



The Latest Buzz
on the Hill...

Our monthly report
Staying in touch with
“News you can Use”



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Important announcements ...

January 2025

Government Prorogation – What does it mean for you?

With the House ‘prorogued’, you may be wondering how it will impact government services for you, your family and Canada. The short answer is, not very much. While new legislation in the House of Commons is on hold, your government continues to operate.

Programs are rolling out as planned and approved, and the important work with the new US government continues as a priority. Constituency offices are still open, answering questions and processing cases as always. Government departments and their ministers are doing their usual work and government services continue to be available. All as normal.

Ongoing funding programs are still underway and new ones already approved in parliament will continue to roll out. Outlined below are several ongoing and new initiatives that may be important to you or people you know.

For a more in-depth breakdown of the effects of prorogation, please reach out to our office with questions. Alternatively, to read more, scan the QR code or go to: www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/procedure-and-practice-3/ch_08_6-e.html#8-6-1-1



Youth Employment and Skills Program

The Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) is receiving \$13.5 million in funding to support new applications. **This will provide the agriculture sector with help needed to support approximately 1,200 jobs for youth in the sector.**

The YESP offers support for 50% of wages up to a maximum of \$14,000 to agriculture employers hiring Canadian youth. Employers that hire youth facing employment barriers will be eligible for 80% of the cost of salaries and benefits.

Employers can apply from January 27, 2025 to February 24, 2025 for their application to be considered.

To learn more and apply, scan the QR code or go to: www.agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/youth-employment-and-skills/step-4-how-apply



Local Food Infrastructure Fund in Canada

The Local Food Infrastructure Fund has been renewed and will continue to help improve food security in communities across the country. Last fall funding for the Small Scale Projects component took place, and this winter funding for the Large Scale Projects will begin.

Large Scale Projects will provide funding between \$150,000 and \$500,000 in support of community food security for projects with multiple infrastructure and equipment needs. For example, partners could come together to upgrade a soup kitchen and increase the number of meals served, using food from a local community garden, or a local farmer.

Applications will be open from January 13 to February 28, 2025.

To apply or learn more, scan the QR code below, or follow the link: www.agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/local-food-infrastructure-fund-large



Youth Mental Health Fund – Call for Proposals

The call for proposals under the Youth Mental Health Fund is still open until **January 22nd, 2025**. The goal of this \$500 million fund is to create lasting and meaningful improvements in the mental health of youth and their families over the next five years.

This call for proposals is open until January 22nd, 2025. To learn more and apply, scan the QR code or go to:

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/youth-mental-health-fund-call-proposals/applicant-guide.html



Democracy in ACTION

REMINDER GST Vacation - Till February 15th 2025

To help Canadians the government introduced legislation in Parliament that provides for a two-month Goods and Services Tax (GST) break for groceries and holiday essentials and other items such as restaurant meals, drinks, snacks, children’s clothing from December 14, 2024, to February 15, 2025. This tax break aims to make a meaningful difference for Canadians by making essentially all food GST free.

To learn more, scan the QR code or go to: www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2024/11/more-money-in-your-pocket-a-tax-break-for-all-canadians.html



To access info about federal government services and benefits available to you, use your cell phone’s camera to scan the code