



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# MIKE MORRICE

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre

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@morricemike



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## A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

My job as your Member of Parliament is to advocate on the issues that are most important to you. I strive to do this each day, in both Kitchener and Ottawa, as well as through the media to maximize our efforts.

The priorities I focus on, from housing to mental health to the climate crisis, are issues I first heard from you while knocking on doors leading up to the 2019 and 2021 elections. But I understand that things also change, so I aim to provide a variety of opportunities for us to connect on an ongoing basis.

I have times in my calendar each week so you can book a phone call to chat, or you may organize a Community Conversation for me to hear from you and a group of your

friends. You may even meet me when I'm out knocking on doors.

In my last newsletter, I also sent out a survey to reconfirm if what I'm working on is what's most important to you. You can find the results on the next page, along with what I'm doing on these issues and more.

That's what I believe an MP should be doing, working on behalf of their neighbours, not their political party.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener Centre

## CONTACT INFO

### COMMUNITY OFFICE

305 King Street West  
Unit 303

Kitchener ON N2G 1B9

Tel. 519-741-2001

✉ [mike.morrice.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mike.morrice.C1@parl.gc.ca)

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

### OTTAWA OFFICE

Confederation Building  
Suite 313

Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Tel. 613-995-8913

✉ [mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mike.morrice@parl.gc.ca)

🌐 [mikemorrice.ca](http://mikemorrice.ca)

## IMPROVING OUR DEMOCRACY THROUGH ELECTORAL REFORM

In Canada's current electoral system, the majority of voters cast ballots for candidates that don't end up getting elected. This leaves people feeling disengaged with a process and result that doesn't accurately reflect their views.

Since 2015, the governing party has promised to make our democracy more reflective of voters' wishes hundreds of times, and yet nothing has changed.

As an opposition MP, I hope to

keep them accountable and have introduced Motion 76 calling for a citizens' assembly on electoral reform. Every vote should matter.

The motion has cross party support including from Liberal MPs who have jointly seconded this piece.

I will continue to push the governing party to fulfill this commitment, starting with this opportunity to give citizens a leadership role to ensure transparency and non-partisanship.

## M-76 CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM 44TH PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION



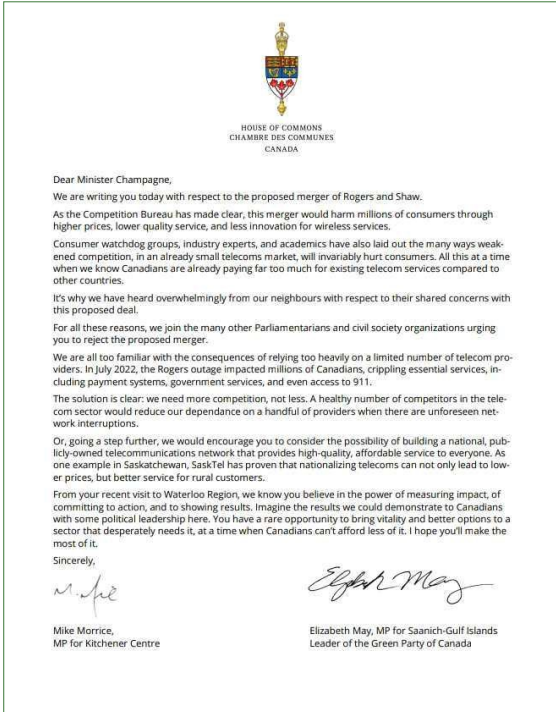
**Mike Morrice**

Green Party

Kitchener Centre  
Ontario

You can find the full text of Motion 76 on my website [mikemorrice.ca](http://mikemorrice.ca) under legislative services.

# ADVOCATING ON AFFORDABILITY



Canada's Competition Bureau has been clear. A merger between two of the country's biggest telecommunications corporations would harm millions of consumers through higher prices, lower quality service, and less innovation for wireless services.

So in light of a proposed merger between Rogers and Shaw, I have written to the Honorable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry of Canada asking him to reject the proposed merger and to consider solutions that would better serve Canadians like a national cell service like some of our provinces have.

I've also written to Ministers advocating for them to:

- Improve travel document processing times
- Prohibit the building of new gas-fired power plants in Ontario
- Stabilize funding for local non-profits in our community
- Delay the MAID expansion to mental health until a proper review is completed on the impact of proposed changes, and alternative supports are offered (guaranteed income, housing, mental health)

## SURVEY SAYS...

In my last mailing I asked what your top three issues are to help inform my advocacy in Ottawa.

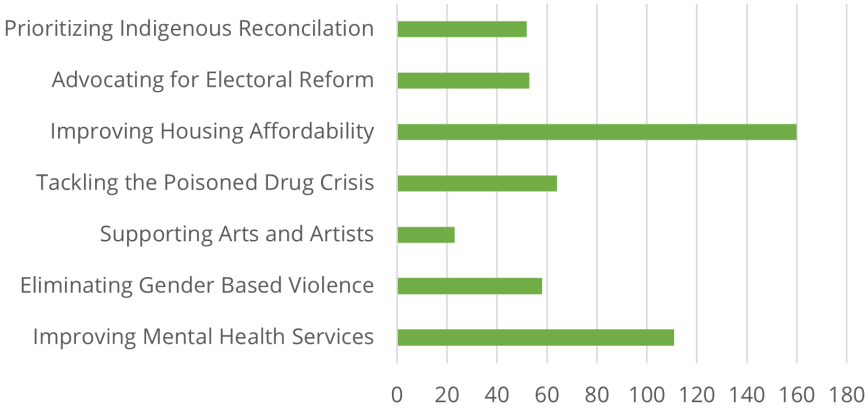
It was sadly no surprise that housing continues to be a top concern, with mental health and the drug poisoning crisis next in line.

