



MARK GERRETSEN Your Member of Parliament

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Happy to share this seasonal update on the work being done to serve our community and our country.

This newsletter highlights our efforts to build a more resilient economy through new international partnerships and major national investments that support our workers and families in sectors such as defence, transportation, technology, and the environment.

As always, it is a privilege to represent your interests as we work together to strengthen our community.



LET'S BE IN TOUCH!

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AN UPDATE ON THE LASALLE CAUSEWAY

The temporary modular bridge will remain in place through the 2026 season, with scheduled **Sunday removals** for marine navigation.

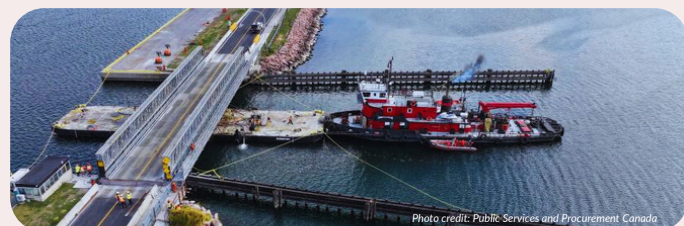
I've continued pushing PSPC for clearer timelines on the permanent replacement. PSPC is developing a full business case, with support from the Department of National Defence—part of the federal effort to determine the best long-term design and potential cost-sharing options.

It's also important to remember that the Causeway isn't just the former lift bridge. It is made up of **five interconnected engineered structures**:

- Three bridges — the West Bridge, East Bridge, and the temporary modular bridge now standing in place of the original Bascule Bridge removed in 2024.
- Two wharfs — the West Wharf and East Wharf.

Both fixed bridges—the West and East spans—are now beyond their life expectancy and will require federal attention as part of the long-term renewal of the entire crossing.

I know how crucial this route is for residents, businesses, and boaters. I expect more detailed federal updates before Parliament rises this spring, and I'll keep pushing to ensure the full Causeway—every structure from shoreline to shoreline—gets the long-term solution Kingston deserves.



TRADE AGREEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

International partnerships are essential to moving Canada from a reliance on a single partner to a more resilient economy that can withstand global shifts. By building a "dense web" of global connections, we create more demand for Canadian exports and attract the investment needed to build a stronger, more independent country.

United Kingdom | March 16, 2026



Purpose:
To deepen economic and security cooperation, and maintain pressure on Russia regarding its aggression against Ukraine.

Key Outcomes:
Innovative approaches to mobilise financing for defence production and supply chains, including the proposed Defence, Security and Resilience Bank.

Norway | March 14, 2026



Purpose:
To advance cooperation as Arctic nations and NATO allies in the face of mounting geopolitical uncertainty.

Key Outcomes:
Establishment of a bilateral Arctic dialogue on security, a new partnership on critical minerals, and increased collaboration on space and satellite communications.

Japan | March 6, 2026



Purpose:
To reinforce collaboration across security, energy, and trade while supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Key Outcomes:
A new "Economic Security Dialogue" to be held this year, enhanced cyber policy cooperation, and joint work to secure reliable supplies of critical minerals.



Australia | March 5, 2026



Purpose:
To create stability and prosperity through new partnerships in energy, critical minerals, and artificial intelligence (AI).

Key Outcomes:
Australia joining the Critical Minerals Production Alliance, the launch of a Clean Energy Partnership, and a commitment to modernise the Canada-Australia Tax Treaty.



India | March 2, 2026



Purpose:
To leverage complementary strengths in the energy sector to meet India's growing demand.

Key Outcomes:
A landmark \$2.6 billion agreement to supply uranium to India for nuclear energy and a commitment to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) this year.



Luxembourg | February 9, 2026



Purpose:
To deepen ties between finance officials from two of the world's major financial hubs.

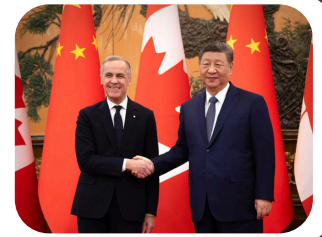
Key Outcomes:
Launching the 2026 Financial Sector Policy Dialogue and establishing the McGill Luxembourg Centre for Finance to expand research and student exchanges.

China | January 16, 2026



Purpose:
To build stable and sustainable economic relations and cooperation in agriculture and clean technology.

Key Outcomes:
Revitalizing the Joint Economic and Trade Commission and facilitating dialogue on trade issues, investment transparency, and personnel exchanges.



