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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

As we slowly return to a sense of normalcy, I want to commend the Kingston community for their continued patience, resilience, and kindness throughout the pandemic. While the future seemed unknown, I was proud to see everyone come together to make those difficult times a little easier for all of us.

The start of 2022 brought a renewed hope for the year ahead. This winter, we were once again able to safely gather in-person with family and friends. We were also able to take part in more events like organized activities and sports, including skating in the square. With spring well under way, I look forward to attending community events and seeing all of you soon.

As the warmer weather approaches, I want to remind everyone to please continue to get vaccinated if you have not received all of your doses. Warmer weather invites more time outdoors and more opportunities to gather. Let us continue to do our part to keep our community safe and healthy.

I wish all of you the best and thank you, once again, for keeping Kingston safe.

Mark Gerretsen, M.P.

SPRING CLEANING: THE PROTECT NATURE CHALLENGE

Want to do more to help protect nature? The Government of Canada has published 31 Protect Nature Challenges to help you take daily steps towards producing less waste, saving money, and feeling healthier while protecting the environment.

Some of these challenges include: getting outside, cleaning up nature, using less single-use plastics, reducing food waste, and much more!

For more information, visit:

www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/activities.html



@EnvironmentandClimateChange



@canadaenvironment



@environmentca



Earth Day was first observed in Canada in 1990. Every year, more than a billion people take part in this day of action to change human behaviour towards the environment and promote global change. Earth day is celebrated each April 22nd.

CANADA'S EFFORTS TO AID UKRAINE

The Government of Canada has provided assistance to the Ukrainian people since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has included:

- ⇒ Lethal aid of 4,500 M72 rocket launchers, 7,500 hand grenades, and 1,600 fragmentation vests.
- ⇒ \$7.8M in lethal weapons including machine guns, pistols, carbines, 1.5million rounds of ammunition, sniper rifles, and various related equipment.
- ⇒ 100 Carl Gustaf anti-tank weapon systems and 2,000 rockets.
- ⇒ \$24M in non-lethal military aid items such as helmets, body armour, gas masks, and night vision gear.
- ⇒ \$100M for emergency health service (trauma care, support to displaced populations, shelter, water, sanitation, and food) and just under 400,000 individual meal kits.
- ⇒ \$10M in matched donations to the Canadian Red Cross' Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.
- ⇒ Up to a \$500M loan in addition to the \$120M loan (provided under the Sovereign Loans Program).
- ⇒ Launch of Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel to provide a special, accelerated temporary residence pathway for Ukrainians seeking safe haven in Canada while the conflict in Ukraine continues.



President Zelensky addresses Parliament

On March 15, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed Members of Parliament and Senators in the House of Commons. In his powerful speech, Zelensky thanked the Canadian Government for their efforts in helping the Ukrainian people and urged the government to continue providing support. The government has responded to this call by providing additional aid for Ukrainian peoples and refugees.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS CANADA

Splitting Indigenous Affairs into two departments

In 2017, the Prime Minister announced that Indigenous Affairs and Northern Affairs Canada would be divided into two separate departments: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services. The Prime Minister said that it was part of a larger process of de-colonizing governance structures and eroding the power of the Indian Act. The suggestion to split Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada was first recommended by the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1996. The report outlined a number of suggestions for addressing the Canadian government's relationship with Indigenous Peoples following the Oka Crisis.



Regional Chief Woodhouse, Minister Hajdu, and Minister Miller

Indigenous Child Welfare Settlement

In early January, Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Marc Miller, along with Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, announced the largest class action settlement in Canadian history as part of the Indigenous Child Welfare Settlement. This settlement followed months of negotiations between the government and Indigenous representatives. I was very happy to see that an agreement was reached.

The settlement totals \$40 billion, with \$20 billion being provided to children on reserve and in the Yukon who were unnecessarily removed from their homes between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 2022. The remaining \$20 billion is being allocated towards reforming the First Nations Child and Family Services Program over the next five years.

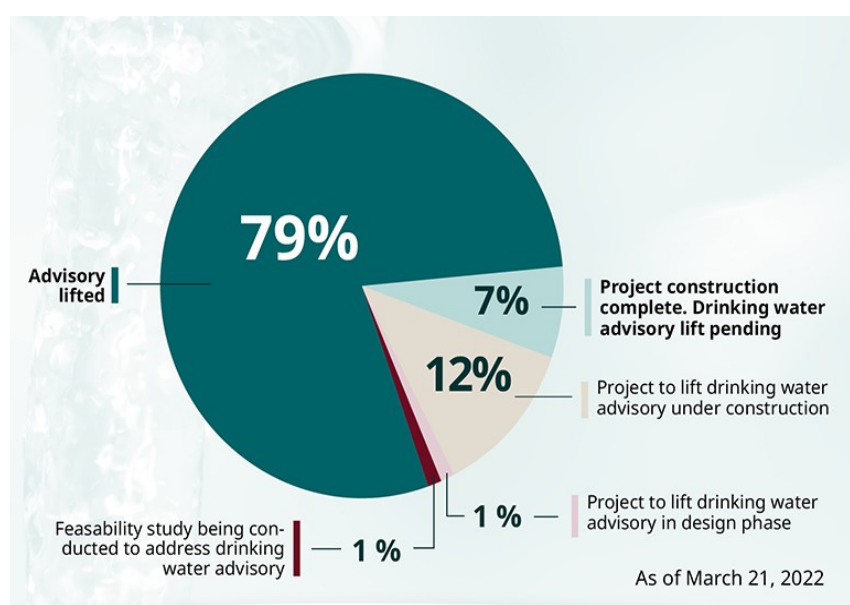
Fun Canadian Fact: there are 70 distinct Indigenous languages in Canada that fall into 12 separate language families.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN CANADA

