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CUT

## BUILD BACK BETTER: HEALTHY RECOVERY

Post-pandemic recovery presents an opportunity to transform our health care system for the better. It's an opportunity for much needed maintenance and upgrades to Canada's hospitals.

Canadian health care infrastructure has not been adequately funded for decades. A report by HealthCareCAN shows that we have a \$15 billion maintenance deficit to address. Hospitals account for 8% of Canada's public sector greenhouse gas emissions, and 11% of public sector energy use, but they have not been eligible for federal green infrastructure funds that would enable necessary upgrades.

In February, I wrote to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities asking the federal government to expand these eligibility criteria to include hospitals. I was happy to hear recently that hospitals would be eligible to apply for a new \$3 billion federal infrastructure fund in response to the pandemic. This is a step in the right direction.

Investing in public health care infrastructure, and ensuring those assets remain publicly owned, is important. As we emerge from the pandemic, investing public money into projects with the greatest public benefit is the sound thing to do. We should not allow investments in private enterprise to dominate Canada's recovery agenda.

Here in Nanaimo-Ladysmith, the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital has been applauded for designing resilience to extreme weather into its emergency department extension. However, NRGH badly needs expanded services. Island Health identified our need for a tertiary hospital in 2017. Tertiary hospitals provide specialized services for patients with serious health challenges, such as cancer, heart disease, and kidney disease.

Nanaimo needs a hospital that provides these specialized services to serve the growing and aging population of the central and north island region. A tertiary hospital would greatly decrease the need for residents in our area to travel to Victoria or Vancouver for urgent and specialized medical care. Keeping patients closer to their loved ones is important.

I wrote to BC's Minister of Health last August, urging the province to prioritize the development of a tertiary hospital in Nanaimo. As MP, I am prepared to lobby for and support federal infrastructure funding applications once the BC government has decided to make the development of a tertiary hospital in Nanaimo a priority.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is to be prepared for future emergencies, especially in the health care sector. This is a lesson I hope all levels of government will embrace as we look forward to our recovery. Let's build back better.

## GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME: WHY I SUPPORT IT

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the idea of a Guaranteed Livable Income, or Universal Basic Income, into mainstream conversation. It is an idea being championed by advocates, economists and thinkers across the political spectrum. Guaranteed Livable Income often garners a knee jerk dismissal, but the enormous social and fiscal benefits of such a program are worth a closer look.

The principle of GLI is to establish an income floor below which no Canadian could fall. In 2017, Canadian governments, federal, provincial-territorial and local combined spent \$177 billion on social programs to help low income people, children, seniors, people with disabilities and the unemployed. A Guaranteed Livable Income would replace our costly patchwork of federal and provincial income supplement programs including welfare, disability, OAS, GIS and more, with a single, universal, unconditional cash benefit. The multiple, overlapping bureaucracies required to administer all of those programs would no longer be necessary. Unlike our current shame-based social assistance programs, a Guaranteed Livable Income is equitable and anti-racist because of its universality. Picking people's lives apart to determine eligibility would be a thing of the past.

Too many Canadians are one missed paycheck away from losing the roof over their head. A GLI would reduce homelessness. Poverty is the leading social determinant of health. By eliminating extreme poverty, a GLI would reduce costs to our health care system. Similarly, there would be cost savings in the criminal justice system. Coupling a GLI with crucial investments in mental health services and addiction treatment programs would further enhance these benefits.

A monthly GLI payment would cover the basics that people need to live in the region they reside. The benefit would be topped up for individuals who are unable to work, due to

disability or old age, and do not have additional income from savings or investments.

I support a model where GLI payments are incrementally taxed back according to income. Allowing low income workers to retain most of the benefit is a strong incentive to work, unlike programs that claw back benefits at 100% or 50% per dollar earned. By the time earnings reach a predetermined threshold above a living wage the GLI would be fully taxed back, although the taxation rate could be adjusted for single parent families.

