much like Facebook, is guided by posted—

The Chair: We'll now go back to Ms. Falk.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Is the minister an active participant in the efforts by the Communists to muzzle a Canadian journalist and deprive Canadians of the facts about China?

Hon. Joyce Murray: Muzzling journalists is never acceptable, and our government is very clear on that. I will say that the individual in question posted something outside of the guidelines of my WeChat group and is no longer—

The Chair: We'll now go back to Ms. Falk.

Ms. Falk, I just want to point out that we do have interpreters listening and trying to interpret. They'd appreciate it....

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: My questions are short. That's probably what it is.

The Chair: Take a deep breath.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, the Liberals can't shrug this off. The minister admitted to theBreaker that her own political staff manages this WeChat. This is someone who is paid by Canadian taxpayers. Why is the minister using tax dollars to help China attack Global News and freedom of expression?

Hon. Joyce Murray: I think the member knows very well that the people who post on WeChat are free to post what they choose within certain guidelines. Those guidelines were ignored. That person is no longer part of my WeChat group. The post was completely unacceptable, and I do not share the views of the individual.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, Sam Cooper is an investigative Canadian journalist who has uncovered many different criminal rackets that can be linked back to Beijing. Has the minister apologized to Sam Cooper for attempting to shut down his work?

Hon. Joyce Murray: As we all know, community outreach is a very important part of the work of a member of Parliament. WeChat is one of many social media sites regularly used by members—

The Chair: We go back to Ms. Falk.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, when will the minister apologize to Sam Cooper and Global News?

Hon. Joyce Murray: Mr. Chair, I have been very clear that I do not share the views of the person who posted on my WeChat site, who operated outside of my—

The Chair: We'll now go back to Ms. Falk.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, in December 2018 the Liberals passed Bill C-76. This included provisions to prevent foreign interference in Canadian society.

Does the government believe that Joyce Murray's actions have violated this portion of the act?

• (1255)

Hon. Bill Blair (Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness): Mr. Chair, I want to assure the member that we are always vigilant in any foreign interference in our national security or issues of political interference in our society. It's monitored carefully by the national security establishment, according to the law as it exists in this country, and we will remain vigilant.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, in May 2019, the Liberals launched their digital charter. One of the principles was strong democracy, a commitment to defend freedom of expression. Will the Liberals hold Joyce Murray's WeChat accountable if it has violated this part of the charter?

Hon. Bill Blair: Mr. Chair, we are absolutely committed to the rule of law and will always uphold it. I think, as the minister has made very clear, she was not involved in this process and has no control over the individual who posted that matter.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Chair, unfortunately I don't believe that was a sufficient answer. This is really a yes or no.

Will the government hold Joyce Murray's WeChat accountable if it has violated their part of the charter?

Hon. Bill Blair: Again, Mr. Chair, I want to assure the member that our government remains committed to the rule of law and we will always work tirelessly to uphold the laws of this country.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Is that a yes or a no?

Hon. Bill Blair: Again, I think it was very clear. We will always uphold the laws of Canada.

Mrs. Rosemarie Falk: Still, was that a yes or a no? I'm not hearing a yes or a no.

Hon. Bill Blair: I am doing my very best, Mr. Chair, to answer the question for the House and to assure the member opposite that our government will always remain committed to the rule of law. That is unequivocal.

The Chair: We will now move on to the honourable member.

[*Translation*]

The floor is yours, Mr. Deltell.

Mr. Gérard Deltell (Louis-Saint-Laurent, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am very happy and proud to be participating in this discussion in the House of Commons today.

My question is very simple: how much is Canada's deficit?

Hon. Bill Morneau (Minister of Finance): Mr. Chair, we continue to be transparent with our measures. Of course, we want to make sure that our investments, our economy—

The Chair: The floor is yours, Mr. Deltell.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Let me ask my question to the honourable Minister of Finance once more, since he is talking about transparency.

My question is really simple: how much is Canada's deficit?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, our economic situation is very fluid. We have made major investments and we are making sure that our economy is working.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, the minister's answer is not fluid at all. But the question is really simple: how much is Canada's deficit?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, it is important to be transparent with our investments. We look at the investments and the figures every day.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, the Minister of Finance may not know what the deficit is, but one great Canadian does know. And he knows that he knows.

Could the Minister of Finance be very clear, very fluid and, above all, very transparent with Canadians?

What is Canada's deficit?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, I want to be very clear with Canadians: our economic situation is very difficult. The situation is fluid. We are making investments to ensure that our economy will be strong in the future.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, with all due respect to the Minister of Finance, let me point out that, though he is not very clear, Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer was clear yesterday. The deficit is \$260 billion. That is the real number.

Why does the government not have the courage to state it clearly, as the Parliamentary Budget Officer did yesterday?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we always want to be clear and transparent. It is very important for the situation to be stable in order to ensure our future. That is our economic approach. We are making investments now so that the situation becomes more stable.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, I know that the Minister of Finance is very good with figures. But he is not able to give us one. Perhaps he could comment on the statement that the Parliamentary Budget Officer made yesterday, that the emergency assistance must have an end date, and if it does not, we are heading to levels of taxation that have not been seen in this country for generations.

What is the government going to do to make sure that Canadians will not be overtaxed after this crisis?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we think it's very important to make investments. That way, we will have a resilient economy in the future. That's very important. That way, we know that we'll have a good economy in the future. When we have more information, we will—

• (1300)

The Chair: Mr. Deltell, you have the floor.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, will the minister commit not to raise taxes after the crisis?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, I have said several times that we do not have a plan to raise taxes. That's very important.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Finally a clear answer! However, I'm not convinced that he will apply it.

In fact, the Parliamentary Budget Officer himself has said that "there isn't much ammunition left without shifting into a large structural deficit", which can lead directly to tax increases.

If the Minister of Finance can't even say today what the deficit is today, how can he be credible when he says that he won't raise taxes?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, I think what's most important is that during this pandemic, Canadians and companies across the country need the Government of Canada's help. That is our approach. That way, we will have an economy that will function in the future. Of course, this is important for future generations.

Mr. Gérard Deltell: When will there be an economic update?

Hon. Bill Morneau: [*Technical difficulties*]

Mr. Gérard Deltell: Mr. Chair, all observers are expecting an economic update to know where we're going. When will that happen?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we want our economic update to be accurate. That's why we are looking at information that allow us to make good forecasts.

[English]

The Chair: We'll now go to Mr. Hoback.

Mr. Randy Hoback (Prince Albert, CPC): Mr. Chair, the United States, Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam have created an economic prosperity group to diversify some of their key supply chains away from China. Canada has a free trade agreement with six of these seven countries. Why are we not part of this group?

Hon. Mary Ng (Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade): Mr. Chair, I thank the hon. member for that question.