In addition to the categories provided, the most common topics respondents added under 'Other' related to improving long term care and healthcare, addressing wealth inequality between individuals and large corporations, and both meaningful climate action and protecting our natural spaces.

I truly appreciate that hundreds of you took the time to respond to let me know what's important to you.

I will include another survey in my next newsletter for more feedback!

Survey Responses on Your Priorities



Number of responses per priority area from Kitchener Centre residents following our September issue's survey.

## PETITIONS: BRINGING YOUR VOICE TO OTTAWA

Petitions are the most direct way to carry your voice into the House of Commons. I have been proud to sponsor a variety of petitions on behalf of my neighbours as well as people across the country.

One that's asking for Canada to give transgender and nonbinary people the right to claim asylum here has quickly become the most signed petition currently open with over 30,000 signatures!

You can find any of my open petitions or find out how to connect to draft your own at [mikemorricemp.ca](http://mikemorricemp.ca) under legislative services!



WATERLOO REGION

**Kitchener MP Mike Morrice champions refugee status for trans and non-binary asylum seekers**



## LISTENING TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL VOICES

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

- Canadian Mental Health Association and CMHA Waterloo Region in joint advocacy for mental health funding and the delay of the expansion of the expansion of MAID to include mental health
- About 60 members of the local Syrian community to talk about how the federal government can best support earthquake relief efforts and bring family members to safety
- Students from KCI's Climate Council to talk about the importance of both local and federal climate action
- Disability advocates who shared experiences to inform amendments on the Canada Disability Act, including March of Dimes, Disability Without Poverty, Leadnow, and individuals on ODSP
- The Enchante Network on the priorities of the LGBTQ2S+ community both in Kitchener Centre and across Canada
- Local arts organizations followed by a meeting with Minister of Canadian Heritage Pablo Rodriguez to request funding to support pandemic recovery
- Members of the Rod and Gun Club to learn more about how changing firearms legislation may impact hunters in our community
- Newly elected and re-elected members of municipal government to discuss how we can work together to serve Kitchener Centre and Waterloo Region as a whole

## STRENGTHENING THE CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT



In October this past year, I sponsored a Parliamentary Reception with national advocates from Disability Without Poverty, and spoke at their rally in Ottawa (pictured above). Our advocacy worked! That same week the Canada Disability Benefit Act passed second reading.

After more than a year of advocating for the federal government to fast-track the Canada Disability Benefit, I was honoured to secure support for five of my amendments to the bill that will provide a guaranteed income for Canadians with disabilities.

Every amendment I proposed came directly from disability advocates in Kitchener and across the country. I'm thrilled so many of them were supported and will now be included as part of much stronger legislation.

Among the amendments I proposed, the committee accepted:

- To include a definition for the term 'disability' to ensure consistent and equitable access and eligibility
- A requirement for the federal government to make the agreements they sign with the provinces and territories public
- Direction for those who write the regulations to require the benefit to be indexed to inflation
- For the benefit to be barrier-free, meaning recipients shouldn't have to complete a cumbersome application to be eligible and could include a potential recipient being automatically enrolled when completing their income taxes
- For people with disabilities to have meaningful and barrier-free opportunities to give input into regulations as they're developed

I had also hoped to see the adoption of an amendment that would have removed the working age caveat so that seniors with disabilities would be able to access the benefit. I am now working with Senators as the bill passes through their hands to continue to improve this bill, and am calling for the governing party to include funds for the Canada Disability Benefit in Budget 2023.





It was incredible to be part of my first in-person citizenship ceremony last month. I look forward to seeing the dreams of the 23 new Canadians from 12 countries come to fruition.



Jen from Kitchener Market and Amos from Sokoni during their pop-up market for Black Entrepreneurs last month.



The Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region hosted an amazing kick-off event for Black History Month in February.



Since returning to the House this session, a personal highlight for me was to once again be asked to sit in as the Speaker of the House for a couple of hours. It's a rare honour!

From Swap Robotics to Miovision, local tech companies often tell me they'd rather have the federal government as a customer than a funder.

So I invited Minister of Procurement Dr. Helena Jaczek to hear from them directly, on what roadblocks they run into and how we can help.

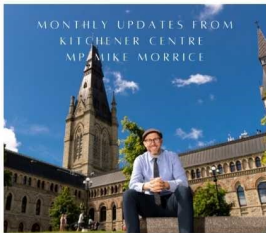
The Minister was candid and receptive to the great ideas we heard and I also appreciate my colleague MP Val Bradford joining us for this important conversation.

Special thanks to Communitech for hosting and bringing so many founders and companies together.



# INTERESTED IN MONTHLY UPDATES?

I'm delighted to be able to send updates directly to your mailbox, but if you'd like to receive more frequent updates you can sign up for my monthly e-news at [mikemorricemp.ca](http://mikemorricemp.ca)!



Already this February I have been grateful for the variety of events happening locally to shine a light on Black excellence in our community. From the Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region's Black History Month kick-off event to a powerful evening of hip hop and a panel discussion at Emmanuel United Church, to Sokoni's entrepreneur showcase at the Kitchener Market.

If you missed those events, the City of Kitchener is also hosting a [fireside chat](#) on Tuesday, February 28th with Kitchener's Black elected leaders MPP Laura Mae Lindo, Regional Councillor Colleen James, Kitchener Councillor Ayo Owodunni, WRDSB Trustee Maedith Radlein, and other special guests.

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Did you know you can book a phone, video, or backyard chat with me to hear from you and a group of your local family and friends?

Let me know what's important to you— book a Community Conversation through my website [mikemorricemp.ca](http://mikemorricemp.ca) or call my office at 519-741-2001.



A Community Conversation with members of the Somali Canadian Association of Waterloo Region.