



STATEMENT

Preventative measures at the House of Commons in response to COVID-19

Ottawa, Ontario – March 13, 2020

The Honourable Anthony Rota, Speaker of the House of Commons and Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, confirms that yesterday the Board of Internal Economy was briefed by public health and House Administration officials on House of Commons pandemic planning.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) continues to assess the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as **low** for Canada but has stated that this could change rapidly. As well, there is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians aged 65 or over, with compromised immune systems, or with underlying medical conditions. This public health risk is being reassessed as new information becomes available.

As a preventative measure, the Board has determined that effective end of business today, March 13, until April 20, 2020:

- It will close visitor access to the House of Commons precinct and cancel public tours;
- It will suspend committee travel; and
- It will cancel all parliamentary functions and events in the House of Commons Precinct.

Earlier, by unanimous consent, the House of Commons modified its sitting calendar: the House will stand adjourned until April 20, 2020. The modified calendar will be available on ourcommons.ca shortly.

The Board is taking these measures to help ensure a healthy and safe work environment on the House of Commons precinct and to protect individuals who may be at risk for more severe complications from COVID-19.

Hon. Anthony Rota, M.P.

For more information:

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