Caring for preschool children, aging parents or a family member with a disability are currently unpaid contributions to our society. A GLI would change that, and allow more Canadians to age in place with dignity and care. For those who are able to work, a GLI would provide an essential safety net through periods of unemployment or under-employment, which are common in the growing "gig economy" and will become more common as automation and artificial intelligence advance. A GLI would support entrepreneurial risk-taking by less privileged Canadians who dream of starting businesses but are held back by fear of financial ruin. With basic needs covered, more Canadians would have the opportunity to seek higher education or upgrade their skills. And a GLI would ensure that no one is impoverished by circumstances beyond their control, such as prolonged illness, natural disasters, or pandemics.

There have been a series of studies and pilot programs, and the body of evidence in support of GLI-type programs continues to grow. As with any major endeavor it will take education, determination, and will to implement a Guaranteed Livable Income program in Canada. Such an undertaking would be comparable to the passage of the Medical Care Act in 1966, and equally transformative to Canadian society.

## FREIGHTER COLLISION: ANCHORAGE ISSUES CONTINUE

My work on the freighter anchorages in the Salish Sea continues but this spring the situation became more urgent. On March 30, 2020, a collision occurred between two freighters anchored in Plumper Sound. No injuries or pollution were reported but it could have been disastrous. I wrote to the Minister of Transport and the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) to request a full investigation into the collision, and to again urge the government to remove the Southern BC freighter anchorages.

The TSB have informed me that they are conducting a Class 4 investigation into the collision. A Class 4 occurrence is one that may have some important consequences. Unfortunately the likelihood of identifying new safety lessons is low.

Plumper Sound falls within the area covered by the Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern BC Anchorages. This protocol established 33 new freighter anchorages around the

Southern Gulf Islands in 2018. It was supposed to last for six months, but the anchorages are still in place.

Local residents are suffering from noise and light pollution, as well as generator exhaust and dust from maintenance work on nearby freighters. Freighters have been seen offloading cargo to barges, something that should be done in port. Anchorages also threaten the sensitive ecosystem of the Salish Sea and disrupt the habitat of endangered species, including the southern resident killer whale. A fuel spill would be disastrous for our coastal communities.

These "temporary" anchorages need to be removed. The demand for freighter parking should be reduced by fixing inefficiencies at the Port of Vancouver and halting shipments of thermal coal from the US. West coast American ports have refused thermal coal exports and so should Canada. I will continue urging the federal government to take action.



**PAUL  
MANLY**  
Member of Parliament  
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Fall 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe during these challenging times.

It's been an incredibly busy time for me since I was re-elected in October. Through the winter I was hitting my stride, feeling less like a rookie MP, and really enjoying the work I do in Ottawa on behalf of our communities. When the COVID-19 pandemic began my staff and I went into high gear - working to help bring home constituents that were stranded in other countries around the world, addressing the needs of constituents and businesses hurt by the economic shut-down, and working towards solutions to deal with the crisis. Like many others in our civil service, my staff have been doing great work under very difficult circumstances and they have my deepest gratitude.

I take a different approach to politics. I ask the hard questions and I don't shy away from criticizing the government, but I don't heckle, make personal attacks, or engage in "gotcha" politics. I send my questions to the government in advance of Question Period. It's unusual for an opposition MP to do that, but I want ministers know what I am going to ask so I can get a thoughtful reply. I follow up my questions with an in-person discussion or an email. I send research to back up my ideas and provide background on my questions. This is how my colleague Elizabeth May operates. It has paid off in good relationships with cabinet ministers and parliamentary secretaries, and good access to them during the pandemic.

It's a Team Canada approach. Our caucus has been providing the government with

good ideas to implement and ways to improve the relief programs that have rolled out. We compiled lists of issues that constituents were facing and provided real examples to government ministers so they could understand the needs in Nanaimo-Ladysmith and across the country. We got positive responses from ministers and encouragement to send along additional ideas and concerns. I even received a shout out in the House of Commons from Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland after I gave her information about the products that Harmac Pacific supplies to US companies for producing personal protective equipment (PPE). At the time President Trump was threatening to cut off supplies of PPE to Canada, and Minister Freeland found the information I provided helpful in her negotiations.

It's nice to get credit, but it doesn't matter to me who gets the credit as long as actions are taken and ideas are implemented which serve the needs of the constituents of Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

It's my honour and privilege to serve as your representative in Ottawa. I invite you to let me know what you think about these articles, or other topics you would like to hear from me about. As always, my staff and I are here to provide caring, compassionate, non-partisan service for constituents who need assistance with federal issues. We are just a phone call or email away.

## CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

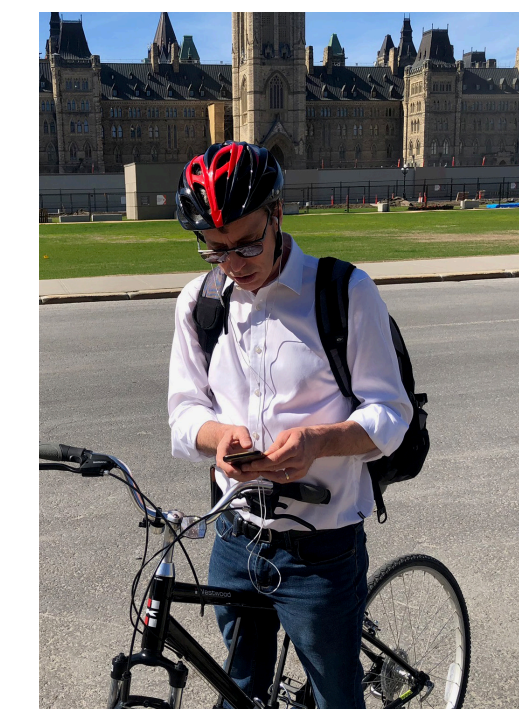
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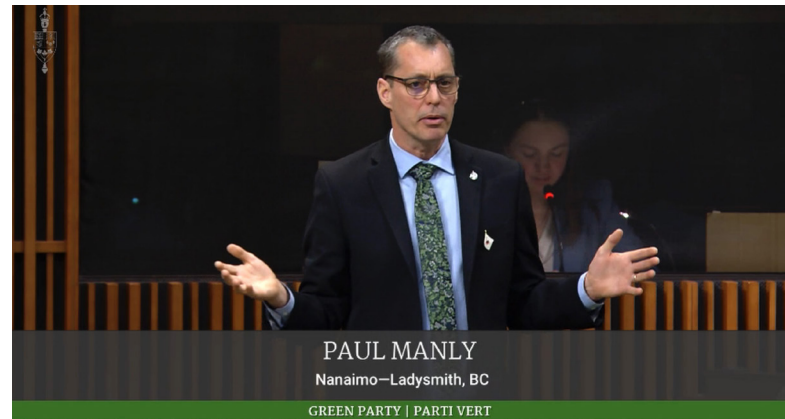


Weather permitting, this is my typical commute in Ottawa.



## HIGHLIGHTS: FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The first session of the 43rd Parliament began in December 2019. Since then I have spoken in the House of Commons, and during virtual Parliament, more than 100 times. Here is a small selection of highlights. To read more of my statements and questions visit my website [PaulManlyMP.ca](http://PaulManlyMP.ca)



### January 2020

"Canadians were promised concrete action to combat climate change, but the targets for reducing emissions have not changed from the ones put in place by the previous Conservative government before the Paris accord. We are not even on target to meet those commitments. Instead, the government has approved environmentally destructive projects, has bought a pipeline that guarantees an increase in emissions and has continued to provide subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. It is for those reasons that I will vote against the [December] Speech from the Throne. I am ready to work with the government to establish new targets, because until we commit to do our part and follow through on our commitments, all of the other issues I have mentioned will not matter. Climate change will impact every area of our lives, overwhelm our health care system and destroy our economy. I was elected on a promise to continue pressing the government for real and substantive action on climate change, and that is a promise I intend to keep."

### February 2020

"Mr. Speaker, today's enforcement action in Wet'suwet'en territory was another humiliating stain on Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples."

### March 2020

"Fracked gas has the same greenhouse gas impact as burning coal. Fracking also contaminates air and water, and causes earthquakes. Jurisdictions around the world have banned fracking. Will the government do the right thing and ban fracking in Canada?"

"Mr. Speaker, one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of viruses like COVID-19 is if people stay home and self-isolate when they are sick, but for many low-wage workers and contractors, missing work is simply not an option. The loss of just a few hundred dollars could mean not feeding their families or potential homelessness. Will the government extend financial support to all workers

who must self-isolate for public safety reasons and will that commitment include workers who do not pay into EI or are not EI eligible?"

