



Mike Bossio

Member of Parliament • Hastings—Lennox and Addington



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L to R: Signal Brewery owner Richard Courneyea, Bay of Quinte MP Neil Ellis, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains, Belleville Chamber of Commerce President Jill Raycroft, MP Mike Bossio, and Xplornet CEO Allison Lenehan

\$36 MILLION FOR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Our government understands how important improving rural Internet is. That's why we are transforming rural Internet in our community using state-of-the-art small cell technology, which will unleash the potential for rural innovation and economic development.

In July, I joined my colleagues MP Neil Ellis and Minister Navdeep Bains at Signal Brewery in Corbyville to announce a \$10.8 million investment from the federal government, which is unlocking a \$25.2 million investment from Xplornet in the private sector, which will bring 5G-ready speeds of over 100 mbps to our rural community at the same time as those speeds are coming to urban communities. This opportunity is so important for rural

sustainability, and I am proud that it is our rural community leading the way.

Rural internet customers want faster speeds, bigger data plans, and more affordable prices, and this announcement is answering that need for our community.

In my travels across our large rural riding, I have seen so many entrepreneurs and community organizations that have the talent and the passion to compete on a global scale, but they need the tools to do so. This investment will unleash their potential to innovate and will level the playing field.

The announcement in July was the beginning of a process after the

Cont'd on back page

A Message from Mike

The fall session of Parliament has begun! After spending the summer crisscrossing our riding and having hundreds of conversations about rural sustainability and other issues important to constituents, I am proud to be able to bring your rural voices back to Ottawa.

I am returning to both the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee, and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee to continue the important work being done there. As always, I appreciate the input of constituents in my work on these files, and on other legislation before the House of Commons.

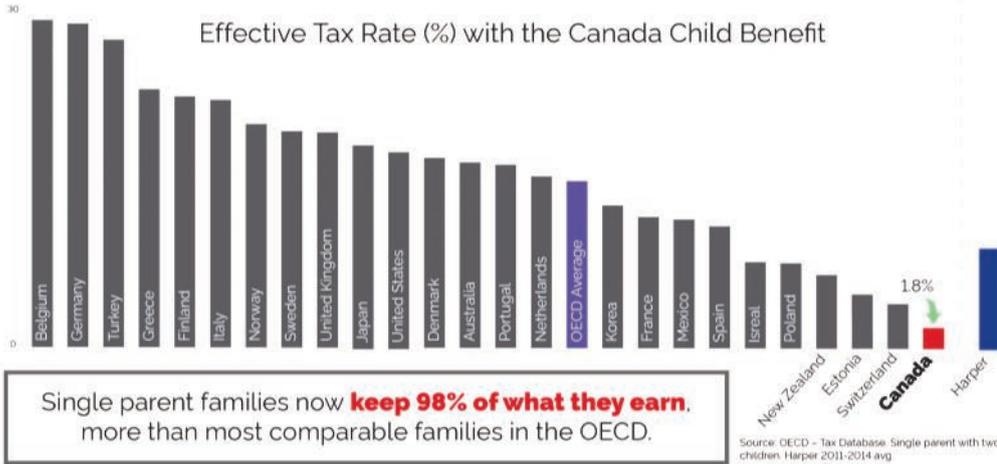
On a historic note, this fall session is also supposed to be the last one in the Centre Block of Parliament before it closes for about ten years for much-needed renovations. We are due to enter our temporary home in West Block during the next winter session.

As always, never hesitate to reach out to me and my team whenever you have case work, ideas, concerns, or questions. We love to hear from you—whether by phone, email, at our full-time office in Napanee, or at our satellite office hours across the riding in Bancroft, Finton, Madoc, Marmora, Stirling, Tweed, and Tyedinaga Mohawk Territory.

Yours in service,
Mike

By the Numbers

Single Parent Families



Good news! As of September 2018, unemployment is down to 6%, wage growth is up by 2.9%. The consumer confidence index has also raised to 119 in Summer 2018, as opposed to 91 in Fall 2015, which indicates that Canadians have more confidence in their financial positions. Business investment is also up for 6 consecutive quarters.

For single-parent households with two children, or for families with two children where only one parent is working, the benefits are significant. According to the OECD, when the tax-free Canada Child Benefit and other benefits are added to family income,

those families pay effective personal tax rates of just 1.8% and 1.2% respectively – keeping more than 98% of what they earn. In this respect, Canada is a true global “outlier”.

The Guaranteed Income Supplement, is also providing greater income security for close to 900,000 seniors, 70 per cent of whom are women. The enhanced Guaranteed Income Supplement has helped lift 57,000 vulnerable seniors out of poverty across Canada.

For the full report entitled, “Real Progress for Canada’s Middle Class,” visit: www.fin.gc.ca/n18/data/18-077_1-eng.asp

Middle Class Families will be

\$2,000 Better Off

Measure	Benefit in 2019
Canada Child Benefit	\$2,085
Middle Class Tax Cut	\$186
Elimination of unfair tax credits	-\$270*
NET BENEFIT	\$2,001

*Conservative boutique tax credits did not benefit all middle class families. The CCB line in this figure is net of Conservative income splitting for families.

