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## ERIN O'TOOLE RESPONDS TO UPDATED COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROJECTIONS

The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of Canada's Conservatives and the Official Opposition, released a statement following a briefing on the government's projected COVID-19 numbers: "Today I met with Justin Trudeau and was briefed on the modelling of new cases of COVID-19 that the federal government expects in Canada in the coming weeks. "What struck me was that 11 months after news about the spread of COVID-19 emerged, after thousands of lives and millions of jobs have been lost, and hundreds of billions of dollars has been added to the national debt, we as a country are worse off than we were at the start of the pandemic.

"We are in this position because the government failed to give Canadians the ability to rapidly and frequently test for COVID-19; has failed to tell Canadians how they plan to deliver a vaccine; and failed to be transparent with Canadians about what COVID-19 related information they are using to make decisions that affect lives and jobs. "Canadians need to see a real plan to test, trace, and isolate those who are infected. Shutting down the entire country again is simply not a solution. Today, I am calling on Justin Trudeau to finally do what he should have done months ago to protect Canadians' lives and their jobs. He must immediately:

Deploy widespread access to rapid testing for all Canadians, including providing access to at-home tests, to stop the spread of the virus while allowing workers to go to their jobs and for families to be safely reunited;

Develop more effective and targeted measures to protect, isolate, and support those infected with COVID-19;

Explain to Canadians how, when, and where they will be able to get a vaccine when it becomes available;

Provide rapid COVID-19 tests for all travellers entering Canada; and

Share with Canadians more timely information about the locations and sources of community spread. "Some regions are now see-

ing rapidly rising numbers, but Canadians have yet to see a detailed plan on testing and vaccine deployment. The Liberal government is revealing the risks of the second wave but have not learned the lessons from the first. Canadians can count on me to ensure we push for a smarter response."

Peel and Toronto are heading into a lockdown because Doug Ford tried to save a buck by cancelling public health measures too soon, ignoring public health advice, and refusing to expand COVID testing and contact tracing, said NDP Deputy Leader Sara Singh, who is calling for direct, concrete financial help for businesses and workers impacted by the

lockdown.

"Doug Ford was warned over and over again that this is where the province was headed if he continued to nix public health protections. He didn't invest in testing and contact tracing. He didn't invest in smaller class sizes. He didn't protect long-term care homes," said Singh.

"Essential workers in Brampton, Scarborough and throughout Toronto still don't have the help they need to stay home when they're sick. Ford isn't adding more COVID-19 testing for hotspots like Brampton, Scarborough, North Etobicoke or the Northwest corner of Toronto. He's not fixing the serious contact tracing shortages we have. And he's not shrinking

class sizes."

Singh also demanded direct financial supports for businesses and workers impacted.

"For thousands of small businesses already closed, it's too late. For all those now facing a second lockdown, a tax credit next year won't help a company that goes out of business next week."

"If Mr. Ford continues trying to do this on the cheap, businesses will fail and we will all suffer through this pandemic longer."

Singh and the NDP are calling for more investments in testing centres, contact tracing, paid sick days for workers, and smaller class sizes, urgently.

## MAYOR CARTER MEETS WITH AMAZON OFFICIALS

Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter recently met with key representatives from Amazon to congratulate the world's largest online retailer on their latest investment and to welcome them to Durham Region. They discussed Amazon's announcement of two new facilities in Durham Region – a fulfillment centre and a delivery station facility. The new facilities will create hundreds of full-time jobs for Durham Region residents, with competitive hourly wages, comprehensive benefits and an industry-leading workplace. The facility will encompass leading-edge technologies that will require a skilled workforce. During the meeting, Mayor Carter discussed Oshawa's highly-skilled, well-trained and productive workforce. Home to

three top-ranked post-secondary institutions with access to world-class educated students from over 140 countries, he noted that the post-secondary schools bring to the city both a dynamic part-time labour force and a talented labour pool through their numerous market-driven programs. The Mayor talked of Oshawa as a centre of excellence in health-care and a hub for health and wellness education and training, medical services, and health technologies production. Mayor Carter spoke of Oshawa's strong and vibrant local supply chain which is ready and able to provide services and products for world-wide distribution. He spoke of an innovative business-friendly city that offers a streamlined development approval process

and zero industrial development charges. He highlighted that Oshawa recently ranked No. 1 for development approval timelines in a GTA benchmarking study, adding that amid COVID-19, Oshawa's construction values are expected to near the \$500 million dollar mark by year end. The Mayor outlined the many assets the city has that could be beneficial to Amazon, including a connection to 120 million people across North America within days through its integrated connected transportation network that includes the Oshawa Executive Airport, access to a deep-water port, the 400 series highways and multiple rail access points. The Mayor shared that adjacent to the Oshawa Executive Airport, 500 acres of land is

being developed as the Northwood Business Park with proximity to the Highway 407 East, Ontario Tech University and Durham College. As the meeting wrapped up, the Mayor stressed that Oshawa stands ready to help welcome and partner with Amazon – to find the right balance and opportunity that would see Oshawa, the Region of Durham, residents and local businesses benefiting from Amazon's investment today and in future opportunities. He also welcomed the opportunity to have further discussions with the Amazon team in the months ahead and invited the Amazon team on a tour of Oshawa to visit in-person the city's assets. Earlier this year, the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task

Force identified a number of economic action items and ensuring that the city is well-positioned to embrace new opportunities as key to supporting the recovery and ongoing transformation of the local economy. For updates on the City of Oshawa, visit [www.oshawa.ca](http://www.oshawa.ca) and sign up for news, alerts and e-newsletters. Stay connected with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Connect Oshawa. "We are excited to learn of Amazon's recent announcement of its plans to build a new fulfillment centre in the Region and the economic growth it will bring to Oshawa and our neighbouring communities," said Mayor Dan Carter. "Oshawa is well-positioned to

accelerate Amazon's growth in the Region with an executive airport, rail connections, a deep-water port, and integrated transit network." "Oshawa has quickly become 'the' prime GTA location for business development - with available premium industrial land coupled with major highway access and a streamlined development approval process which ranks us number one in the GTA. We welcome Amazon and are well positioned to support the company's local growth success and of course the many jobs and opportunities it brings with it to Durham Region," said Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair, Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force.