

Mike Bossio

Member of Parliament • Hastings—Lennox and Addington



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New Ferry for Amherst Island

Pictured above: Mike and his wife Irene at home in Lonsdale, Tyendinaga Township, Fall 2017



Mike visited Amherst Island in November to announce funding for a new ferry. The federal government will contribute one-third of the funds, \$31.3 million, for new ferries for Amherst Island and Wolfe Island.

transportation options," added Bossio. "The Ministry is also looking for opportunities to add hybrid electric features for use when the ferries first go into service, and the engines will operate on ultra-low sulphur diesel fuel, which means a lower environmental impact than regular marine diesel oil."

The Amherst Island ferry is expected to be delivered in December 2019.



Mike visited the "small but mighty" Amherst Island Public School with Councilor Duncan Ashley for the school's Remembrance Day assembly

Message from Mike

We have good news: the economy is booming! Over 500,000 jobs have been created since our government came to office, most of them full time. Canada is seeing its fastest economic growth in more than 10 years—the best in the G7.

Our plan to put more money in the pockets of those who need it most and to strengthen the middle class is working. Along with unprecedented and much-needed infrastructure investments for our communities, this plan includes expanding the Guaranteed Income Supplement for 900,000 low-income seniors. It also includes the transformative tax-free Canada Child Benefit for low and middle income families.

The Canada Child Benefit puts over \$5.3 million every month into the pockets of low and middle income families in our riding, and in turn they spend this money at local businesses and organizations that help to power our local economy.

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The connection with Amherst Island is getting stronger, easier, and more reliable.

Mike Bossio, the Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington, announced that the federal government will be contributing one-third of the funding needed for a new ferry for Amherst Island.

The design-build will cost \$94.7 million, which also includes a new ferry for Wolfe Island in nearby Kingston. The federal government will contribute 33% of the funding for the total project cost, up to a maximum contribution of \$31.3 million through their New Building Canada Fund. The Province of Ontario will fund the remaining 67%.

"A new ferry for Amherst Island is going to do a lot of good," said Bossio. "It's going to extend the life of the existing vessel for use as a backup, while the new ferry will improve capacity, efficiency, mobility, and provide environmental benefits such as air quality improvement."

The new ferry vessel for the Amherst Island Ferry Service, operated by Loyalist Township, will have a capacity of up to 300 people and 40 vehicles. It will be a drive on-and-off ferry, as opposed to the current side-loading ferry that requires parallel parking and reverse. This will increase efficiency, with quicker loading and unloading. But more importantly, it will increase safety for the ferry workers directing traffic. The existing 35 vehicle capacity ferry will become a backup vessel for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation Eastern Region ferry fleet.

"We thank the federal and provincial governments for making this investment in Loyalist Township," said Loyalist Township Mayor Bill Lowry. "The new ferry will improve service between Stella and Millhaven for many years to come, and we look forward to seeing it in service."

The higher capacity of the new ferry will reduce the annual number of vehicles that are left to wait at the dock during crossings from the current average of 1,057 to 528 vehicles left on dock per year.

"The new vessels will incorporate green technologies, provide enhanced accessibility to meet the needs of all users, as well as improved amenities such as bike racks and storage to support and promote active

THE CANADA CHILD BENEFIT is supporting families in Hastings—Lennox and Addington

Monthly payments	Children supported	Average payment
8,710	15,860	\$610

Total Monthly Payments in Hastings—Lennox and Addington
\$5,310,000

#realchangeisworking

Based on May 2017 CCB data



I know from my many conversations with people in need and their advocates across our riding that a housing-first strategy to combatting poverty is essential. Whether it was at the many roundtables that I attended on affordable housing and combatting poverty, or the many doors I've knocked on across our rural riding, it is clear that there is a real need for affordable housing in rural communities like ours. I encourage housing organizations in our area to take up this plan, and help us ensure that no Canadian goes without an affordable roof over their head.