Indeed, we have been working diligently with all of these countries to make sure that we are keeping global supply chains open during this critical time. I think everyone agrees that keeping supply chains open for medical goods, critical agriculture and essential goods is absolutely essential and—

The Chair: We'll go back to Mr. Hoback.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, this government is refusing to come to terms with what COVID-19 will mean for the future of international trade. Why is Canada not at the table with our largest trading partner protecting the viability of our international supply chains and capitalizing on the opportunities of others doing the same?

The Chair: Before we go to the minister, one of the members has his mike still on, and I would ask that he turn it off. I am hearing background noise.

The hon. minister.

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, Canada has unprecedented access to a number of markets around the world because of the extraordinary agreements that we have made to provide access to customers in those international markets. During COVID-19, we have been working with our G20 partners. I have had two meetings with G20 trade ministers on the importance of keeping supply chains—

The Chair: We'll go back to Mr. Hoback.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, is this payback for the Prime Minister snubbing these countries at the original TPP signing?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, we have a CPTPP arrangement with these countries, and we are looking forward to making sure that we get Canadian businesses growing into those markets.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, the U.K. will begin applying tariffs at the beginning of next year on Canadian exports such as seafood, beef and cars. These are the items that have had tariffs removed under CETA.

Will the government commit to having a new trade agreement with the U.K. in place by January 1?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, we are monitoring the situation very carefully. The U.K., of course, is a very important trading partner for Canada. They are in discussions right now. I want to assure Canadian businesses that CETA continues to apply to our trade with the U.K. during this period while they go through Brexit.

• (1305)

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, after CUSMA, this government guaranteed to the trade committee that they would publish the objectives of any new trade agreement. When will we see these objectives published and actually have a chance to view them?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, we look forward to working to ensure that those objectives are published as we get into future trade discussions.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, the resignation of the WTO director-general at this unprecedented time is concerning for the international trade community. Is the government committed to supporting a DG candidate who is dedicated to the massive reforms needed to get the WTO functioning again?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, I want to thank the hon. member for that good question. The Ottawa group, led by Canada, is working with like-minded countries on the reform of the WTO. We've been doing this work and we continue to do this work. I look forward to making sure that we are leading the way on those discussions with like-minded—

The Chair: Mr. Hoback.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, last week the President of the United States considered blocking cattle imports. Our beef producers don't need this. They need stability.

Three-quarters of Canada's beef cattle exports go to the U.S. Has the government sought out and received assurances from the United States that no such action will apply to Canadian cattle?

Hon. Chrystia Freeland (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr. Chair, we have an excellent assurance of our trade with the United States, which is our new NAFTA trade agreement that we have negotiated, thanks to the unprecedented co-operation across this country. It is very important to the Canadian economy and Canadian producers.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, going forward post-COVID, there are a lot of things that will be changing in supply chains. What is this government doing proactively to look at opportunities in these supply chains that Canadian businesses can take advantage of?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, we continue to work with countries around the globe to ensure that Canada's supply chains and those global supply chains, particularly for essential goods, for agricultural products, for medical supplies, continue to remain open. We will keep doing this work.

Mr. Randy Hoback: Mr. Chair, on the agriculture side, canola farmers would like to know the status of canola going into China.

Can she update the House on that status?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food): Mr. Chair, I want to assure my colleague that we are continuing to work with our industry representatives, our allies and our trading partners in China.

[*English*]

The Chair: We'll now go to Ms. McLeod.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senior Canadian bureaucrats received very credible reports in early January that China was procuring and hoarding PPE.

As a member of cabinet, was the health minister aware?

Hon. Patty Hajdu (Minister of Health): Mr. Chair, from the very beginning of the outbreak in early January we were aware of the challenges our health sector would face, and we immediately began to work with the provinces and territories to understand what the need would be and how we could best prepare.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: In April, the minister stated there were not enough supplies in the national emergency stockpile.

Can she explain why she approved a donation of 16 tonnes of PPE for China on January 31, claiming it would not compromise our supply? She can't have it both ways. We don't have enough; we have enough and it won't compromise it.

Hon. Anita Anand (Minister of Public Services and Procurement): Mr. Chair, we are operating in a highly competitive global environment, and the reality is that we need to make sure we have multiple complementary supply chains operating at the same time, which we have been doing in the past weeks and months, to ensure our front-line health care workers have the supplies they need to keep Canadians safe. That's our priority. That's what we're working on.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: Unfortunately, this question was directed to the health minister, referencing things she actually stated in terms of the availability of our supplies.

Before she signed off on the donation—and it was the health minister who signed off on the donation—did she consult with the health ministers in the provinces and territories?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, as the member opposite knows, provinces and territories have their own stockpiles, which of course they use to prepare for incidences of outbreak and other illnesses across their jurisdictions. We've worked very closely with the provinces and territories since the beginning of the outbreak to make sure we can provide any particular additional support. In fact,

of all the requests made so far, we have been able to complete them.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: Health care workers are now having to look at modified full-face snorkels as an alternative to N95 masks.

Did it not occur to the minister that our hospitals and care homes could have used that PPE she shipped out, providing a longer opportunity for them to also get procurement done?

• (1310)

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, as the member opposite knows, the equipment that was donated when China was in its outbreak was an important donation of nearly expired or expired goods that it was in desperate need of in its effort to try to contain the virus.

As the member opposite knows, we've been able to work successfully with provinces and territories to ensure they have what they need.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: Mr. Chair, I would suggest that during February and March our hospitals would have consumed that almost-expired product very efficiently, but I want to move on to another topic.

When defending the sale of 22 seniors' homes to the Chinese government, the Prime Minister stated that we have a "strong regulatory regime" that imposes rigorous standards. He said that this regime ensures the care our seniors get is "top quality". That was in 2017. Now he states he is saddened, shocked, disappointed and angered.

Was the Prime Minister completely oblivious to the risks, or was he just too anxious to please the Chinese government when he sold those 22 homes?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, the homes the member opposite is referring to are in the province of B.C., and I have to commend the province for the early work it did to protect seniors in those long-term care homes. The member opposite is trying to confuse the issue. As she knows, the review we did was entirely separate from the standards to which the province holds the care homes.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: The Prime Minister does not have authority over seniors' homes, which he has clearly stated, but he does have authority over the act in which he approved the sale. At 18 months, government had an obligation to make sure there was compliance.

Was that done?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, the long-term care homes in each province fall within the jurisdiction of their own particular act, and those provinces and territories are responsible for fulfilling the inspections required under that act.

Mrs. Cathy McLeod: Under the Investment Canada Act, the government is obligated to review the sale for compliance. Four homes had to close. Since the government approved the sale, it is complicit in the care of our seniors in this country.

