



Fall economic statement offers no plan

What millions of Canadians wanted Monday was to hear how the Federal Government plans to help return life to normal, with access to vaccines, rapid testing and a real plan to support businesses and workers.

Instead, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland confirmed with the fall economic statement that the Liberals are running a historic deficit of almost \$400 billion — that's over \$42,000 in debt to a family of four — and we are falling behind on vaccines and rapid testing.

Canada is trailing the U.S., the EU, Mexico, Brazil, India and Indonesia for vaccine procurement. That's over 2.7 billion people in line ahead of Canadians.

The UK will start vaccinating on Dec. 7, the U.S. on Dec. 11, Germany in mid-December, and Australia in March.

Yet we still don't know when Canada will receive vaccines from the manufacturers, when Canadians will get their shots, and who will get them first. And until this bridge is crossed, and this pandemic put in check, there can be no solid path forward for the economy.

One welcome seniors care initiative that was announced is \$1 billion for the provinces for a Safe Long-Term Care Fund.

But I can't emphasize enough, what we need to get our country healthy on all levels starts with a vaccination plan. Canadians are being left behind without one.

WORKING TOGETHER



For a third year, Patty Phillips is collecting purses filled with items women need. The filled purses are accepted until Dec. 14 and will be delivered to the women's shelter in Emerald House, managed by the Canadian Mental Health Association. Hygiene items for men are also being gathered for men in need, in a separate initiative, until Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Filling purses with care

As a way of helping out women in need this Christmas, a Kamloops woman is gathering gently-used purses filled with necessities and "a bit of fun."

For the third year, Patti Phillips is driving Women Helping Women, an initiative that brought in 25 purses in 2018 and 340 purses last year for those at Emerald House women's shelter.

Suggested items are lip balm, deodorant, makeup, candy, chocolate, nail polish, hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste, wallet, gift card, leggings, slippers, socks, mitts, gloves, toque, pads or tampons, underwear,

earrings, lotion, shampoo, soap, nail clippers, or whatever else a woman may need.

The filled purses can be dropped by Dec. 14 at the North Shore BIA office (115 Tranquille Rd., call to arrange a time so someone is in the office), at Heather's Fabric Shelf in Brock, Senor Froggy's on the North Shore, or Kamloops Thai Massage.

Hygiene products and gently-used clothing are also being gathered for men in need and can be left by Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the North Shore BIA, at Canco, or Tranquille Market, all on Tranquille.