Our government has shared details of a 10-year, \$40 billion National Housing Strategy—Canada's first ever—that will help reduce homelessness and improve the availability and quality of housing for Canadians in need. Across Canada, 1.7 million Canadians are in core housing need. To help address this, the Strategy has set bold goals including:

- reducing chronic homelessness by 50 per cent;
- removing more than 530,000 households from housing need;
- creating four times as many new housing units as built under federal programs from 2005 to 2015;
- repairing three times as many existing housing units as repaired under federal programs from 2005 to 2015; and
- protecting an additional 385,000 households from losing an affordable place to live.

The National Housing Strategy is meeting the needs of Canadians, including seniors, Indigenous Peoples, survivors of family violence, people with disabilities, refugees, veterans, and those grappling with homelessness. It will promote diverse communities and encourage the construction of homes that are sustainable, accessible, mixed-income, mixed-use, and located

near transit, work, and public services. In response to calls from housing advocates, service providers and feminist leaders, the strategy commits to ensuring that at least 25% of funds go to projects for women, girls, and their families.

The federal government will work with provinces and territories to develop a \$4 billion Canada Housing Benefit to be launched in 2020 to respond to local housing needs and priorities. This will be a significant new tool to address challenges of housing affordability in communities across the country. It will provide an estimated average of \$2,500 per year to each household recipient, assisting at least 300,000 families when fully implemented. The benefit will be delivered directly to households as a portable benefit they can use to help with the costs of housing.

Quick facts:

- Over the next 10 years, the Strategy – which will be funded jointly by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments – will help reduce homelessness and the number of families living in housing need, and will help strengthen the middle class.

Investment under the National Housing Strategy includes:

- \$15.9-billion for a new National Housing Co-Investment Fund;
- \$8.6-billion for a new Canada Community Housing Initiative in partnership with provinces and territories, and \$500 million through a new Federal Community Housing Initiative;
- \$4-billion for a new Canada Housing Benefit to be launched in 2020 in partnership with provinces and territories;
- \$2.2-billion to reduce homelessness;
- Ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure accessibility in building design; and
- The Government of Canada is also working with Indigenous leaders to co-develop distinctions-based housing strategies with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation that will be founded on the principles of self-determination, reconciliation, respect, and cooperation.

Mike's Message Cont'd

I'm also immensely proud of the launch of the National Housing Strategy in November, which is going to help low-income individuals, including seniors, ensure that they have an affordable roof over their head.

Since our last newsletter, I've done my best to be representing your voice in Ottawa. I've made speeches in the House of Commons about the great environmental stewardship work that farmers like Topsy Farms of Amherst Island and others are doing. I rose to congratulate Enright Cattle Company in Tweed on their nomination for StartUp Canada. I've also raised issues of poverty and food insecurity that organizations like the Hastings—Prince Edward Poverty Roundtable and Food Policy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington are working on. You can view some of these speeches in the "Videos" section of my website www.mikebossiomp.ca or on my Facebook page.

I'm always looking for issues and stories from our riding to share with my colleagues in Ottawa, so please don't hesitate to reach out and share some with me! I look forward to hearing about the issues important to you.

Yours in service, Mike



Supporting Women in Business

Mike met with Camden East's Jen Fitzpatrick, owner of FEMM International, to learn about her work to empower female entrepreneurs. The federal government is helping women succeed in business through more supports for women running tech companies to raise capital, and partnerships with the Business Development Bank of Canada to target supports to women business owners. Also visit women.gc.ca to see funding programs to support Women's Economic Security (application deadline January 11).

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA:

Excerpt from Mike's Speech in the House of Commons on Combatting Poverty

We promised to help families who needed it most, and we have kept that promise. The tax-free Canada Child Benefit has lifted over 300,000 kids out of poverty.

In a riding like mine with higher-than-average child poverty rates, this has a huge impact. It has put more money in the pockets of those who need it most, and they have been able to spend it to put food on the table, clothes on their kids' backs, books, sports and arts programs, you name it.