Local Funding for Great Lakes Water Protection

In protecting our water and sources of drinking water, we are protecting our rural communities and keeping them sustainable. The vast majority of us in rural communities rely on our wells for water, so putting protections in place and restoring watersheds is imperative. In doing this, we are not only protecting our drinking water, but it has the result of protecting biodiversity, increasing fish stocks, cleaning our beaches, and supporting the tourism industry. Once again, this is proof of the economy and the environment going hand in hand.

As part of an announcement of \$8.95 million over four years for 36 local on-the-ground projects under the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, the following was announced for our riding:

- \$186,000 over 3 years to support Lower Trent Conservation to reduce phosphorus runoff.
- \$151,500 over 2 years to Quinte Conservation support environmental monitoring.
- \$134,000 over 3 years for a University of Toronto project to reduce phosphorus runoff into Napanee River, Wilton Creek, and catchment area.
- \$108,000 over 3 years for a University of Toronto project for a soil water assessment tool to reduce phosphate in Wilton Creek and Hay Bay watersheds.
- \$13,940 over 1 year to support Quinte Conservation for the construction of a retrofit stormwater management facility at the Deseronto millpond.

The initiatives supports projects across the Great Lakes Basin, which will help restore areas of concern, prevent toxic and nuisance algae, reduce the release of harmful chemicals, engage the public through citizen science, and engage Indigenous Peoples.



Training more Indigenous pilots at the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga can help fill the pilot shortage and improve access to rural and remote communities. Thanks to Transport Minister Marc Garneau for meeting about this!



Agriculture feeds our cities, and is a key economic driver in our rural community. This is showcased so well each year at the Hastings County Plowing Match, this year held at the Trudeau Farm in Tweed.



Historic sites like the Fairfield House in Amherstview, built in 1793, preserve the built heritage of our pioneer families and ensure that our rural history is passed down to future generations.

What is Rural Sustainability?

Rural Sustainability is what drives me as your MP. It's the environmental, economic, technological, cultural, historical, and human components and investments that keep the community alive, vibrant, and growing, and which are often unique from what you find in cities. Please join me in supporting the rural sustainability of Hastings—Lennox and Addington!

You can find over 100 videos and many more photos from my summer tour on my Facebook page.



Canada Summer Jobs students at Lennox and Addington County General Hospital in Napanee are getting the skills they need to develop their careers in our community, without moving to the cities.



The Algonquin Inodewiziwin Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre in Maynooth offers culturally-sensitive programming and services and supports the building of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.



Rural sustainability includes fostering a vibrant cultural sector, like at the Stirling Festival Theatre. A rich arts community contributes to jobs, tourism, and our people's well-being, as well as attracting and maintaining people in our communities.



Our government's historic investments in home care will help distribute health care further out into our rural communities like Madoc and beyond, which will give our seniors the ability to live in their homes longer while still having access to the care they need. This contributes to the inter-generational cohesiveness of rural communities.



The U.E.L. Heritage Centre in Adolphustown gives important job experience to young people through Canada Summer Jobs, and preserves our heritage.



Businesses like Salvage Garden in Enterprise are good examples of both environmental and economic sustainability in the repurposing of found items.



Events like Stone Mills Septemberfest bring our rural community together in fellowship and foster cohesiveness while promoting local businesses.



The Canada Summer Jobs program was doubled under our government, ensuring that more of our young people, like those in Tweed, get the skills they need to grow their careers at home without having to move to the cities.



Rural libraries like in Tyendinaga Township are an important resource for our community as an access point for a sense of community, education, and internet services, which are vital to so many aspects of our lives. Please support your local public library!



The population of North Hastings shrank by 567 people in the last census, but welcoming immigrants and refugees like the Jared family from war-torn Syria to Bancroft helps sustain our rural population.



Habitat for Humanity just completed homes in Tyendinaga with the help of volunteers from the Mohawks and Syrian refugees. Our government is also making historic investments in affordable housing.



Rural communities can compete in an increasingly digital global market place through investments in high-speed internet, helped by an announcement from Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains in Corbyville.



Preserving our environment and biodiversity is the sine qua non for rural sustainability. Our government is proud to support the conservation of species at risk, such as the loggerhead shrike and their habitat, through the Natural Areas Habitat Conservation Program in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Thanks to Environment Minister Catherine McKenna for announcing an additional 40 acres of the Napanee Plain Alvar under protection.



Tourism, like at Bon Eco Park, is a key economic driver that contributes to jobs in rural areas like ours both at the park and in surrounding businesses.



Marmora's mining industry sustained the town for many years. Thanks to the Hastings County Historical Society for remembering and celebrating this heritage.

