



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# MIKE MORRICE

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre



/morricemike



@morricemike



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February 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

As I write this first mailing since being elected last fall, I am still feeling deeply honoured to be representing our community's voice at the national level.

As we continue to operate in this unique time, my team and I are working hard on the priorities we heard from you while knocking on doors in the last two federal elections.

We have so much to share with you, and continue to offer opportunities for you to share with us. From our first major campaign to end disability poverty, to my first international conference, to what we're doing in the House of Commons, and how we're

continuing to support our community at home, I hope you enjoy this first update.

We will send mailings throughout the year, but if you're interested in more regular updates you can sign up for our monthly e-news or follow our work on social media.

Please reach out anytime using the contact information on this page.

Sincerely,

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre

### CONTACT INFO

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Please call ahead to confirm if we are open to visitors.

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## ENDING DISABILITY POVERTY, THE ROAD TO A CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT

In 2020, the federal government promised to introduce a new Canada Disability Benefit, a guaranteed minimum income with the potential to lift 1.4 million Canadians out of poverty.

Current supports for our neighbours who are waiting for this lifeline are not even enough to cover rent in our city, let alone cover rising

food costs. They cannot afford to wait any longer.

I am proud to be sponsoring a petition to not only fast-track the design and implementation of this important benefit, but to ensure people living with disabilities are involved every step of the way.

After collecting 17,874 signatures from every

province and territory in the country, I have presented the petition in the House of Commons and continue to advocate while we await the government's official response.

Petitions are the most direct way to bring Canadians' voices into the House of Commons. If you're interested in drafting a petition, let's connect!

People with  
disabilities  
who live in  
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any longer



# COP 26 THE UNITED NATION'S ANNUAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE

I had the incredible opportunity to attend COP 26 as part of Canada's official delegation in November. Here are a few of my key takeaways, but you can also read my blog at [mikemorricemp.ca](http://mikemorricemp.ca).



Massive protests applied pressure on negotiations and provided hope.

1. Delegates from 200+ countries came together in Glasgow, but were far outnumbered by oil and gas lobbyists.
2. We must stop burning coal, oil, and gas as scientists have called for. In Canada, this means at least a 60% reduction by 2030.
3. We must take responsibility for the impact our actions here in Canada are having on countries in more vulnerable locations around the world and provide funding for uninsurable losses and damages.
4. The Glasgow Climate Pact, the final result of these negotiations, doesn't place enough of an emphasis on climate justice.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MPs arrived in Ottawa to serve in the House of Commons from November 22 to December 17, returning in January. I was able to use speaking opportunities to respectfully ask other MPs, Ministers, and even the Prime Minister questions from ending boil water advisories for affected Indigenous communities, to repealing mandatory minimum sentences which disproportionately impact racialized individuals, to ending fossil fuel subsidies while we move towards a just transition for workers. Here are a few of my highlights by the numbers:

- 20 days sitting in the House of Commons
- Spoke to represent our riding in the House of Commons 26 times
- Attended and voted in 18 out of 18 voting sessions
- Jointly seconded 4 bills from decreasing voting age to protecting our water
- Jointly seconded 1 private members' motion for a Green New Deal
- Presented 3 petitions on protecting land defenders on Wet'suwet'en territory and fast-tracking a Canada Disability Benefit



## OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE

Working as your MP, my goal is to listen first so I can best represent our community on the national, and even international stage. With more events organized each month, so far we have:

- Hosted 5 Community Conversations to hear from neighbours in our riding on what's most important to them
- Facilitated a housing roundtable with community organizations, municipal government leaders, and our MPP Laura Mae Lindo
- Brought Kitchener Centre and our priorities into the news 60 times



## LISTENING TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL VOICES

One of the most important things to me is to find ways to continue engaging with both individuals and organizations to learn about their needs, the vital work they're doing, and how I can help. Thank you to all of the groups who took the time to meet with me, including:

- Indwell and St. Peter's Church, partners on a new supportive housing development in downtown Kitchener. We are advocating for project funding and regulation changes to make it easier to build much-needed affordable housing.
- BESTWR, a network of our two local Chambers of Commerce and tech organization Communitech. We consulted on Bill C2 which later passed to provide paid sick days for workers affected by COVID-19.
- Members of Six Nations and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples team, who shared their perspectives on living in the Haldimand Tract and developing better relationships with all levels of government.
- Waterloo Region Labour Council who discussed the government's plan for economic recovery and strengthening the social safety net and healthcare services.
- Canadian Federation of Nurses on Bill C3, which later passed first reading to protect healthcare workers and anyone accessing healthcare from intimidation and threats.
- Co-op Housing Federation of Canada advocated for more funding to build new co-op housing and protect existing housing, which could reduce inequality, support climate action, and create local jobs.

## BILLS PASSED IN 44TH PARLIAMENT

### C2

To extend benefits for workers and businesses affected by COVID-19 restrictions, and increase sickness and caregiver benefits

### C3

To change the Criminal Code to make it an offence to intimidate healthcare workers, and change the Canada Labour Code to improve medical leaves

### C4

To ban harmful conversion "therapy" practices which aim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity

### C6

Government spending up to March 31, 2022 including 3 billion for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and Indigenous Services

## HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY ADDRESSED?

Your voice is important to us. We know the housing crisis is complex and needs to be approached with a variety of solutions. Let us know what's important to you. You can fill out this checklist, cut along the dotted lines, fold and tape the edges, and mail back free of charge through Canada Post. What do you want to see?

- ☐ Vacancy tax on empty homes
- ☐ Investments in co-op housing
- ☐ Restrict short-term rentals
- ☐ Investments in affordable housing
- ☐ Eliminate blind bidding
- ☐ Graduated tax on flipping houses
- ☐ Stronger rent control legislation
- ☐ Foreign buyer's tax
- ☐ Rental policies that help people build equity
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR YOUR MONTHLY E-NEWS!

Please cut along the dotted lines, fold, and tape along the sides to seal.

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One of my favourite places to grab a bite when I'm in town, Tiny Home Take Out is run by Chef Amy and a group of volunteers to offer pay what you can pizza and soup outside of St. Mary's Church.



Alanah of Morning Star Designs (right) helped organize the Indigenous Holiday Art Market.



Supporting small businesses during the pandemic like Lady Glaze in Belmont Village is a treat!



No  
postage  
required

**MIKE MORRICE**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CONFEDERATION BUILDING**  
**SUITE 313**  
**OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6**

FOLD



TAPE

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A huge thanks to the Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region for organizing another thoughtful online event this year.

The achievements of our Black neighbours in history, music, science, sports, and politics are to be celebrated, including that of the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament who introduced a motion that resulted in the House of Commons officially recognizing February as Black History Month in Canada in 1995. In 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month.

As we celebrate past and present contributions and talents of Black Canadians, both here in Waterloo Region and across the country, we recognize we still must do so much more to break down systemic and institutional racism to truly create the diverse and inclusive community where every person can thrive.

## UPCOMING MP EVENTS

9 MAR	<b>TOWN HALL</b> 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm By phone or video conference Registration information below
MAR	<b>COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS</b> Various dates and times available.  Book a phone or video chat with Mike and a group of neighbours or local family and friends.
APRIL	Please note, groups of 6-12 people are preferred.
MAY	<b>REGISTRATION INFORMATION</b> To register for any of the events listed above, visit <a href="http://mikemorricemp.ca">mikemorricemp.ca</a> or call 519-742-2001.