Hon. Navdeep Bains (Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry): Mr. Chair, I want to make it very clear that we understand how difficult this is for seniors. That is why we follow the appropriate steps, outlined under the Investment Canada Act, to make sure that any measures we take keep seniors and their well-being first and foremost.

[Translation]

The Chair: Mr. Therrien, you now have the floor.

Mr. Alain Therrien (La Prairie, BQ): Mr. Chair, during the pandemic, the government has given money to companies that don't pay a cent in tax because they use tax havens. We told the government that it didn't make sense. The government's response was that it is no big deal.

During the pandemic, the government gave money to Air Canada, but Air Canada never reimbursed customers who did not get the services they paid for. We told the government that it did not make sense. The government's response was that it was no big deal.

During the pandemic, the Liberal Party used the emergency wage subsidy to fund partisan activities. We told them that it did not make sense. The government responded that it was no big deal.

Is the moral of the story that the government thinks that dipping into the pockets of taxpayers to spend money carelessly is no big deal?

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Chair, the fight against tax evasion is a priority for our government. We will continue to target companies that use tax evasion schemes.

Let me be clear: in everything we do, we will target companies and not innocent workers. Employees are employees, no matter who they work for.

Mr. Alain Therrien: Mr. Chair, when I see that it's the Minister of National Revenue answering me, I don't feel like buying a lottery ticket.

The Liberal Party used two airplanes in its last election campaign, which seems to indicate that it isn't short of money. However, the Liberals used the emergency wage subsidy. Why? Is it because they want taxpayers to fund a third airplane?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we think it's very important to protect employees across the country and in every economic sector that's experiencing a significant drop in income. That's the approach we've taken to protect people and to ensure that there will be jobs in the future. We will continue this approach.

• (1315)

Mr. Alain Therrien: It's especially important to protect the employees who work for the Liberals to ensure their re-election, yet the Liberal Party has raised more than \$7 million since the last election. Is the party in jeopardy? Can it go bankrupt?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, as I said, our approach is to protect employees. We think that this principle is very important and that this approach must be maintained in order to have a better job market in the future.

Mr. Alain Therrien: Mr. Chair, we still don't know exactly how much money the Liberals took from the cookie jar. We think they may have taken as much as \$1 million. How many SMEs could have been saved with the \$1 million that the Liberals took out of the jar and took away from SMEs?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we appreciate the question. We are protecting hundreds of thousands of SMEs through the emergency wage subsidy, the Canada emergency response benefit and all our programs. We will continue this approach to help SMEs and their employees.

Mr. Alain Therrien: Mr. Chair, I will propose a choice of answers, or I won't get any.

When did the government decide to use the emergency wage subsidy?

Now here are three possible answers. The first possible answer is that when the Liberals brought in the emergency wage subsidy, they set parameters allowing them to use it. The second is that when the Liberals saw the Conservative Party—which is as rich as they are, but also sanctimonious and self-righteous—take advantage of the subsidy, they thought they could do it too. The third possible answer is that the Liberals hadn't planned to use the subsidy, but they pounced on the cookie jar when they saw it, because that's what they do.

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we continue to think it is very important to protect employees in every sector of the economy and across Canada.

That's our approach, and I believe it's the right one to protect and preserve jobs across the country during a pandemic.

The Chair: We are now going to suspend the proceedings for a few seconds to allow the employees who provide support for the meeting to replace each other safely.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton (Simcoe North, CPC)): We will now resume the discussion.

[English]

We'll continue with Ms. Khalid, the honourable member for Mississauga—Erin Mills.

Ms. Iqra Khalid (Mississauga—Erin Mills, Lib.): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'll be splitting my time with the member for Pickering—Uxbridge.

Mr. Chair, when the women and men of the Canadian Armed Forces stepped in to provide support to five long-term care homes in Ontario at the request of the premier, they released a report that outlined their findings in detail. Military members witnessed residents' cries for help going unanswered. They saw force-feeding. They saw bug infestations, a lack of personal protective equipment and neglect.

Canadians are shaken. They are appalled by the horrific conditions outlined in the military report. Almost 1,000 seniors so far have lost their lives in long-term care homes in Ontario alone, over 25 of them in my riding of Mississauga—Erin Mills. These deaths could have been prevented.

Can the Minister of Health please update the House on how our federal government is working with the provinces and territories to prevent further tragic occurrences from happening at long-term care homes and to ensure that our most vulnerable seniors are properly looked after and cared for?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, it's such an important question. I believe all Canadians were deeply horrified to read the details from the Canadian Armed Forces on the conditions in long-term care homes in Ontario. What's happening to seniors in Ontario is completely unacceptable. The report is very troubling.

Seniors deserve to live with dignity, with respect and with safety. While long-term care is provincially regulated, we know that we need to work together. The Government of Canada stands ready to support provinces and territories as they continue to respond to this crisis. I had a very good conversation with my provincial and territorial counterparts last night about the work we can do at a national level to support their important work.

We also know that seniors want to stay at home longer. That's why our historic investment of \$6 billion in home care was so important. We'll continue to work with the provinces and territories to ensure that they get the care and dignity they deserve.

• (1320)

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll go now to Ms. O'Connell.

Ms. Jennifer O'Connell (Pickering—Uxbridge, Lib.): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I will sadly report that my community of Pickering has experienced the largest number of deaths at a single COVID-19 outbreak location anywhere in this country. Seventy residents at Orchard Villa long-term care home died during this pandemic. It was a devastating blow to our community. Yesterday, we received the horrific report from the Canadian Armed Forces detailing what they witnessed at Orchard Villa in Pickering, Altamont Care Community in Scarborough, Eatonville Care Centre in Etobicoke, Hawthorne Place in North York, and Holland Christian Homes' Grace Manor in Brampton.

The loved ones of those who have passed away, as well as the homes' workers, have asked for a full public inquiry from the Ontario government. I know that the responsibility for these facilities falls within provincial jurisdiction, but on behalf of our communities, can the Minister of Health update us on the work she is doing to ensure that the Ontario government takes action immediately and

initiates a full, independent, non-partisan public inquiry and reverses its decision to create a government-led commission that won't even start until September?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, I would say that all Canadians were shocked and horrified to hear about the conditions that existed in these particular care homes. We're so grateful to the members of the armed forces who not only improved conditions but also reported them quickly and appropriately to ensure amelioration of those conditions for those particular individuals.

We also know that there are seniors all across the country who are struggling with care and with the appropriate level of care. We have to do better as a country. These are our loved ones. These are our parents and our grandparents. These are the people in our lives who have given so much to us.

I stand committed to working with my provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure that we do better as a society. We know that there's a role we can play at the federal level with advice, with guidance, with support and, yes, with investments. We look forward to having those conversations about how best we can improve the care for all seniors amongst us.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll go now to Mr. Davies from Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Canadians were horrified to hear the report yesterday from our armed forces about the appalling conditions experienced by seniors in our long-term care homes. Page after page detailed the filth, neglect, abuse and danger our seniors in care are exposed to on a daily basis. Shockingly they face injury and death through missed medications, expired medications, unsterile devices and violations of basic contagion rules to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Given that evidence of possible criminal conduct was contained in the military's report, will the minister refer this matter to the RCMP for investigation immediately?

