



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



MIKE MORRICE

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

In this issue:

- ⇒ Electoral reform debate coming this fall
- ⇒ Doubling social housing
- ⇒ Climate crisis and affordability
- ⇒ Truth and reconciliation
- ⇒ Two-way all-day GO train service
- ⇒ Supporting small businesses
- ⇒ Advocating for our Sudanese neighbours



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Mike Morrice Kitchener Centre

October 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

The housing crisis, the climate crisis, the mental health crisis. We know the majority of Canadians care about these issues, and yet our slate of elected officials isn't representative of our interests. This is because of the way our winner-takes-all electoral system works.

Read on to see what I'm doing to improve our democracy and ensure every vote counts, one way my team is working towards Indigenous reconciliation, and what we're doing for the climate and the local economy.

If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I encourage you to reach out anytime to talk about what's most important to you. I have time in my calendar each week to hear from

folks across our community, or I'd be glad to sit down with a group of your neighbours and friends to hear common interests or different concerns.

This kind of communication is critical for our democracy. My advocacy in Ottawa is directly informed by what I'm hearing from you.

Please reach out through any of the ways listed to the right—I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Member of Parliament, Kitchener Centre

CONTACT INFO

COMMUNITY OFFICE

305 King Street West
Suite 303
Kitchener ON N2G 1B9
At King St W and Water St S

Open Mondays, Tuesdays, and
Thursdays from 10am-4:30pm

Tel. 519-741-2001

✉ mike.morrice.C1@parl.gc.ca

OTTAWA OFFICE

Confederation Building
Suite 313
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613-995-8913

✉ mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca

🌐 mikemorricemp.ca

ELECTORAL REFORM DEBATE COMES TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THIS FALL

After months of building cross-party support for my motion calling for a national citizens' assembly on electoral reform, I'm thrilled to be working with Lisa Marie Barron, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Ladysmith, to continue moving this work forward.

Based on Parliament's lottery system, my motion would not be up for debate or a vote for quite some time. Because of this timing, MP Barron agreed to build upon our work, submitting her own private members motion on electoral reform, ensuring this important debate isn't

delayed any further and will come to Parliament this fall.

Our current winner-takes-all system feeds on divisive politics and doesn't accurately represent the views of voters.

By bringing together citizens of diverse backgrounds to study electoral options and provide recommendations to government, we remove partisan interests to create a better system for all voters.

I'm looking forward to MPs debating this motion later this fall, and ultimately voting on the next steps.



With fellow electoral reform champions MP Daniel Blaikie and MP Lisa Marie Barron celebrating the launch of Barron's motion.

DOUBLING GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED HOUSING

Our housing crisis is complex, and we need to tackle it from all sides.

So many in our community are being seriously impacted by the unaffordability of housing, whether renting or looking to buy. Over the summer, some of you even offered suggestions on what you would like to see implemented to inform my work back in Ottawa this fall.

I was especially inspired at community conversations like this one with folks from Waterloo Region Yes in My Backyard (WR YIMBY). In Parliament this fall, I've been pushing to address the financialization of housing, and to at least double our social housing supply. While this may sound like a lot, it would still leave us in the middle of the pack as compared to G7 peers.



MOTION 92 - CLIMATE CRISIS AND AFFORDABILITY

We are in the middle of both a climate crisis and a cost-of-living crisis, and yet fossil fuel companies made record profits last year. In Canada, the five largest alone made over \$38 billion! A significant portion of this was the result of price-gouging at the pump, adding an additional 18 cents per litre more than just the year before.

For the banking and insurance industries, the Canadian government has recognized unreasonable profiteering and has already put a 15% windfall tax in place on their excess profits. My new Private Members Motion 92 calls on the governing party to extend this measure to include the excess profits of fossil fuel companies, and to direct the revenue raised to address both the climate crisis and affordability for Canadians from investments in public transit to greening our buildings.

The non-partisan Parliamentary Budget Office has determined this measure could generate up to \$4.4 billion – which would go a long way to both make life more affordable for Canadians and invest in proven climate solutions.

SUPPORTING REHABILITATION AT GVI

In Canada, Indigenous people make up only 5% of the population, yet over half of those incarcerated in our women's prisons are Indigenous. As part of my response to our community's calls to make progress on reconciliation, I've been engaging with the Grand Valley Institution for Women (GVI) in Kitchener to ensure they are fulfilling their role of rehabilitating women, transgender, non-binary, and two-spirit folks who are incarcerated there.

One of the most concerning issues I've heard about is water quality, with some reporting losing their hair or developing unexplained rashes on their skin from brown water. Many shared they are spending their limited resources buying bottled water until they have answers. In response, we pushed for water testing, and while results from the institution's main areas are clear, we continue to push for water testing in every part of the facility, including living quarters.

In another area, the Stride program operated by local charity Community Justice Initiatives (CJI) helps those at GVI to prepare — both practically and emotionally — for release. This includes volunteers who join group activities or who escort those incarcerated to external appointments including for medical reasons or community service projects to support their reintegration. Despite CJI having qualified volunteers and staff available to help, GVI kept the program on hold even after pandemic-related restrictions ended.

