



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

MARK GERRETSEN

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

This summer, our community was able to host events and gather for the first time in two years. From Canada Day festivities downtown, the Pride Parade, to the Princess Street Promenade, I was pleased to once again speak with many of you in person and hear your concerns. I look forward to gathering at more events in the months to come.

As the warmer summer months come to a close, children of all ages are eagerly heading back to school. Whether they are returning to familiar places, or

embarking on new adventures, I want to wish everyone a safe and productive school year and wish you all the best in your academic pursuits.

This fall, I look forward to returning to the House of Commons where I can continue to represent all of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any concerns or comments.

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BREAKING GROUND AT 1316 PRINCESS STREET

On July 4th, I joined Kingston Mayor Bryan Paterson, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark, and members of Kingston Frontenac Housing Corporation to break ground on a new housing development at 1316 Princess Street. The six-storey building will feature 10 rent geared to income units and 42 non-market units with various affordability levels (18 of which have initial rents at 80% average market rent (AMR) and 24 units at 60% AMR). This project will increase Kingston's affordable housing supply.

Every Canadian deserves a safe, affordable place to call home. This is why the Federal Government, as part of the *National Housing Strategy*, along with the Provincial Government and the City of Kingston, has invested in this \$31.5 million dollar project. The project will benefit those on the *Kingston Centralized Wait List* and low-income individuals by ensuring safe and reliable housing.



A NEW ELECTRIC BATTERY PLANT FOR ONTARIO



On Wednesday July 13th, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, visited Queen's University. They announced that Ottawa and Ontario signed a deal with Umicore, a global metals refiner, to build a new battery materials facility in Loyalist Township. The new facility will house the capacity to supply batteries for one million electric vehicles a year. Additionally, this new project will create thousands of jobs during its construction and hundreds of well paying, long-term jobs upon its completion.

As the first industrial-scale manufacturing plant of its kind in North America, this facility will help ensure that Canada is a key player in the international electric vehicle supply chain. This investment will make certain that Canada's automotive sector remains strong and thrives while we continue to pursue meeting and exceeding our climate targets.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE AWARDS

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 70 years on the throne, becoming the longest serving monarch in British history. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth II has demonstrated the exceptional qualities of public service, dedication, and a commitment to bettering her community.

On May 18, 2022, my office launched an initiative to seek out and award members of our community who demonstrate Her Majesty's qualities of public service and commitment to bettering our community. I was pleased to hear that we received over 100 nominations. On July 20, 2022, my office handed out awards to a group of 41 dedicated community members. These individuals were chosen due to their ongoing service to our city and community. I am proud of all Kingston residents who continue to go above and beyond to make our city a more compassionate and strong place; we are fortunate to live amongst individuals who are so dedicated to helping others.

Thank you to the following individuals for their important public service and collective impact in our community:

Alastair Lamb, Aliessa Lees, Andrew Chin, Anne Hutcheson, Anne Robertson, Beata Faraklas, Bhavana Varma, Blanche Battersby, Claire MacDougall, Concetta Buragina, Dan Hendry, Dave Couch, Doug Jeffries, Georges Villeneuve, Jan Calder, Jennifer Hurd, Jim Turpin, Joan McLeod, John Price, Kathryn Londry, Kathy Wray, Ken Keyes, Krista Stares, Linda Silver, Lisa Janssen, Lylia Essaddam, Mardi Vieja, Martin ten Hove, Mary Campeau, Melissa Wilton, Merna Manders, Michael Harris, Peter Sproul, Renee Durston, Roland Billings, Sharon Hogan, Shawn Seargeant, Suzette Cruz, Steven Allan Jones, Shivanand Rampersad, and Travis Blackmore.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee pin, designed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, has been specially commissioned to help Canadians celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the British throne. Her Majesty is the first British monarch to mark a Platinum Jubilee.

CCB INCREASE

On July 20th, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) increased by 2.4%. This means eligible families can now receive up to \$6,997 per child under 6 and \$5,903 per child aged 6 to 17. Since 2016, the CCB has given tax free money to 9 out of 10 families and has lifted nearly 435,000 children out of poverty. Scan here for eligibility info: →



Fun Canadian Fact: Throughout Queen Elizabeth the II's 70 year reign, she has been served by 12 Canadian Prime Ministers!