Hon. Bill Blair: Mr. Chair, thanks very much to the member for those expressions of concern, which we share.

We understand in long-term care facilities both seniors and persons living with a disability face unique challenges, and the findings of this report are in fact deeply concerning and completely unacceptable. Considering the severity of this report, we promptly shared it with the Province of Ontario, and the Province of Ontario has initiated an investigation based on the report's findings. Their investigation includes alerting the province's chief coroner who has the authority to alert the police of jurisdiction.

We will continue to work with the province to protect those living in long-term care facilities, and we continue to support them through the deployment of our outstanding Canadian Armed Forces and in our partnership with the Red Cross.

Mr. Don Davies: Mr. Chair, that's a shocking answer considering there's clear evidence of criminal conduct and negligence in this. That this federal government is not taking immediate steps to refer this to the nation's RCMP is unacceptable.

The seniors care crisis is a national problem. COVID-19 has exposed critical vulnerabilities across Canada's entire network of long-term care facilities. Not a single province or territory currently meets the benchmark of 4.1 hours of hands-on care per day. As a result Canada has the worst record of COVID-19 deaths in long-term care among 14 comparable countries, with over 80% of Canadian fatalities occurring in these facilities.

Will this government move swiftly to establish binding national standards for long-term care?

• (1325)

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, the member opposite is exactly correct when he says that those who are hardest hit in terms of losing their lives and the negative effects of COVID are those who are living in long-term care homes. He's also correct when he indicates that COVID-19 has shown us what many of us have known for a long time, that we need to do better in long-term care and supports for seniors. As the member knows, we started those steps some four years ago or so when we began to make incredible investments in aging at home. We know that is one part of the solution, but we have to do better for those seniors who need a higher level of care.

That's the work I'm doing now. I'm working with my colleagues at the provinces and territories to make sure that we come up with a solution that will truly result in better standards for all.

Mr. Don Davies: Mr. Chair, what we need is binding national standards, just like we set through the Canada Health Act in the health care sector generally. Gross fecal contamination, filthy medical equipment, insect infestations, ignoring patient cries for hours—we would never tolerate these conditions in Canada's hospitals. There's no reason to accept them in Canada's long-term care facilities.

Will the minister move to bring long-term care facilities under the Canada Health Act, or similar legislation, with formal funds tied to acceptable standards of care for our seniors, just like we do for hospitals?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, the member shares the disgust and concern of so many Canadians across the country, not only those who have read the report but many of those who have struggled to provide care to elders in those long-term care homes, regardless of the province in which they live. We know we need to do better. We know that collectively, at all levels of government, we must do better for those people who cared for us and nurtured us all of those years.

The member has my commitment that I will work with provinces and territories to find a solution forward to ensure that every person has the right to age with dignity and safety.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. Davies, you have 15 seconds for another question, a short one, and leave time for a response.

Mr. Don Davies: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

These failures are the product of systemic neglect often motivated by prioritizing profit over the provision of adequate care.

Does the minister agree that we should not be putting profits above the health care needs of Canada's seniors?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, I believe that, when we commit to taking care of people, we must do so with the utmost care that is required. I know that provinces and territories have a lot of work to do. So do we, at the federal level, and obviously at the local level. We must all work together to protect those people in our lives who are most vulnerable, whether they be seniors, children or others.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We will now move on to Mr. Schmale, Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock.

Mr. Schmale, go ahead.

Mr. Jamie Schmale (Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock, CPC): Thank you, Chair.

According to Vaughn Palmer in an editorial in the Vancouver Sun regarding the secret Wet'suwet'en deal, Palmer writes:

The hereditary chiefs calculated the two governments would sign despite the objections from the elected chiefs. They likewise got the terms they wanted in the MOU while giving up “absolutely nothing.” Just as they figured governments would keep the contents secret from the public.

Can the minister describe another situation in which the federal government negotiated a secret deal of this magnitude with unelected people?

Hon. Carolyn Bennett (Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations): I thank the member for his ongoing concern and I want to remind him that actually it is in keeping with the Supreme Court decision of 1997 that we were to now begin those conversations with the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs who took the case to the Supreme Court.

As we've said many times, this is not an agreement; this is an MOU that establishes the path forward for the substantive discussions towards a final agreement, which would describe the future governance and the implementation of Wet'suwet'en rights and title.

It is about a shared commitment.

Mr. Jamie Schmale: Mr. Chair, if it is a shared commitment, why on the eve of the signing ceremony did the four elected chiefs denounce the hereditary chiefs for keeping them in the dark?

• (1330)

Hon. Carolyn Bennett: Again, it's really important that the member understand that there was a process for the hereditary chiefs to go back to their communities and discuss with them. Any agreement after the good work that will happen now would have to go back and seek the approval of all of the communities.

Mr. Jamie Schmale: Mr. Chair, the Burns Lake Band members are openly wondering if they're still a band or if the few unelected hereditary chiefs will control everything now.

Minister, can you assure them that going forward you will honour their concerns and take the time to listen?

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): I ask honourable members to still direct their questions through the chair.

The honourable minister.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett: Actually, the honourable member knows that the next steps include the further and ongoing engagement by the Wet'suwet'en in their house groups and that will include the six elected chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en nation, their community members and many others. This is about going forward and making sure that any—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Mr. Schmale.

Mr. Jamie Schmale: Thank you, Chair.

Cynthia Joseph, a chief councillor with the Hagwilget First Nation says the MOU between Ottawa, the province and the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs was only shared with her community members on May 9, two days after it was published in the media.

Is this part of the open and transparent government all Canadians can expect of the Prime Minister?

Hon. Carolyn Bennett: Walking the path of reconciliation means that we work with our partners and there is a way that they do the work within their communities. It is going to be an agreement to begin the work, but any final agreement is going to have to be approved by all members of the nation in terms of developing a consensus for the agreement—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Mr. Schmale.

Mr. Jamie Schmale: Thank you, Chair.

Does the minister have any concerns regarding claims by several former female hereditary chiefs that they were stripped of their hereditary status because they didn't agree with the men?

Hon. Carolyn Bennett: Again, it is going to be really important that the work take place within the Wet'suwet'en nation to determine their future governance, to determine their way of working with Canada and to make sure—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Mr. Schmale.

Mr. Jamie Schmale: Thank you, Chair.

For some reason it seems to be a problem to stand up for these hereditary female chiefs who had their titles taken away.