### April 2020

"Many Canadian individuals and businesses are still falling between the cracks. Now is not the time for finger pointing and partisan bickering. We need to continue to focus on identifying groups of individuals and businesses that are not covered by the COVID-19 assistance programs and make sure they get help."

### May 2020

"The front-line workers we bang pots and pans for every night are predominantly women. They are nurses, technicians, care aides, kitchen staff and cleaners in our health care system and long term care facilities. They are low-wage workers in essential services. Their work is often unseen and unacknowledged. It's important that we cheer for them. It's even more important that we ensure they receive fair compensation for their work."

"I would like to ask about a very serious long-running scam involving billions of dollars. Executives of over 450 corporations extracted wealth from the oil and gas resources of this country, paid themselves and their shareholders handsomely, and then declared bankruptcy, leaving behind hundreds of thousands of abandoned oil wells to clean up. Taxpayers are subsidizing this cleanup to the tune of \$1.7 billion. Does the government know if any of the people involved in this massive dine-and-dash scam are now involved with any companies that are receiving government funding to clean up these orphan wells?"

### June 2020

"Will the government institute a permanent raise to CPP disability to ensure that disabled people can live a dignified life?"

"Recent events have ripped open the wound of systemic racism in our country. Racialized and marginalized communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Thousands of seniors in long term care facilities have died. It is clear that we need system change. In the past, governments have bailed out banks and corporations because they were too big to fail. It is time to bail out humanity and the planet."

"In the first five months of this year, 554 BC residents died from opioid overdoses. They were teachers, construction workers, business owners, family members, neighbours and friends. Addiction is a health and social issue, but criminalization creates stigma, so people hide their drug use and die alone."

"COVID-19 has demonstrated that together we can take courageous action for the common good. We need to do the same for the climate crisis."

## LONG TERM CARE: WE HAVE FAILED TO PROTECT SENIORS

*The COVID-19 crisis brought much-needed attention to the deplorable conditions in many privately-owned long term care facilities across Canada. It's tragic that so many lives were lost under horrific conditions in order for that to happen.*

*Since I was first elected in May 2019 I have raised the issue of substandard care in privately-owned and operated long term care facilities multiple times in the House of Commons. On March 3rd, 2020, just weeks before COVID-19 began taking its terrible toll, I spoke at length about this problem. The following is a transcript of my speech:*

Mr. Speaker, Retirement Concepts runs 23 long term care facilities for seniors in Canada. Nineteen are in BC, and seven are on Vancouver Island. Retirement Concepts provides independent living, assisted living, and complex care for seniors. In 2017, this government approved the sale of Retirement Concepts to the Chinese corporation Anbang Insurance. The following year Anbang's CEO was convicted of corruption and the company was taken over by the Chinese state.

The conditions at Retirement Concepts Nanaimo Seniors Village in my riding were atrocious. The home was understaffed and provided substandard care. Seniors went for weeks without receiving a bath. They were left in soiled clothes and soiled beds. Bed sores and other related health consequences of neglect were common.

After numerous complaints by residents and their families the Vancouver Island Health Authority took over Nanaimo Seniors Village and two other Retirement Concepts care facilities on Vancouver Island. Just last month another facility in Summerland BC had to be taken over.

Under the Investment Canada Act, Anbang had an obligation to maintain staffing levels. The federal government made assurances to the provinces that patient care would be protected. The BC Seniors Advocate has stated that she does not understand how the federal government could make such an assurance. The reporting and transparency required to make that promise does not exist.

The federal government should not be permitting foreign ownership of businesses that provide taxpayer-funded health care services. When seniors are hospitalized as a result of neglect and substandard care we all carry the cost. Our seniors deserve better than for-profit care run by foreign corporations that lack accountability.

Recent analysis by the Office of the BC Seniors Advocate found that the not-for-profit sector spends 59% of its revenue on direct care. That's 24% more per resident, per year than the for-profit sector. The for-profit sector failed to deliver 207,000 hours of funded care. The not-for-profit sector provided 80,000 more hours of direct care than they were paid to deliver.

Wages for care workers in the for-profit sector were 28% less than the industry standard. Nanaimo Seniors Village had a

hard time attracting workers with an average wage of \$18 per hour rather than the \$24 per hour industry standard.