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was officially established on June 1, 2008 with a budget of \$60 million. Their final report, published December 15, 2015, featured an estimated 7000 testimonies from residential school survivors. This report produced 94 "Calls to Action," 46 of which "Call upon the federal government" and 7 of which "Call upon all levels of government." Today, 13 of these calls have been completed, 61 are in progress, and 20 have not been started. The 94 Calls to Action are far reaching and call on many different groups to take action. These groups include, but are not limited to, governments, churches and the Canadian population as a whole. Additionally, some are single actions that can be completed quickly while others, by design, will take generations to complete.

ENDING BOIL WATER ADVISORIES ON RESERVES

In a developed nation like Canada, no one should be subject to long-term boil water advisories. In November 2015, there existed 105 long-term boil water advisories on First Nation reserves. Since then, at least 128 have been lifted. As can be inferred by that difference, more advisories have been added since November 2015. As of the end of March, 79% of long-term drinking advisories have been lifted. Currently, 7% of advisories have a lift pending with an additional 12% under construction. The process used to lift long-term water advisories on First Nation reserves provides a permanent solution, meaning consistent access to clean water. This work is done in partnership with various First Nations communities.



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



The Truth and Reconciliation "Call to Action" #80 called for "the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

This call was passed unanimously in the House of Commons in June 2021. Every September 30th, The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is held, with the first observed in September 2021. On September 30, 2021, I joined the Kingston community at Elizabeth Fry House to commemorate the day. Additionally, the government has announced that moving forward, all Canadian flags on federal government property will be lowered to half-mast on September 30th in recognition of the day.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

We are fortunate in Kingston and the Islands to have a wide network of support for our community members. Here is what is happening in our community:



The KFL&A Public Health Unit has delivered 483,000 COVID-19 vaccines in the KFL&A region. I want to extend my thanks to all clinic staff and volunteers, pharmacies, primary care providers, paramedics, hospitals, municipalities, school boards, community partners, and all who helped deliver all of these vaccines. I am proud of the Kingston community.



Each year, City of Kingston hosts "Pitch-In Week." This year, from April 17th to 23rd, you are invited to join members of the community in their various clean up efforts to keep the Kingston community clean and beautiful. Please do your part to protect and preserve our planet. To get your pitch in bag or to register your workplace or community organization, please visit: www.sustainablekingston.com/pitchin-2022-registration.



On May 27, 2022, the city will be hosting a "Spring Art After Dark" event from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Galleries in downtown Kingston and art loving businesses will open their doors so you can take in some of the best art that Kingston artists have to offer. This event is completely free.

NEED HELP?

Call my constituency office at 613-542-3243 and let my staff know what you are looking for.

We would be happy to direct you further.

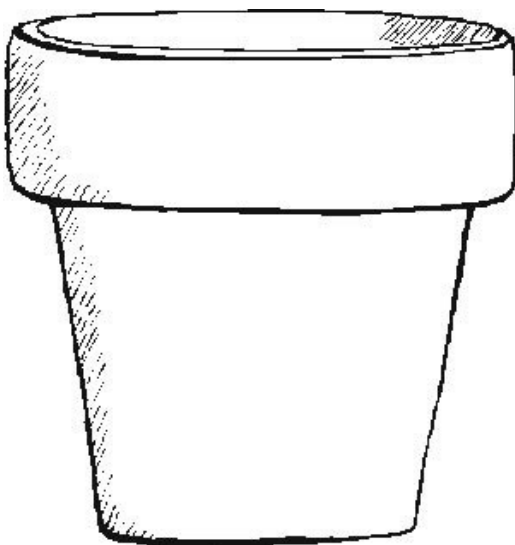
KID'S CORNER

Spring Flower Challenge

Spring has sprung!

Can you fill the empty vase with some flowers?

- 1) Go outside and find some spring flowers
- 2) Draw the flowers that you see in the vase
- 3) Use lots of bright colours
- 4) Have fun!



Once completed, take a picture and send it to mark.gerretsen@parl.gc.ca before or on May 15th and you might have your picture featured on MP Gerretsen's Facebook!