Does the minister plan on recognizing band council resolutions denying the authority of hereditary chiefs to sign any future agreements without consent of the elected chiefs and the 3,000 members within the Wet'suwet'en they represent?

Hon. Carolyn Bennett: I think the member must understand that, as we begin the work, the nation will do its work and then we will come to the table to determine what the governance would be. Will it be a hybrid model like at Heiltsuk, like Ktunaxa, like some of the communities developing their constitutions, developing their laws and deciding how they will determine their own governance and that partnership with Canada?

[Translation]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. Paul-Hus.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The current restrictions on non-essential travel at the border do not prevent people from claiming refugee protection if they have family in Canada.

Why is the minister refusing to allow married people to cross the border?

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: I want to thank the honourable member for a very important question. We have heard from many constituents and members of Parliament from right across the country who are expressing concern about non-status spouses being denied entry into the country because their travel is deemed to be non-essential.

I've recently been in touch with all of the provinces and territories because I think it's very important that we have their support for any changes—

[Translation]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. Paul-Hus, you have the floor.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: If I understand correctly, Mr. Minister, you are talking to provincial representatives, but a case like that of Chantal Tremblay, for instance, is unacceptable. For two months now, she has been trying to bring her spouse to Canada, but it isn't working.

Is there a way to issue a directive to border services officers that married spouses—it's often marriages with Americans—can cross the border to join their spouses in Canada?

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: Just to be very clear—again, I thank the member opposite for the opportunity to clarify this—it is never our intention to separate families, but at the same time, we have imposed appropriate and necessary restrictions on non-essential travel.

Our border services officers inquire of everyone coming to that border about the nature of their travel, and for non-citizens who come to that border seeking entry into Canada, if their entry is deemed non-essential, then they exercise their discretion not to allow—

• (1335)

[Translation]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. Paul-Hus, you have the floor.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Information from the Canada Border Services Agency has just come out. Since March 21, 425,000 people have flown into Canada. Among them were 295,000 Canadians, which isn't a problem. However, 100,000 foreigners have entered Canada, even though the border is supposedly closed.

How does the minister explain the fact that 100,000 people arrived in Canada by plane?

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: Again, I thank the member opposite for the opportunity to clarify. We have imposed very significant restrictions on non-essential travel, but of course there are circumstances where individuals come to this country and their entry into Canada is deemed essential.

For example, someone who is providing medical services and coming into Canada to provide those services would be deemed essential, because there is a great need among Canadians for those services. It's dealt with on a case-by-case basis. As you can see by the numbers, we have had a very significant reduction in the travel of all non-Canadians to Canada over the past two months.

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: So the minister confirms that the 100,000 people who arrived by air were providing a service considered essential to Canada. I'm not talking about the people who crossed the land border, but the people who came to Canada by air.

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: What I can tell you is that at all points of entry, including our air borders, we apply the standard that the travel must be deemed essential, and that determination is utilized to see if a person is eligible to enter into the country.

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: We're now learning that the Correctional Service of Canada's investigation into the murder of Marylène Levesque is suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Canadians aren't fooled; they know full well that it is a political decision. All the technological means are available to allow the investigation to continue. I'm proof of that today.

Can the minister direct the Correctional Service of Canada to resume the investigation into the death of Marylène Levesque?

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: Again, I thank the member for the question, because we know the concern of the people of Quebec, and the family

of Ms. Levesque needs answers and deserves answers. That's why we asked the Parole Board and the Correctional Service of Canada to convene a board of investigation.

Clearly, during COVID transmission, the ability to conduct that investigation and to interview all of the witnesses became extremely difficult and has been temporarily suspended, but at the very earliest opportunity we remain resolute to resume that investigation and get to the bottom of it to provide the answers that the family deserves.

[Translation]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. Paul-Hus, you have only 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus: Mr. Chair, victims of crime are one of the segments of the population most affected by the crisis.

As we know, the government refuses to allow victims of crime to participate in parole hearings. For the first time in its history, and to add insult to injury, the government has cancelled all activities related to Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, which was to take place next week.

Why is the Prime Minister turning his back on victims?

[English]

Hon. Bill Blair: Again, at the earliest days of COVID, until arrangements could be put in place, there were restrictions on victims participating. We have put the systems in place to allow victims to present their evidence virtually, either by video or by phone, to ensure that their voices are heard in these important things.

We very much respect and support the role of victims in these determinations, and we're making every effort to ensure that they can participate.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll now to Mr. Cumming, Edmonton Centre.

Mr. James Cumming (Edmonton Centre, CPC): Mr. Chair, yesterday I asked the Minister of Small Business how many business credit availability guarantees were issued by EDC, and I didn't get a number.

Does she have an exact, finite, number of the guarantees today?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, thank you to the honourable member for that question.

Our government has taken swift and immediate action to support Canadian businesses through this time. Money from this program is flowing, and businesses across the country are receiving the important support that they need.

Mr. James Cumming: How many BCAP applications have been received so far?

Hon. Mary Ng: Mr. Chair, these are large loans, and they require important due diligence and adjudication by the financial institutions. We will continue to be open and transparent as the accurate information becomes available.

Mr. James Cumming: How long does it take to be approved for a BCAP guarantee?

• (1340)

Hon. Mary Ng: I want to assure the member that we're going to do everything possible to support businesses and workers during this very important time.

Mr. James Cumming: How many businesses have received funding under the BCAP co-lending program since March?

Hon. Mary Ng: The lending programs, particularly the program to help small businesses, have really helped lots of businesses. Over 630,000 loans have been issued, and this is really helping those—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Mr. Cumming.

Mr. James Cumming: Unfortunately, “lots” is not an answer for the businesses that I'm trying to talk to.

Can you tell me, for the CEBA changes that were recently announced, when will we be able to see people who have income through a dividend able to apply?

Hon. Mary Ng: That's a very important question, Mr. Chair.

There's nothing more important to me and to our government than getting these supports out to businesses. Those small businesses that will meet the expanded CEBA criteria are working very diligently with the financial institutions to make sure that they can get access to those loans as quickly as possible.

Mr. James Cumming: Can the minister give me a day when that will happen?

Hon. Mary Ng: The financial institutions are working very hard to make sure that they can make this available to businesses.

Mr. James Cumming: When will a sole proprietor be able to go for those loans?

Hon. Mary Ng: We will work very hard and very diligently to make sure that these businesses and those sole proprietors are supported.

Mr. James Cumming: Could they go on Monday?

Hon. Mary Ng: There is nothing more important than making sure these businesses weather the difficult time of COVID-19, and our measures are—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll go back to Mr. Cumming.

Mr. James Cumming: How about Tuesday?

Hon. Mary Ng: I think we will all agree that getting support to these businesses is absolutely crucial. Our commitment is always going to be to get support to these businesses.

Mr. James Cumming: I can't get a distinct answer on any of those questions.