There is a waiting list for every government-funded care bed. There is no competition to provide these services, no free market. Those beds will be filled whether a facility is properly staffed and delivering appropriate care or not. That revenue stream is guaranteed. The abuses that have resulted from this situation are horrifying. We have failed to protect seniors.

We must remove the financial incentive to provide substandard seniors care. Corporations can not be permitted to squeeze profits out of the health care system through vague accounting, paying below average wages and neglecting vulnerable seniors. That is unacceptable.

The operation of seniors long term care facilities is under the jurisdiction of the provinces, but the federal government must be actively involved in creating a solution to these problems. The government needs to mandate national standards to ensure the safety and dignity of Canadian seniors. And going forward, the government should not permit foreign ownership of businesses that provide taxpayer-funded health care services.

Now that the Chinese state has created a new corporate entity called Dajia which owns Retirement Concepts, it is time for the federal government to review the original purchase and rescind the agreement.

The Canadian seniors of today were the workers and business owners of yesterday. They worked hard, paid their taxes and contributed to building what they believed to be retirement security. They are also our parents and grandparents. We owe them dignity and care in their final years. No one in a care facility in Canada should be left in a soiled diaper for hours until they get a septic wound. No one in a care facility in Canada should be left without a bath for weeks on end.

We should not have allowed this critical health care service to be sold to the highest foreign bidder. This crisis needs urgent attention!



### LOVE LETTERS TO THE PLANET

Young constituents Cova Paydli, Laila Tonnellier, Nita Tonnellier, Annika Harvey, and Heaton Paydli visited my office on March 6th. They delivered their "Love Letters to the Planet" to me. We had a good chat about the cards, letters, and reports they created, and why this project was important to them. I really appreciate the work they did, and how much they care about our environment.

## FIRST NATIONS POLICING: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Problems with policing in Canada dominated headlines earlier this year, following the killings of Chantel Moore and Rodney Levi by police in New Brunswick, and the violent RCMP take-down of Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. RCMP leaders have acknowledged the systemic racism within the force.

My own understanding and perspective on this issue has been informed by the experiences of my sister Heather Manly. Heather is Haisla from Kitamaat village. She spent 25 years with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) as an Indigenous liaison officer and a police trainer. She has shared her experiences with racism in the OPP, the lack of proper vetting of recruits, and the culture of protecting police force members from scrutiny and consequences.

Policing in most First Nations communities is inappropriate or inadequate to ensure community safety. The government has acknowledged this long-standing problem and pledged to declare First Nations policing an essential service, which would ensure the service will be adequately funded. This is something that Indigenous leaders have been pressing for. It is a positive development but there is still much work to be done.

Since being elected I meet with as many community leaders and constituents as I can when I am home on Vancouver Island, in order to have a clear understanding of how best to bring their issues and concerns to Ottawa. Policing problems in local First Nations communities were one of the first issues raised in my meetings with the Chiefs and Councils of Snuneymuxw, Stz'uminus and Snaw-Naw-As. The RCMP have not increased policing levels in Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As in the last twenty years, despite increases in the populations of those communities and of the surrounding areas. Stz'uminus has insufficient coverage and the short rotations of officers assigned to their community don't allow for connections and trust to develop.

Good models for First Nations policing already exist. The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service took over policing two thirds of Ontario from the OPP in 1998. It is Canada's largest Indigenous police force. Members of the force have never shot and killed anyone in its 22 year history. The Kwanlin Dun Community Safety Officer Program in the Yukon is a more recent example. Kwanlin Dun Community Safety Officers do not carry weapons, they patrol in partnership with officers from other enforcement agencies to support the safety of community members.

With the support of Chiefs and Councils, I have been advocating for funding for Community Safety Officers for local First Nations. I support efforts to create a new legislative framework for First Nations policing that will designate it as an essential service, and I hope to see these efforts advance in the next session of parliament.

## SPECIES AT RISK ACT



I am advocating for important updates to the federal Species at Risk Act. The act needs to apply to all lands and territorial waters in Canada. It should be given the regulatory teeth to stop the destruction of threatened ecosystems, like the remaining old growth forests on Vancouver Island.

NO  
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[Read more statements and questions at PaulManlyMP.ca](http://PaulManlyMP.ca)