



John Brassard | Member of Parliament
Barrie—Innisfil
Deputy Opposition Whip

Media Release from Barrie-Innisfil MP John Brassard

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 10

For Immediate Release March 24 – Barrie-Innisfil Member of Parliament John Brassard is providing daily updates to residents of Barrie-Innisfil during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic through the media, at johnbrassard.com and on social media sites [@johnbrassardCPC](https://twitter.com/johnbrassardCPC).

A reduced House of Commons reconvened today to vote on a financial aid package to help Canadians and businesses significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The session is currently suspended, to allow all parties to continue negotiations on the legislation that originally granted sweeping powers to the Liberal government for taxation and spending.

“Conservatives absolutely support emergency efforts to get money to Canadians who are struggling with the COVID-19 crisis,” Brassard said. “We know there are a growing number of individuals, families and business - including many in Barrie-Innisfil – that need help and they need it now.

“However, any conversation about new government powers should be separate. It should not get in the way of passing this desperately needed assistance package. Canadians are counting on us and we need to get it right.”

Brassard pointed to the fact that more than one million Canadians applied for Employment Insurance benefits this week as clear evidence that financial help is needed immediately.

“That is an alarming number, and it is double the number of EI claims filed last week,” he said. “Barrie-Innisfil residents and businesses are hurting. These are difficult times, but we will persevere, and we will get through it.”

Brassard once again is reminding ALL Canadians about the importance of frequent hand washing and physical/social distancing.

“If you have returned from travel outside the country, I implore you to self-isolate for the recommended 14 days,” he said. “Everyone should stay home as much as possible – and we need to practice social distancing, more specifically **physical**

distancing, at all times – maintain a safe distance of at least two metres from other people when you are away from home.”

Visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website for more information about self isolating. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, use the Government of Canada self assessment tool or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for advice.

On Tuesday:

- The Town of Innisfil declared a state of emergency.
- M.P. Brassard participated in an online videoconference with MPP Andrea Khanjin with local employers hosted by Barriston Law
- M.P. was also in contact with his colleagues on the Leadership Team of the Conservative Party about the proceedings in the House of Commons.
- The Ontario government announced that residents and businesses in the province will be billed off-peak electricity rates for the next 45 days.
- Non-essential services across Ontario will shut down for two weeks starting at midnight tonight. Premier Doug Ford released a list of essential businesses that can remain open, including construction sites, essential manufacturing and supply-chain providers, medical offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, LCBO outlets and takeout restaurants.
- Flights continue to retrieve Canadians stranded in countries around the world, including Morocco, Peru, Panama and Ukraine. All Canadians still overseas should immediately register with Global Affairs Canada at **travel.gc.ca**.
- Many airlines have suspended services or significantly reduced commercial flights to various destinations. This includes Air Canada, WestJet, and Porter Airlines.

Earlier this week:

- **The City of Barrie declared a state of emergency** on Monday, giving Council additional powers and resources to protect the health and safety of residents. The declaration streamlines decision-making through the Emergency Control Group.
- The Prime Minister announced a new plan to mobilize businesses and manufacturers to help fight the spread of COVID-19 and boost the healthcare sector’s stockpile of life-saving supplies.
- New protocols were enforced to turn away illegal border crossers arriving from the United States at the Quebec border.
- The Canada-U.S. border is closed to non-essential travel across the land border. This decision will not affect shipments, trade or business.

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced \$82 billion in financial aid - \$27 billion in direct support for Canadian families and workers and \$55 billion in economic support for businesses across the country, in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Details are available [here](#).
- International flights are restricted to just four major Canadian cities – Toronto's Pearson International and airports in Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Travellers exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) will not be permitted to board a plane headed to Canada.

Protecting your health:

- Avoid any unnecessary contact with other people
- Stay at least six feet away from others (physical distancing)
- Remain at home as much as you can - only going out for essential needs like food and medication
- Work from home if possible
- Shop for groceries online

Brassard encourages Barrie-Innisfil residents to visit **JohnBrassard.com** for the latest information on the pandemic and Canada's response. While his Barrie office remains closed to the public, if you need assistance call **705-726-5959** or email John.Brassard@parl.gc.ca or through social media **@JohnBrassardCPC**