Can you tell me how much headroom is left on the CEBA program?

Hon. Mary Ng: Today, over 630,000 businesses have received the support to do things like pay for salaries, the 25% top-up for the wage subsidy, pay for rent and pay for insurance and utilities. This is what these loans are helping our small—

Mr. James Cumming: How many dollars are left in the program so businesses can have some certainty that the program will be available for some time?

Hon. Mary Ng: I think you will see that the businesses across the country that I have talked to really appreciate that the government has stepped up to help them during this difficult time. These include women with businesses, indigenous-owned businesses and those small businesses all across our communities, all across the country, that are getting the necessary help. We are going to keep—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll go back to Mr. Cumming.

Mr. James Cumming: How many dollars? It can't be that complicated. How many dollars?

Hon. Mary Ng: There are 630,000 businesses that are getting help, and thousands more businesses will be getting help with the expanded criteria. We're going to keep doing the work that we need to help our businesses across this country through this difficult time.

Mr. James Cumming: I heard from a constituent in my riding that they waited for over four hours on the portal for CECRA. Is there an issue with the portal, and if so, when will it be fixed?

Hon. Mary Ng: Making sure that businesses get the help for commercial rent support is absolutely crucial right now. We are going to endeavour to make sure that this help gets out to those small businesses. Applications have opened in a staggered way and—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): You have time for one last short question, Mr. Cumming.

Mr. James Cumming: Finally, the Prime Minister yesterday said that a list of all organizations that have been receiving CEWS will be made public. When will that be done?

Hon. Mary Ng: We have committed to making sure that those companies taking the wage subsidy program will be listed publicly. We have committed to doing that and we will do so.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We now go to Mr. d'Entremont from West Nova.

Mr. d'Entremont, go ahead.

Mr. Chris d'Entremont (West Nova, CPC): Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries, but I thought I would say this first. The Canadian Coast Guard is doing a search at this moment following the loss of a vessel off the coast of Newfoundland. From my community, which is a seafaring, fishing community, I just want to put my thoughts out there to the folks of Newfoundland. We are definitely thinking of them during this difficult time.

My first question revolves around the lobster fishery. It's been open in Cape Breton since May 15, I believe. The weather has been good. The harvesters have been going at it every day. The price has dropped to \$4.25 already. Unstable markets will probably cause it to drop even more.

What is the minister doing to make sure the lobster industry survives?

• (1345)

Hon. Bernadette Jordan (Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I want to thank my colleague for his comments with regard to the tragic accident off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, where we saw the loss of life in a fishing accident. Of course, as coastal people, we are all in solidarity with the people of Newfoundland right now.

We know that the fish and seafood sector has taken extreme hits because of COVID-19. We're working diligently to make sure we support the industry as best we can. We have made available over half a billion dollars to processors and harvesters to make sure they can weather this storm. We have made sure that the harvesters are able to access the harvester benefit as well as the grant, recognizing the unique nature of their business and how they are not able to access some of our other programs.

We are continuing to monitor what is happening in the industry. We will continue to make sure we do everything we can to support the fish and seafood sector.

Mr. Chris d'Entremont: Mr. Chair, to continue along this vein for a moment, we are still looking at unstable markets for a longer period of time. At this point, processors are being selective in what they're buying. They're not buying culls and other kinds of lobsters. The plants are filling up, and harvesters are worried that they might stop buying product before the season is complete.

What can the fishermen expect, or what kinds of programs can they expect, if the season goes bust?

Hon. Bernadette Jordan: Mr. Chair, we know that this is a very challenging season for our harvesters. We also know that because of the decline in markets, we've had to make accommodations for the processing sector in order to help them be better able to support the harvesters. We have put in \$62.5 million, which is allowing the processors to increase capacity in their refrigeration and freezers so that they will continue to be able to purchase product.

As I said earlier, we will continue to monitor the situation and make sure we do everything possible to support our harvesters. This is a very difficult—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We'll go back to Mr. d'Entremont.

Mr. Chris d'Entremont: Mr. Chair, I don't know whether this next question will go to the Minister of DFO or the Minister of Transport.

Oakley Ryerson is a resident of West Nova. He is planning a career on the sea and wants to get his master class four. The problem is that he can't pass the eye exam. He needs full-colour vision.

For those who are far-sighted or nearsighted, you just have to put on your glasses to correct it. You can actually fly airplanes. I don't know about space shuttles, but who knows? You can now wear colour-corrected lenses, but Transport Canada still does not recognize these for use.

Can the Minister of Transport help Ryerson in attaining his chosen profession?

Hon. Marc Garneau (Minister of Transport): Mr. Chair, I appreciate the concern of my colleague for one of the residents in his riding. I would ask him to write to me and lay out the situation. We have medical standards with respect to a number of different kinds of transportation-related jobs for pilots, mariners and those kinds of occupations, which have to be respected. However, if he sends me the details, I will look into it personally.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Mr. d'Entremont, you have another 20 to 25 seconds left.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chris d'Entremont: Mr. Chair, the eligibility criteria for financial support include the need to demonstrate a significant loss of income during the months of March and April, yet several SMEs in the tourism industry can't qualify because their operations start with the tourist season, in late May or early June.

What will the government do to help them?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, before accessing the emergency wage subsidy, applicants must meet important criteria. However, as we explained last week, we will be adjusting the wage subsidy until the end of August, and we will be reviewing the criteria.

[*English*]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We're going to go to the west coast and the member for Saanich—Gulf Islands.

Ms. May, go ahead.

Ms. Elizabeth May: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My question is with regard to the urgent problem of mental health crises across Canada. My colleague, Jenica Atwin from Fredericton, held a press conference this morning in which she used the term "echo pandemic". We will face an echo pandemic. We're already seeing increases in suicides on southern Vancouver Island.

My question to the minister is this: Will we see direct funding to community mental health services as urgently requested by the Canadian Mental Health Association?

• (1350)

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, I read the honourable member's colleague's letter just today, and I want to reassure all members that we have invested in mental health supports for Canadians, obviously before the pandemic hit but certainly since we've been living with the pandemic.

I'd like to remind all members to direct their constituents to the wellesstogogether.ca website and portal. There Canadians can find online resources, as well as connections to real and alive counselors and other professionals who can help them with their various concerns.

Ms. Elizabeth May: This question relates to another current emergency: the climate emergency.

This week it was reported that the concentration of greenhouse gases reached 417 parts per million. That's not just unprecedented over thousands of years; that's unprecedented over the last one million years. The temperatures in the Arctic broke 86°F, 30°C in the Arctic circle. The recognized parties in the House have established standing committees to work, but not the committee on the environment. We've asked for this in negotiations.

When will the recognized parties remember the June 2019 emergency resolution that we are in a climate emergency, and start making sure that we hit 2020 commitments under the Paris Agreement to improve our targets?

