



## STATEMENT

# Easing of preventative measures within the House of Commons Precinct

*Ottawa, Ontario—March 10, 2022*

The Honourable Anthony Rota, in his role as Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, reports that the following decisions have been made by the Board to ease pandemic preventative measures within the House of Commons precinct:

### **Non-essential parliamentary activities**

As of March 11, 2022, previously suspended non-essential parliamentary activities will resume in the House of Commons precinct. If circumstances warrant it, there may still be situations where the capacity of certain rooms may need to be limited or controlled.

### **Public visitor access to the House of Commons precinct**

Public visitor access will begin in a progressive manner allowing sufficient time for services to stabilize their operations and ensure adequate resources to implement remaining preventative measures.

Public visitor access will occur in two stages:

- Week of April 25, 2022: Reopening of the public gallery in the Chamber and public access to committee meetings
- Week of May 16, 2022: Resumption of guided tours and general public access

### **Committee travel**

Decisions relating to committee travel sought by individual committees, confirmed by the Liaison Committee, which is responsible for allocating committee funds previously approved by the Board, and then approved by the House of Commons will resume and will take into consideration the public health situation.

### **Use of masks**

The current measures regarding the use of masks in the House of Commons precinct have been extended until June 23, 2022. Therefore:

- It is mandatory for any person, including Members and their staff, political research office employees, Administration employees, members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, parliamentary business visitors, and the general public to wear a mask or face covering in the House of Commons precinct, except at workstations or desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible.

Masks or face coverings must be worn in the following precinct areas:

- The Chamber and committee rooms, except when the Member is at their place during parliamentary proceedings
- Galleries
- Members' offices and Administration offices, excluding workstations / desks where two-metre physical distancing is possible
- Building entrances
- Elevator lobbies
- Hallways, including common hallways within House Administration work areas
- Washrooms
- Locker rooms
- Cafeterias and canteens
- Indoor parking lots
- Elevators and escalators
- Stairways
- Meeting rooms and multipurpose rooms
- Collaboration spaces
- Lunchrooms and kitchenettes

The requirement to wear a mask or face covering does not apply to:

- the Chamber and committee rooms, when Members are at their place during parliamentary proceedings. However, it is strongly recommended that Members wear a mask / face covering when they are at their place during parliamentary proceedings.
- Members and other individuals participating in a press conference, including scrums, where two-metre physical distancing measures have been implemented.
- Workstations / desks in Members' offices and Administration offices where two-metre physical distancing is possible.

The following persons are exempted from wearing a mask / face covering:

- A person who has a medical condition that precludes the safe wearing of a mask / face covering or who is unable to put on or remove the mask / face covering without the assistance of another person
- A person who needs to temporarily remove the mask / face covering to consume food or drink

These measures reflect current public health guidelines and advice.

**For more information:**

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