



Committee a shadow of Parliament

I returned to Ottawa last week to a watered-down version of the Parliamentary process.

This “Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic” includes a limited number of MPs physically in the House, and the rest signing in virtually.

While there is a need for continued social distancing, this committee format does not allow the Opposition parties to hold the government to account.

I was able to ask questions of ministers for five minutes while in the House last week, but that does not replace most of the tools we’ve lost.

For instance, we cannot vote to defeat or support legislation, put forward private members’ bills, or debate issues.

Important discussions are not happening as many key committees aren’t meeting right now, including the Natural Resources committee, which I sit on as the Shadow Minister.

Most importantly, we cannot scrutinize the Liberal Government’s \$250-billion COVID spending as we are not getting an economic update on how this is taking our country’s debt level to \$1 trillion.

At this point, hopes are that Parliament with its full powers and accountabilities will resume in the fall, but that depends on the COVID situation.

I’m back in the riding now and am joining the other MPs participating remotely until June 18 in these four-times-a-week committee meetings.



ON THE JOB: MP Cathy McLeod was in the House of Commons last week for the hybrid session held Monday through Wednesday. As a member of the Official Opposition, part of her job is to hold government to account, and she did that during the Q&A portion on Wednesday.

WORKING TOGETHER

Apply for aid through community support fund

United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo has \$441,000 to give away, thanks to the federal government’s \$350-million Emergency Community Support



Fund.

It is for organizations providing front-line

services to vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19, including registered charities.

Applications are due by June 8, under review until June 26, with funding de-

isions made by July 31.

Visit <https://www.unitedwaytnc.ca/covid-19/ecsf/> for more information and how to apply. To discuss eligibility, email kristi@unitedwaytnc.ca