Hon. Marc Garneau: Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague's questions. I will remind her that we have committed to net-zero emissions by 2050. We've also committed to surpassing the targets that we had originally set for 2030.

We realize that along with the COVID pandemic, which is the major problem that exists in the world today, there is another problem as well that affects the entire planet, and that is the problem associated with climate change. We remain committed to achieving those targets.

Ms. Elizabeth May: My next question will be for Minister Blair, but as an aside, I will say that last answer completely fails to meet the legal requirements of the Paris Agreement to file a new target this year.

To save some time, Minister Blair, let's pretend to go back to the questions from my colleague MP Paul-Hus and to your last answer. This is dealt with on a case-by-case basis by CBSA agents. There are thousands of them. They are exercising personal, subjective judgment. This is not acceptable.

I'm begging the minister. Could the minister please put out a directive, advice to every CBSA agent on the ground, that when a non-status entry point sees a non-status direct relative—husband, wife, child of a Canadian citizen—that relative be deemed to be entering Canada for an essential purpose?

Hon. Bill Blair: I'd like to thank the member for bringing this issue forward again. It's an important one.

We have been working very hard to ensure that we do everything possible to keep families together. At the same time, we've been working with the provinces and territories, listening to the concerns of Canadians about ensuring that travel across our international border, particularly with the United States, is limited to essential travel. As I've indicated, I've had a number of important conversations and necessary conversations with our provincial and territorial partners. I believe there is a consensus on the right way forward on this, and we're working very diligently to put it in place. I want to assure the member opposite that we have given very clear direction to our CBSA officers. I believe our border services officers have been doing an extraordinary job for us in the exercise of their discretion. At the same time, they have been doing the important work of ensuring the health and safety of Canadians at our border.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We're now going to Ms. Kwan for Vancouver East.

Ms. Kwan, go ahead.

Ms. Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP): Four out of the five homes listed in the armed forces report were for-profit. It is painfully clear that corporate profits are being put ahead of the well-being of seniors.

Will the minister admit that the for-profit model is failing our loved ones and commit to getting profits out of long-term care?

• (1355)

Hon. Patty Hajdu: As the member opposite notes, nobody can read that report or hear those stories without feeling absolute horror and disgust and without demanding better for the elders in our lives.

As I have mentioned many times in the House, our government remains committed to working with provinces and territories to ensure that every elder person in our community can age with dignity and in safety.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: Minister, if that's the case, I will ask again. Will the minister make sure that the focus of long-term care homes is taking care of seniors and not taking care of owners' bank accounts?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: As the member will obviously know, long-term care remains in the jurisdiction of provinces and territories, and there is legislation that rules them as such.

As the member also knows, we have stood by Ontario and all of the other provinces and territories throughout this outbreak. The Prime Minister has been very clear—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We will go back to Ms. Kwan.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: Is the minister refusing to answer the question because she agrees that profit should come before care?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: I think it's unfortunate that the member is trying to place words in my mouth.

What I do agree with, though, is that long-term care needs to be reformed, and I think all provinces and territories know, and all Canadians know, that we have to do a better job.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: It's simple for the minister. She can just answer the question.

Is she willing to defend for-profit care for our seniors? Is she in favour of for-profit private health care too?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: What I am willing to defend is the right for all Canadians to age with safety and dignity.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: To the minister, what is the difference? Why sell out the care of our seniors?

Will she commit that she will take profit out of long-term care?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, I think the member opposite knows that the only way to actually reform long-term care is to work with provinces and territories, in fact, all levels of government, to ensure that the people who spent their lives caring for and nurturing us can end their lives with caring and nurturing—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We will go back to Ms. Kwan.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: I think the minister knows that what we need is national standards for seniors' care.

The Revera long-term care homes are owned by the Public Sector Pension Investment Board. Since the government owns these homes, has the military been sent in there to see what's happening to seniors under their care?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, we know that it is important to work with all of the provinces and territories under whose jurisdiction it falls to protect the seniors within those care homes. That's what we've been doing since the beginning of the outbreak of the coronavirus, and that's what we'll continue to do to protect the lives of seniors and strengthen their protection.

We will, as I said, Mr. Chair, work with the provinces and territories to have a longer-term plan so that all seniors can age with dignity and safety.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: The government has a clear responsibility here. What is the government doing to ensure the standards of care in these Revera homes that they own?

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Mr. Chair, as I have repeatedly said, the jurisdiction for care of long-term care homes falls within the provincial and territorial realm. However, that being said, Mr. Chair, we have been there for provinces and territories since the outbreak of the coronavirus, and as the member opposite has clearly or likely heard the Prime Minister say, we will stand with provinces and territories as all elders have the right to age with dignity—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Ms. Kwan.

Ms. Jenny Kwan: I didn't hear an answer, Mr. Chair, so the answer is nothing, then.

Do you think that the families of the seniors in these homes want to hear those excuses about jurisdictional issues?

Does the minister not think that the families want to hear that the federal government is doing all it can to care for their parents?

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): I would remind the members to direct their questions through the chair.

The honourable minister.

Hon. Patty Hajdu: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Quite frankly, I don't think that families care which level of government is responsible for caring for their elders. I think what they care about is that their elders are cared for. That's in fact what the Prime Minister believes. That's in fact what our government believes, and that's why we have willingly stepped up to say to provinces and territories that we will be there with you to make sure that all seniors in our lives have the right to age with dignity and care.

[Translation]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We will now give the floor to Mrs. Gill, from the riding of Manicouagan.

Go ahead, Mrs. Gill.

Mrs. Marilène Gill (Manicouagan, BQ): Mr. Chair, my question is for the Prime Minister who, earlier, clearly told us that the government's assistance is intended for those who are most in need and most vulnerable.

I come from a riding where a lot of people make their living from the tourism industry. I don't know if the Prime Minister read the newspapers yesterday, but in Quebec, losses to the tune of \$4 billion are expected until March 2021 in the tourism accommodation sector alone. The service sector will lose 93,000 jobs.

How can I justify to my constituents the fact that a political party, which does not need it, has already seen money from the emergency wage subsidy, when people in my riding don't yet have access to it because of the seasonal nature of their work? These people haven't seen the money that is available through these programs.

● (1400)

Hon. Bill Morneau: We think it is very important to protect the country's employees in all sectors of the economy. Through this approach, there will be more jobs after the pandemic, and the economic situation will be better. We will continue this approach.

Mrs. Marilène Gill: Mr. Chair, this is the wrong approach. They are saying that they are protecting the jobs of the Liberal Party of Canada, which does not need the money.

I'll ask a question similar to the previous one. Fishers in my riding did not qualify for the emergency wage subsidy. Another program was created for them, which isn't quite the same and doesn't really meet their needs. A government whose political wing—not the parliamentary wing—doesn't really need money takes money from the fund, but leaves fishers to make do with less generous programs that don't meet their needs.