And this is so important, since the data shows that with the rising cost of living, a family of four in the western part of my riding had to pay almost \$1,400 more for groceries in 2016 than they did five years ago.

The Hastings—Prince Edward Poverty Roundtable and Hastings—Prince Edward Public Health have rightly pointed out that "income is one of the best predictors of health. We know that when money is tight, healthy food is one of the first things to be cut in order to pay rent and other bills. In order to save money, people may skip meals, eat fewer vegetables and fruit, drink less milk, and fill-up on high-calorie low-nutrient

foods because those foods are cheaper.

"The result of this unhealthy diet is an increased risk of chronic disease and poor growth and development in children. This affects everyone. In comparison to food-secure households, annual health care costs are 23% higher in households with marginal food insecurity and 121% higher in households with severe food insecurity in Ontario."

Because the Canada Child Benefit is tax-free money upfront, families can use it for whatever they need for the kids—for some that is as fundamental as putting food on the table and clothing on their kids' backs. For families in a stronger position, that can still mean help for sports or arts programs, or both.

But the point is, since it's not a tax credit that tends to only help families that already can afford to spend money upfront, we are able to help even more families who need it most.

In the eastern part of my riding, the Food Policy Council for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington has pointed out that 24.6% of all families in the area are single parent families, with 80% of these being female led.

Given that there is still an unacceptable pay gap where women in Canada are earning only 87 cents to every dollar earned by men, these mothers can use help. And in the cases where it's the dads or

grandparents, they are getting help too.

15.4% of the population of the Lennox and Addington area live under the Low Income Cut Off After Tax group, and 25% of youth between the ages of 15-24 live under the low-income thresholds.

There's a clear need for help in my riding, and so we are helping to lift kids out of poverty. Of all the things our government has done, the Canada Child Benefit is the one that I am the most proud of.

Combatting poverty and giving people the tools to find work is important to constituents in my riding, and the Hastings—Prince Edward Poverty Roundtable has put together an Employment and Security Working Group to work on this issue.

Our government will help. We know that individuals and families who are working hard to join the middle class shouldn't have to struggle each month, just to make ends meet. So we're proposing to strengthen the Working Income Tax Benefit.

By letting low-income workers take home more money while they work, the Working Income Tax Benefit encourages more people to join the workforce, and offers real help to nearly a million and a half Canadians who are working hard to join the middle class.

So, we are investing an additional \$500 million in the program every year, starting in 2019.

Connecting with Constituents



Mike announced \$100,000 in funding through the CFDC for Coloured Aggregates in Marmora.



Mike attended the Remembrance Day service at the Bath Legion. We must never forget the debt we owe to our women and men in uniform, and their families who support them from home. Lest we forget. Thank you to the volunteers who represented Mike and the government of Canada at the many other ceremonies in the riding.



Mike and his Ottawa team proudly carried a banner from L&A Interval House in Napanee for "Hope in High Heels" on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to raise awareness to prevent violence against women.



Mike attended the Kingston Naval Ball to celebrate 75 years of HMCS Catarauqui. Pictured with Mike are Lt. Cmdr. Rob Brunner, 90+ year WRNS Bea Corbett, and Napanee's own Lt. Cmdr. Rob Marriott.



Mike attend the Metis Harvest Dinner in Flinton in October (pictured), and attended the Hunters Dinner in Denbigh in November to meet with constituents.



Mike arranged for Potter Settlement Wines in Tweed to present their award-winning wine to PM Trudeau.



Mike held a coffee meet-and-greet at the Barn Chefs in Coe Hill in late September.



Mike attended the groundbreaking for the job-creating expansion of ABCann Medicinals in Napanee.

2018 Office Hours

We have a big rural riding—one of the biggest in southern Ontario! So, my staff and I not only have our full-time main office, but also satellite office hours throughout the riding on a monthly or every-other-month basis. Here are the hours for 2018.

