



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

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A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

I'm back in Ottawa this fall, and glad to be advocating for the priorities so many shared with me all summer - including pushing for follow through on the governing party's promises, concerns about our climate future, and the rapidly rising cost of living!

I've been taking every opportunity to raise these priorities in Parliament, including pushing for accountability on commitments like two-way all-day GO train service from Kitchener to Toronto, urging the government to listen to people with disabilities in their most recent consultation on the draft regulations for

the Canada Disability Benefit, and offering tangible solutions to get more affordable housing built. Read on for more in these areas.

And as always - if you'd like to speak about these or any other issues that are important to you - reach out in any of the ways listed on the right, being sure to include your postal code.

All my best,

Mike

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THIS SUMMER, OUR COMMUNITY SHARED THREE MAIN PRIORITIES

ADDRESSING THE RISING COST OF ESSENTIALS

including at least doubling affordable housing, tackling price gouging, and relieving the strain on existing resources

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

including holding Big Oil accountable and investing in proven climate solutions

FOLLOW-THROUGH ON GOVERNMENT PROMISES

including fixing the Canada Disability Benefit, equity in federal arts funding, and accountability on two-way all-day GO investments

READ ON FOR MORE ON HOW I'M ADVOCATING IN EACH OF THESE AREAS



A few of Habitat for Humanity's affordable townhomes on Kehl Street.

NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The housing crisis has hit our community especially hard - with our region losing the most affordable units for each one added in all of Canada.

It's part of why I'm doubling down on my advocacy to rapidly increase investments in new affordable housing - including a new motion to fix the criteria for affordable housing

funding so that federal dollars result in truly affordable units (more on this soon).

At committee, I've also been working to build support for a simple measure proposed by the team at Habitat for Humanity: extending the HST exemption that for-profit developers already enjoy to non-profit affordable ownership

builders. It could be easily paid for by ending a tax exemption that large corporate investors, largely buying up affordable housing and driving up prices, currently enjoy - just as I proposed two years ago.

If this had been in place for Habitat's build on Kehl Street, they would have had another million to invest in more units!

ADDRESSING PRICE GOUGING

Corporate greed continues to fuel the rising cost of essentials, with Big Oil leading the way.

Over a year ago I proposed a simple solution in Motion 92: extending a windfall profit tax, already placed on banks and insurance companies for their excessive profiteering during the pandemic, to the oil and gas industry.

This measure would not only disincentivize price gouging, but raise \$4.2 billion for proven climate and affordability solutions - like free heat pumps and other green home retrofit incentives, and investments to both increase service and reduce fares for public transit now (rather than waiting for 2026-2027 as the governing party has proposed).

This fall, I'm glad to continue building cross-party support and advocating for this critical solution.



Mike and Ashwin, a former international student from our community consulted as part of developing Motion 98.

REDUCING THE STRAIN

In the last decade, we've seen international student enrolment skyrocket in our community, going from 763 to over 30,000 international student permits at just one college. It's left community resources strained - from housing to employment - and left international students at risk of exploitation.

In the fall of last year, I introduced Motion 98 with ten reasonable measures to address both. By February, the federal government had adopted four - including opening up loans to help colleges and universities build more student housing, reducing reliance on off-campus options, and doubling the cost-of-living financial requirement for study permit applicants to be more in line with the true cost of living - helping to significantly reduce this year's permit numbers.

Now I'm continuing to press for the remaining measures - including ensuring students are able to show continued proof of financial support throughout their studies, that they're provided with information on their legal rights in Canada, and that educational institutions are accountable if the students they host don't actually enroll in courses.

QUICK FACTS



In 2022, Big Oil's profits increased by more than 18 cents per litre.



That year, the five largest oil and gas companies alone raked in \$38 billion in pure profit - and that's after they paid shareholders \$29 billion!



A 15% windfall tax on those profits would generate \$4.2 billion - every dollar of which could go to affordability solutions.

PUSHING TO FIX THE CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT

Despite setting the expectation that they would address disproportionate poverty amongst folks with disabilities with their repeated promises to introduce “a Canada Disability Benefit modelled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement” that would “lift hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities out of poverty,” we’ve seen the governing party’s actions move them further away from follow-through at every critical step.

Their proposed Regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit are the latest example - which include limiting the maximum benefit amount to just \$200 dollars per month, and locking it behind the incredibly burdensome application for the Disability Tax Credit.

A written response to my question at committee even revealed the governing party’s own estimates suggest the benefit, as proposed, would lift a mere 25,000 people above the poverty line!



Receiving input and answering questions on the Canada Disability Benefit at KW AccessAbility this summer.



Hearing from community members at Adults in Motion.

After consulting with people with disabilities in our community, these are some of the calls I included in my September submission to fix the proposed Regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit:

- Increase the maximum amount of the benefit to lift people with disabilities above the poverty line.
- Support the independence and dignity of people with disabilities by tying the benefit to the applicant’s income, not their family’s.
- Remove barriers to application by automatically enrolling recipients of federal and provincial disability support programs - like ODSP or CPP-disability.

Change is still possible. I’ll keep pushing alongside the disability community to make it happen.



Scan to download my full submission on the proposed Regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit.

It’s important for me to hear from you to help inform my advocacy in Ottawa.

Please check off your top three priorities on the right, or add something not included!

Then simply cut along the dotted line and mail back free of charge through Canada Post!

WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- Improving mental health services
- Eliminating gender-based violence
- Supporting arts and artists
- Tackling the poisoned drug crisis
- Improving affordability - including housing
- Advocating for electoral reform
- Prioritizing Indigenous reconciliation
- Safeguarding our climate future
- Other: _____

NAME: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I’d like to receive Mike’s monthly email newsletter.

ADVANCING OUR CALL FOR FOLLOW THROUGH ON TWO-WAY ALL-DAY GO



Amplifying the call for two-way all-day GO alongside commuters and MPP Clancy.

Our community was promised two-way all-day GO train service from Kitchener to Toronto more than a decade ago - yet we still don't even have a timeline for completion. In the meantime, folks are being left on platforms waiting for overcrowded buses that weren't designed for standing room to begin with!

Given the federal government has committed three-quarters of a billion dollars to the project - 40% of project costs - I've been pushing for accountability and a timeline for completion for over a year.

As part of advancing this call, I not only took it directly to the Prime Minister, but - together with local commuters and MPP Aislinn Clancy - amplified it to local and national media.

JOIN THE CALL

Scan this QR code or visit mikemorricemp.ca to sign my new federal petition calling for transparency on two-way all-day GO.



No postage required

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IN OUR COMMUNITY



Celebrating Arab culture at the 2nd Annual Canadian Arab Festival of Kitchener-Waterloo.



Learning from Indigenous leaders at Two Row on the Grand.



Door-knocking with volunteers to hear about your priorities.



Just before this year's Waterloo Terry Fox Run, with Tex and fellow survivor Judith.