



# DOWNEY DIGEST

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## **A NOTE FROM DOUG**

November is a time of reflection within our community. We take time to acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices of Canadians who have fought for the freedoms we cherish. As always, marking Remembrance Day is incredibly important in our society. As the veterans from the Second World War and Korean War age, the role they played in history becomes more and more distant from our daily lives. Their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of those Canadians who have fought in the conflicts in Afghanistan and other ongoing conflicts, shall never be forgotten. If you have the chance to thank a veteran this month, I encourage you to do so. Spend some time with them, and listen to the stories they are able to share.

*As Laurence Binyon once said, 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'*

# SUPPORTING AGRI-FOOD WORKERS

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The Ontario government is investing \$25 million over three years to strengthen the agri-food supply chain. This funding will incentivize industry investment in projects that help address the processing capacity shortage and increase the sector's competitiveness and resilience against future disruptions.

Starting in 2021-22, the Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund will provide grants of up to \$3 million to agri-food processing businesses to invest in capital, equipment and technology. The initiative aims to increase processing capacity and productivity while also enhancing the food security of Ontarians.



# SUPPORTING AGRI-FOOD WORKERS

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The government is making important changes to the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program to support businesses as they guard against the spread of COVID-19.

Funding is available through two different categories:

- The Workplace COVID-19 Prevention category, which supports the adoption of prevention measures to reduce spread of COVID-19 among agri-food workers and employees.
- The Responsive COVID-19 Outbreak Management category, which reimburses eligible applicants who have been impacted by outbreaks of COVID-19 and faced extraordinary costs related to employee wage supports and employee/worker isolation.

Extended eligibility for both programs came into effect November 17. For more information, or to apply, visit [omafra.gov.on.ca](https://omafra.gov.on.ca).

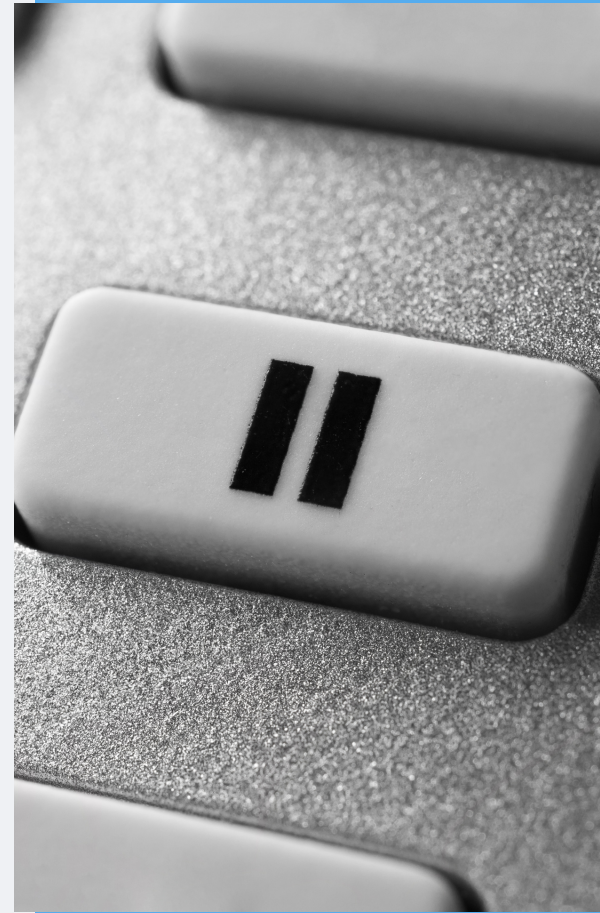
# PAUSING THE LIFTING OF CAPACITY LIMITS

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The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has paused the lifting of capacity limits in remaining higher-risk settings. This is being done out of an abundance of caution.

Ontario's [A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#) includes ongoing monitoring and assessment of key public health and health care indicators.

At this time, Ontario's hospital and intensive care capacity remains stable, and the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country.



# PAUSING THE LIFTING OF CAPACITY LIMITS.

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Increases in COVID-19 cases were expected as people move indoors due to the colder weather, and as the province eased restrictions. Out of an abundance of caution, existing capacity limits will remain in place. Settings affected include:

- Food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as night clubs and wedding reception in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing;
- strip clubs; and
- sex clubs and bathhouses.

The government and Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to monitor data for the next 28 days.

# ENHANCING SUPPORTS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Ontario government is investing more than \$529,000 through the True Patriot Love Foundation to expand access to specialized mental health services and support for Ontario's veterans returning to civilian life. The funding will be directed to community-based programs offering group counselling, and supports for women who suffered sexual trauma during combat.

In 2020, Ontario introduced legislation to modernize the Soldiers' Aid Commission so veterans of all ages - not just those who served in the Second World War and the Korean War - will be eligible to apply for financial assistance.



# ENHANCING SUPPORTS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The funding will help support True Patriot Love Foundation's work with agency partners in Ontario to deliver targeted, specialized programs to veterans including:

- Group counselling programs facilitated by psychologists and veteran peer support workers that aim to reduce depression, substance abuse and suicide and strengthen family relationships, peer support and self-esteem.
- A program providing a safe space for female veterans to discuss experiences related to military sexual trauma.
- Group-based psycho-educational and counselling programs for veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and their spouse/partner who are struggling with the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Expanding programs and services currently being offered by mental health agencies, Military Family Resource Centres and other organizations serving the veteran community.
- Wounded Warriors Canada Trauma Resiliency Program, a clinically facilitated program helping veterans acquire the necessary tools to overcome the natural and understandable effects of traumatic exposure.

# LEST WE FORGET