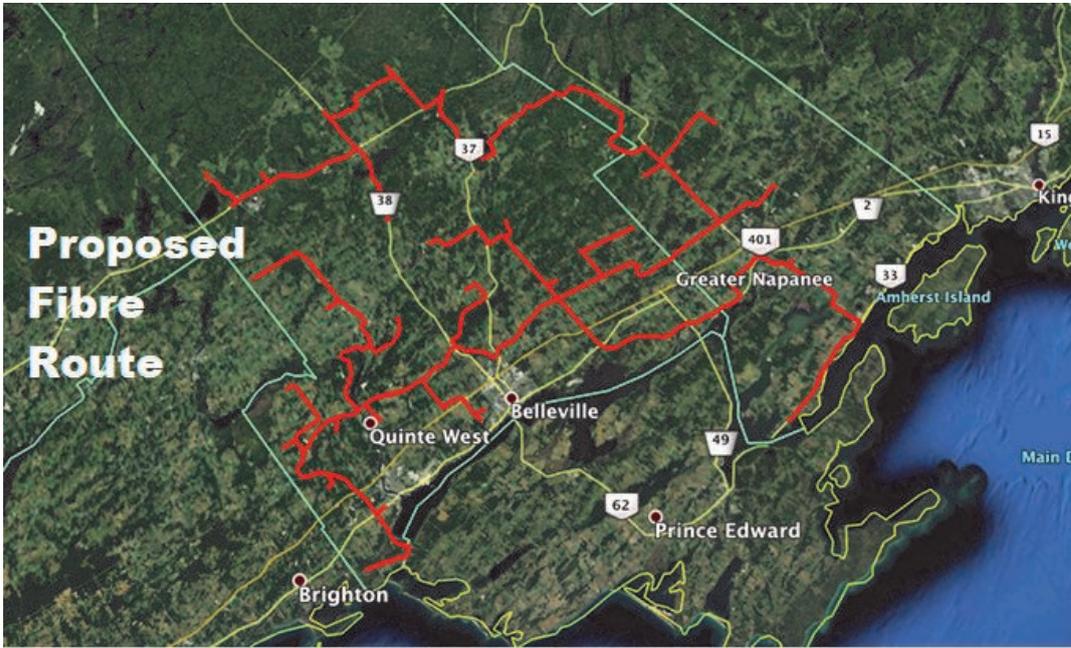


The outdoors community cares deeply about good stewardship and environmental sustainability—vital to passing down traditions to future generations.



The Odessa Agricultural Parade connects us to our rich agricultural heritage, and brings our community together each year. Thanks to Ramona for the ride!

High-Speed Internet Cont'd



The map shows a proposed—not final—version of where the fibre-optic cable would run. Service would then be provided wirelessly through micro and macro cells along the line.

application was accepted. The formal agreement needs to be signed and Xplornet will now have to work with municipalities and utilities to get rights of way for the proposed approx. 500 km of fibre, and map out the placement of micro and macro cells.

The estimate for some of the network to be online is Summer of 2019, and more continuing in 2020.

The project is part of the Government of Canada's \$500-million Connect to Innovate program, investing in building the digital backbone of high-speed Internet networks—Canada's largest ever investment in rural Internet. Backbone networks are the digital highways that move data in and out of communities. They carry large amounts of data that are essential for schools, hospitals, libraries, and businesses to function in a digital world.



In a separate event, Mike was also excited to attend Nexicom's private-sector announcement for improved high-speed Internet access within the Town of Bancroft.

Our government is investing more money in improving rural Internet than has ever been done before. We have said from day one that the consultations on changes to the 3500 MHz spectrum band will not put rural Internet at risk. Contact my office if you need more information on this consultation, and I am happy to clarify.

Q & A

Q: Why is this not happening in the whole riding?

A: The program is based on applications from Internet Service Providers (ISPs), not the government. Mike approached both national and local ISPs from Ottawa to Guelph to put forward applications for the north part of the riding. Unfortunately, they did not feel that there was a business case at this time. Mike will continue to advocate for more projects in all parts of the riding.

Q: Why are we working with Xplornet? How does this reflect their service performance?

A: The previous expansion of the Internet in our area was before homes had so many smart phones and devices connected to the same Internet, and before streaming services like Netflix became popular. To put this in perspective, we have generated more data in the last two years than we have in the whole history of the Internet. So, while the previous expansion with Xplornet suited the time, it could not keep up with the vastly higher demand that was put on it as time went on. Further, this was an application-based process, and Xplornet, to their credit, is the one that stepped up to the plate with the most viable plan to deliver the vastly-improved services we need.

Why Green?

I ran on a pledge to represent all my constituents if I was fortunate enough to be elected. So, while I am a proud member of the Liberal Caucus, I also want to make sure that my work as the Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington is done in as non-partisan a way as possible. That's why I adopted the traditional House of Commons green colour scheme for all my work as your Member of Parliament. I heard time and again that Canadians were frustrated with partisan newsletters full of misleading questionnaires. Better is always possible, so please never hesitate to reach out to me with your feedback and suggestions for how I can serve you better.

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Send your postage-free letters on any topic important to you to:

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"Building long-term, sustainable rural communities is at the heart of all my work as your Member of Parliament."