GREEN ENERGY IN KINGSTON'S EAST END

On August 4, I joined Mayor Paterson and members of the City of Kingston at the Kingston East Community Centre to announce funding for the installation of a solar energy system. With the federal government's \$464,184 contribution, the facility will be able to improve its energy efficiency by over 82%. The funding, as part of the *Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program*, is providing \$1.5 billion over five years towards green and accessibility retrofits, repairs, or upgrades of existing public community buildings and new public spaces like this one.

The 22,000 square foot facility, located near LaSalle High School in Kingston's east end, boasts a full-size gymnasium, fitness centre, indoor walking track, and youth and senior spaces. The addition of solar panels to this facility will provide Kingston residents with access to a modern, sustainable, and green community centre where they can continue to access important programs and services for years to come—all while working to meet our 2050 climate targets.



LI-CYCLE SPOKE & HUB TECHNOLOGIES

This summer, I had the privilege to visit Li-Cycle to learn about the recycling of lithium-ion batteries. Founded in 2016, Li-Cycle is a leading lithium-ion battery resource recovery program. Located right here in Kingston, the company has developed technologies that allow it to recover up to 95% of the materials in lithium-ion batteries in a way that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

The Kingston location has the capacity to process 5,000 tonnes of lithium-ion batteries each year. Additionally, Li-Cycle enables a net offset/emissions reduction of 5.0 equivalent CO2 tonnes per weighted average tonne of battery material recovered. This offset is primarily a function of the offsetting of production of the recovered materials via the mining and refining of primary resources.



AN UPDATE ON PASSPORTS

Understandably, Canadians are excited to travel after two and a half years of pandemic restrictions. This has resulted in a high volume of passport requests and wait times for passport applications. To ease this situation, Passport Canada has created new directives based on when you need your passport:

⇒ **2 business days or less** (will need proof of travel)

- Visit a passport office with urgent pick-up service
- Walk-in only, no appointments available

⇒ **3 to 45 business days** (proof you need the passport required)

- Visit a passport office (you can make an appointment or walk-in)
- Processing may take up to 2 weeks plus mailing time

⇒ **46 business days or more** (mail-in applications welcome)

- Go to any Service Canada Centre (appointment or walk-in)
- Processing time is up to 13 weeks plus mailing time

**For updated information
on passport processing, scan here:**
(updated frequently)



Thank you for your continued patience as Passport Canada works diligently to process passport applications.

PORTABLE OUTREACH CARE HUB (PORCH)



In partnership with the Kingston Community Health Centres and the United Way of KFL&A, \$100,000 of the federal *Reaching Home* funds have been invested in retrofitting an RV. This mobile unit provides integrated services in the KFL&A community to people who are homeless/at risk of homelessness. The unit also provides integrated mental and physical health services and can travel to parks, encampments, local gatherings, and festivals.

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a nearly \$4 billion dollar community-based federal fund aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness and addressing homelessness needs in Canada. The fund provides support to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local needs. It is great to see this project—which has been in the works since the start of the pandemic—finally come to life.

UPDATE ON THE WAABAN CROSSING



On Thursday August 4th, the last cement was poured at the Waaban Crossing. Mayor Paterson and I visited the site to congratulate the workers for their tireless efforts and thank them with a BBQ.

Congratulations and thank you for all your hard work!

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CLIMATE INCENTIVE

On July 15th many individuals and families received their first Climate Incentive payment. These payments, which are usually part of your income tax refund, are now paid out in four installments during the year. The federal government is putting a price on pollution and is making big polluters pay, all while returning money back into the pockets of 8 out of 10 individuals and families.

How much will a family of 4 in Ontario get back through the Climate Action Incentive?

July 15th - First Payment

\$372.50

October 2022

\$186.25

January 2023

\$186.25

The Canadian price on pollution makes big polluters pay while putting more money back in the pockets of 8 out of 10 families.

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.