I am pleased to report that thanks to our joint advocacy, the Stride program has been reinstated at GVI, with a renewed five-year contract. CJI continues to recruit volunteers and hopes to attract members of marginalized communities to support those they will be working with. Please reach out to CJI directly if you're interested in helping out!



Visiting Grand Valley Institution in August to meet with those incarcerated, staff, and management. I was joined by community-based advocates and MP Val Bradford, Senator Bernadette Clement, and then -Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Pam Damoff.

LISTENING TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL VOICES

Thank you to all of the groups and individuals who took the time to meet with me, including:

- The Kitchener branch of the National Association of Federal Retirees and residents at Sunnyside Home Long Term Care about the development and implementation of national standards for long term care and home care
- The Food Bank of Waterloo Region and Food Banks Canada on food insecurity and how food banks are struggling to keep up with increasing need, especially with rising inflation and increased costs
- The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness about solutions to the housing crisis
- Nature's Source about possible Health Canada regulations on labelling of natural health supplements
- Moms Stop the Harm on safe supply and poisoned drugs
- Line 5 Coalition about the effects of a pipeline on Indigenous land which resulted in a Parliamentary petition
- Justice for All Canada and the Rohingya Centre of Canada on multi-party letters and petitions in support of human rights of those living in Burma
- March of Dimes Canada and Disability Without Poverty on ending legislated poverty with the Canada Disability Benefit
- Co-op Housing Federation of Canada about the Cooperative Housing Development Program and its progress to being federally funded
- Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership, Reception House, and COMPASS Refugee Centre on healthcare and housing

GETTING GO TRAINS ON TRACK

Our community has waited far too long for two-way, all-day GO train service.

With 40% of the project's funding coming from the federal government, I've called on the minister responsible for infrastructure to hold both the province and Metrolinx accountable and to ensure our community receives a commitment to a timeline for completion.

With people literally getting left on the platform by overcrowded buses, we need a convenient, reliable, and affordable transit link to and from Toronto. After such a significant federal investment it's past time for the province to follow through.

You can find media coverage on my advocacy or read my letter to the Minister on my website at mikemorricemp.ca.

Kitchener MP calls for Ontario to 'show your homework' when it comes to 2-way, all-day GO trains

'Let's get a commitment to a timeline,' MP Mike Morrice says



[Kate Bueckert](#) · CBC News ·

Posted: Jul 18, 2023 6:00 AM EDT | Last

Updated: 8 hours ago



The idea of two-way, all-day GO trains along the Kitchener GO line has been discussed for nearly a decade, yet there is no clear timeline in place for the project. Kitchener Centre MP Mike Morrice wants the federal government to put pressure on the Ontario government for answers. (Kate Bueckert/CBC)

INVESTING IN YOUNG WORKERS

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program is a lifeline for young people to get relevant work experience and for community-based organizations, small businesses, and non-profits to deliver essential community services at a time of already overstretched budgets.

Funded through the Government of Canada, this year over 250 young people were hired through an investment of over \$1M in Kitchener Centre.

Sadly though, the CSJ program was cut significantly from last year, and these cuts are projected to remain in place next year (over 30% below 2022 funding levels).

It's why I have increased my advocacy for this critical program. Most recently, I coordinated a multi-party letter with MPs from three other political parties to jointly advocate for the governing party to do better.



IN OUR COMMUNITY



At the Ghanaian Canadian Association of Waterloo Region's first annual summer barbeque—on my birthday!



Anatomy of the Recovering Brain at The Registry Theatre, inspired by the story of bass clarinetist Kathryn Ladano and her recovery journey.



Honouring Ukrainian Independence Day at an event organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress—Waterloo Wellington branch.



Proudly supporting Spectrum's annual fundraising gala so they can continue their important work supporting the wellbeing of 2SLGBTQIA+ folks.

ADVOCATING TO SAVE LIVES

For many Sudanese Canadians in our community, this continues to be a difficult time. It's been almost six months since the armed conflict in Sudan began, and many of the over 700 Sudanese in our community continue to live in fear, knowing their siblings, parents, and grandparents are stuck in a war zone.

By working with the Sudanese Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, we were successful in pushing for important temporary immigration measures for their children and spouses. But because of how the federal government defines an 'immediate family member', siblings and parents are currently excluded.

I continue to work with the Minister and my fellow MPs to push for this meaningful change so our Sudanese neighbours can sleep at night.



The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

May 18, 2023

RE: Immigration Measures for Sudanese-Canadians and their Families

Dear Minister Fraser,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share significant concerns and recommendations to improve the current immigration measures in place for family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have departed Sudan, on behalf of the Sudanese Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and constituents in Kitchener Centre with Sudanese-national family members.

PETITIONS



Petitions are the most direct way for Canadians to have their voices heard in the House of Commons.

Whether you are passionate about housing affordability, increasing mental health services, the climate crisis, or something else, I encourage you to contact my office if you're interested in drafting a petition with my team.

Email mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca to get started!



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Did you know you can book a video or in-person chat with me at your place to hear from your group of local family, friends, or neighbours?

Let me know what's important to you— book a Community Conversation through my website mikemorricep.ca or call my office at 519-741-2001.