

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 13, 2020

## **Suspension of Chamber Tours**

In light of recent updates from medical professionals on the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in an effort to be pro-active, the Office of the Parliament has taken a decision to suspend Chamber Tours until further notice. Groups which have already booked tours will be contacted personally.

The tours include entrance to the Red House via the Rotunda Gallery then a visit to the Chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each space must be conspicuously cleaned following each tour and ahead of each sitting, therefore we have decided to suspend tours until the threat of the spread of COVID-19 has abated, and upon advice from medical professionals.

The International Women's Day Exhibition in the Rotunda Gallery remains open to the public until Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>, or until further notice.

The Office of the Parliament has installed wall-mounted hand sanitizer units throughout the Parliamentary Complex and members of staff and visitors are encouraged to thoroughly sanitize their hands upon entry to the building, and to wash and sanitize their hands throughout the day.

We look forward to welcoming members of the public back to the restored Red House Chambers once the threat of the spread of COVID-19 has abated, and staff and visitors may also be advised to practice social distancing in their interactions.

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