What do I tell the fishers in my riding?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we know that many sectors of the economy across the country are facing challenges. That's why we have adopted an approach with consistent criteria for all employees in all sectors. We have also introduced specific measures to help certain sectors, such as the fishing industry.

We will continue our approach because we believe it's the best way to protect employees and our economy.

Mrs. Marilène Gill: Mr. Chair, I'm still not satisfied. The government is saying that the best way to proceed is to give money to the political wing of the Liberal Party of Canada, when there are people who are getting nothing.

What am I supposed to tell seasonal workers, who have absolutely no assurances for their future? I can't go back to my riding and say I'm proud of the work the government is doing or our efforts in the House. It's true, the House is closed right now. I forgot.

I have a very hard time accepting that the government is helping employees of the Liberal Party in preparation for the next election campaign, when communities in my region are dying because their economies revolve around a single industry.

I can't tell them I'm not ashamed of what's going on as we speak.

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, we felt it was necessary to put emergency programs in place in response to the crisis during the pandemic. That is our approach.

The emergency wage subsidy is a program that is clearly meant to ensure employees are protected and maintain their relationship with their employer. As for the Canada emergency response benefit, it means a lot to people who don't have a job.

We are going to stick to our approach, which is to use consistent criteria to help all employees and all Canadians around the country struggling in any sector of the economy.

Mrs. Marilène Gill: Mr. Chair, I think the honourable Minister of Finance lives in an ivory tower. No, he is not protecting all jobs. No, he is not protecting all sectors of the economy.

Once again, I will say that a party that doesn't need money has already received subsidies. However, people who need that money, people who are actually losing money or who don't know if they'll even be working this summer are getting zilch. There is absolutely no justifying that.

I'd at least like to know whether the government is ashamed of what it's doing. When people have a conscience, eventually, they want to make up for their mistakes. Are the Liberals going to return that money?

Is the finance minister going to help all sectors of the economy, including tourism, fisheries and seasonal industries?

Hon. Bill Morneau: Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank the member for her question.

Our approach is based on consistent criteria. The emergency wage subsidy is meant for any sector of the economy where revenues have dropped by 30% or more. The measure is hugely important for organizations that are really struggling, because we can protect their workers. We are also providing the Canada emergency response benefit to other employees, meaning, those who have lost their income because of COVID-19.

Consequently, we will keep up our approach to ensure we continue to fare as well as possible and the economy works well after the pandemic.

• (1405)

[*English*]

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Now we'll go to our last group of interventions, and that will be from Ms. Jansen in Cloverdale—Langley City.

Ms. Jansen, go ahead.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen (Cloverdale—Langley City, CPC): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'd like to begin with a shout-out to the brave waiters and waitresses at our local Earls restaurant and Browns Socialhouse, who have been opened again for on-site dining this week. Here in B.C. we're beginning to find our new normal, and it was great to see how small businesses have so quickly adapted their establishments to keep their workers and patrons safe while allowing people to get back to the business of living. You guys rock. Thanks for taking the lead.

Mr. Chair, here in my riding I recently had contact with the mayor of Langley City who was wondering if I had any way of accessing personal protective gear, because our local firefighters were running out of stock. Then again yesterday, I spoke with one of our local homeless shelters that is also looking for PPE.

Dr. Tam is telling all Canadians to wear masks in public, but I'm wondering if the Minister of Public Service and Procurement could tell us where exactly we're going to get all those masks with the current shortage.

Hon. Anita Anand: I want to be clear that our priority as a federal government has been to respond to provincial and territorial requests for PPE that goes to front-line health care workers. That is our priority, and we've been procuring goods aggressively in domestic and international markets. We are now actively also exploring ways in which we can assist broader organizations across the country with PPE needs, and that is something that I'll continue to update the House on as we go forward.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen: A Globe and Mail article revealed that government orders for N95 masks have steadily been dropping. We've gone from over 200 million ordered to 100 million, according to a federal source.

Mr. Chair, the number of N95 masks ordered, as reported on the department's website, does continue to fall. Will the minister tell us why we seem to continue to struggle to supply PPE to Canadians?

Hon. Anita Anand: It is no secret that we are in a global competition for N95 masks and other supplies, so the Government of Canada's approach is to diversify supply chains internationally and build up and retool domestic industry so that we can have these supplies going forward.

In terms of the numbers on our web page, we have short-term and long-term contracts in place—

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): We go back to Ms. Jansen.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen: Yes, I understand that a number of Chinese mask manufacturers have been nationalized, and products for Canadians have been confiscated by the CCP government. Is the drop in N95 orders due to, in actual fact, contracts being cancelled?

Hon. Anita Anand: On N95 masks, I would like to assure the member and the House that we have multiple contracts in place for the procurement of N95 masks, including with 3M in the United States, whose masks are crossing our border weekly over the next month.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen: That didn't quite answer my question. Have any of our orders been cancelled by the nationalization of these manufacturers in China?

Hon. Anita Anand: We have an aide in place in China. We have our embassy and other firms actively ensuring that our supplies from the manufacturing source make their way to the warehouse. Over 40 flights have come to Canada with those masks and other supplies. Our supply chains are operating despite the global environment being highly competitive.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen: We know many millions of N95 masks have arrived in Canada from China and have been substandard. What is the total number of substandard masks that have arrived?

Hon. Anita Anand: Mr. Chair, as previously explained to the House, about eight million masks did not meet spec by the Public Health Agency of Canada and have been repurposed to some extent in other areas of the system.

Mrs. Tamara Jansen: In a previous committee, the deputy minister advised us that Medicom was shoulder-tapped by the government to consider producing PPE. How many other companies did the government approach for this contract?

• (1410)

Hon. Anita Anand: We have operated in a very urgent way in order to procure supplies for front-line health care workers. We are now also moving to ensure that we have competitions run for the procurement of personal protective equipment. It's a multi-pronged approach, and our priority is to get supplies out to front-line health care workers in this time of crisis as quickly as possible.

Thank you so much.

The Acting Chair (Mr. Bruce Stanton): Just before we adjourn, I think this another mark of accomplishment on behalf of the great team here at the House of Commons. There have been some great efforts, even since yesterday evening, to get this turned around for today. My compliments to all members joining us here in the House and to all members who have joined by virtual conference.

[*Translation*]

The committee is now adjourned until noon tomorrow.

The meeting is adjourned.

Published under the authority of the Speaker of
the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

The proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the Copyright Act. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the Copyright Act.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: <https://www.ourcommons.ca>

Publié en conformité de l'autorité
du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la Loi sur le droit d'auteur. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre des communes.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la Loi sur le droit d'auteur.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante :
<https://www.noscommunes.ca>