

May 8, 2020

Letter to York Region Members of Parliament



Thank you for your continued attention to fighting the health crisis while providing basic protection for many working people and our communities across Canada. We also send our gratitude to the members of the federal public service who have worked so hard to create and deliver a range of essential programs and services under unprecedented circumstances. At the federal level, you are moving in the right direction, demonstrating a positive mix of collaboration and leadership.

We write today on behalf of our Labour Council's 150-plus affiliated unions and locals and our 220,000 members to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' call for federal government action to protect vital municipal services.

FCM recommends immediately delivering at least \$10 billion in targeted emergency operating funding to all local governments as direct allocations, and delivering additional emergency operating funding to individual local governments facing unique financial pressures. York Region is a large, diverse, and important region in the GTA that requires both general and targeted financial support. Emergency funding is needed now to prevent York Region having to cut essential services to remain solvent.

Secondly, in our letter of April 15, 2020, we talked of three urgent priorities at the federal level. First, banks and other financial institutions must be forced to lower their credit card interest rates well below the 10.9 per cent that most are offering. We have not seen action on this yet. Second, we thank you for implementing a number of supplemental income supports for most of those who had fallen through the cracks, including seasonal workers and students. We know there are still some gaps and we look forward to those being filled. Third, we continue to call on you to press for expanded paid sick leave for federally-regulated workers.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council calls on each of you to continue your leadership and ensure our society is more equal – not less – coming out of COVID-19. We urge you to show utmost care for workers and communities, maintain social solidarity with the goal that no one is left behind, and recognize that Canadians start from different places. We will be in touch again to provide further advice regarding next steps.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

John Cartwright  
President

c.c. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Opposition  
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party  
York Region Mayors

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