Qatar | January 18, 2026



Purpose:
To increase trade, commerce, and investment so Canada is more resilient to global shocks.

Key Outcomes:
A commitment from Qatar to make significant strategic investments in Canadian nation-building projects and the goal of concluding a new investment protection agreement (FIPA) by this summer.



United Arab Emirates | November 20, 2025



Purpose:
To establish predictable rules for investors and ensure a stable environment for bilateral investment.

Key Outcomes:
A historic decision by the UAE to invest \$70 billion in Canada and the launch of negotiations toward a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.



Singapore | October 29, 2025



Purpose:
To discuss new partnerships in trade, energy, and technology in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Outcomes:
Exploring opportunities to grow Canadian export capacity through port partnerships and discussing the finalization of the Canada-ASEAN free trade agreement.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) | October 27, 2025



Purpose:
To unlock new markets and opportunities for Canadian workers across a \$5 trillion market.

Key Outcomes:
Acceleration of negotiations for a free trade agreement, anticipated to conclude in 2026.

Germany | August 26, 2025



Purpose:
To deepen cooperation on critical minerals and research to support the clean energy transition and transatlantic security.

Key Outcomes:
Establish special envoys to lead the partnership, advance major supply agreements for copper, lithium, and rare earths, and advance co-operation under the Canada-Germany Hydrogen Alliance.

Poland | August 25, 2025



Purpose:
To catalyze European investment into Canada and reinforce our defence presence in Europe.

Key Outcomes:
Deepened ties in clean energy and nuclear technology, and Canada serving as the Lead Nation for the 2026 International Defence Industry Exhibition in Poland.

STRATEGIES & INVESTMENTS IN CANADA

Our **national strategies** involve deep collaboration with these international allies to ensure our security and prosperity:

Defence Industrial Strategy

Prioritizing Canadian suppliers while partnering with trusted NATO and EU allies to strengthen our defence sector.

Transforming the North

Investing \$40B+ to protect our sovereignty, including Arctic radar training with Australia starting in 2026.

Canada's Auto Industry Strategy

Partnering with South Korea and China to grow investment and lead in EV production.

Critical Minerals Strategy

Working with G7 partners to unlock \$12.1B for projects supporting clean tech and national security.

We are making **generational investments** to strengthen our national infrastructure and prepare our workforce for the future.

Trade Diversification Corridors Fund

A \$5B program to improve transportation infrastructure, boost non-U.S. exports, and reduce congestion.

Arctic Infrastructure Fund

A \$1B call for projects to build airports and seaports supporting defence and northern communities.

Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy

Investing \$24.7M to deliver green training for apprentices in 18 Red Seal trades.

LOCAL FOCUS

Alto High-Speed Rail

The Alto high-speed rail project will build roughly 1,000 km of dedicated, mostly electrified track to connect communities along the Toronto–Québec City corridor.



During the public consultation period (Jan 21–Apr 24), Alto presented two route options for eastern Ontario. I, along with other regional leaders called for a more southerly alignment near Highway 401 and a dedicated Kingston stop. Thank you for your valuable feedback. With consultations closing, we look forward to “Alto’s What We Heard” report and next steps.

CORCAN

On March 3, I was pleased to attend the CORCAN Farm Advisory Panel close-out meeting at the Joyceville Institution.



This meeting celebrated the successful community-led effort to bring farming operations back to the facility. These farms play a vital role in our community, helping participants develop both hard and soft skills while supporting their reintegration.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Since the House resumed session in January, the following bills have progressed through the federal legislative process (*update as of March 27, 2026*):

Bills in Progress - Passed by House, currently in Senate

- **Bill C-9** (Combatting Hate Act)
- **Bill C-12** (Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act)
- **Bill C-13** (An Act to implement the Protocol on the Accession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership)
- **Bill C-14** (Bail and Sentencing Reform Act)
- **Bill C-15** (Budget 2025 Implementation Act, No. 1)
- **Bill C-18** (Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Implementation Act)

Bills that have received Royal Assent

- **Bill C-19** (Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit Act): Successfully passed into law on February 12, 2026.
- **Bill C-4** (Making Life More Affordable for Canadians Act): Successfully passed into law on March 12, 2026.
- **Bill C-12** (Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act): Successfully passed into law on March 26, 2026.
- **Bill C-15** (Budget 2025 Implementation Act, No. 1): Successfully passed into law on March 26, 2026.