Main Office: Napanee

20-B Richmond Boulevard, Napanee
Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

Satellite Offices:

Bancroft: Municipal Building (8 Hastings Heritage Way). Second Tuesday of every month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr.

10, May 8, Jun. 12, Jul. 10, Aug. 14, Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Flinton: Municipal Building (72 Edward St). Fourth Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Feb. 27, Apr. 24, Jun. 26, Aug. 28, Oct. 23

Madoc (Centre Hastings): Municipal Building (7 Furnace St). Third Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Feb. 20, Apr. 17, Jun. 19, Aug. 21, Oct. 16, Dec. 18

Marmora: Municipal Building (12 Bursthall St). First Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Jan. 2, Mar. 6, May 1, Jul. 3, Sep. 4, Nov. 6

Stirling: Municipal Building (2529 Stirling-Rawdon Rd). Third Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-

4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Jan. 16, Mar. 20, May 15, Jul. 17, Sep. 18, Nov. 20

Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory: Council Building (24 Meadow Drive). First Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Feb. 6, Apr. 3, Jun. 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 2, Dec. 4

Tweed: Municipal Building (255 Metcalf St). Fourth Tuesday, every other month, 12:00pm-4:00pm. In 2018, that's: Jan. 23, Mar. 27, May 22, Jul. 24, Sep. 25, Nov. 27

As usual, if the satellite office hours are not convenient for you, please reach out and we can set up a new time or have a phone call.



Mike was in Bancroft for the opening of the Eagle's Nest—An Algonquin Story Interpretive Trail, which received Canada 150 funding from the Heritage Ministry. A big thank you to all of the local people who made this great accomplishment possible!



Mike brought his colleagues from the Indigenous and Northern Affairs committee to Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in September for consultations on land claims in Ontario. Chief R. Donald Maracle was on hand for the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.



Mike attended the unveiling ceremony in Belleville for the monument dedicated to the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment—a regiment which traces its lineage back to the 19th century, and which won more battle honours in WWII than any other Canadian regiment.

Info on Tax Fairness



Mike speaks with John and Angus MacLaughlin on their farm in Stone Mills Township, where the government announced the results of its consultation with farm families and small businesses.

I'd like to share some information that hopefully clears up some of the confusion that has arisen on our government's tax fairness proposals.

In the many conversations that I've had with constituents on this issue, I've said from the beginning that the proposals were something that I broadly agreed with, but we had to make sure through our consultation process that we were avoiding unintended consequences. These proposals were just that—proposals, not legislation. We promised to be a government that consults and listens, but since previous governments of all stripes didn't tend to have many pre-consultation periods before legislation was tabled, there was some unfortunate concern that everything was a done deal. It wasn't, and when the legislation is eventually tabled, there will even be further consultation that comes with committee study.

During this process, I brought the concerns that my constituents raised to the attention of the Minister of Finance, and I was grateful to have one of the very important national announcements to safeguard family farms here in our own riding.

The feedback that we've received throughout this consultation process has been very helpful, and I hope you'll find that the changes being made reflect our goal to consult, listen, and bring forward policy that helps strengthen the middle class. At the end of the day, we are still closing loopholes that have been used by the wealthiest 1%, but through the consultation we have avoided some unintended consequences. The independent Parliamentary Budget Officer agrees that the new passive income proposal will affect only about 2.5% of incorporated small businesses, and raise \$1 billion per year in the first two years, and rise gradually up to \$6 billion a year when it's been in place for 20 years.

Here are the key points:

- Firstly, we have announced that our government is fulfilling its commitment to lower taxes on small businesses, from 11 per cent in 2015 to 9 per cent by 2019. We already had the lowest small business tax rates in the G7. This will make them even lower.
- We recognize the importance of succession planning for small businesses and family farms. Based on feedback we have heard, we will not be moving forward on any measures that could affect the transfer of a family business to the next generation. As a result, we will not be moving forward with proposals to limit the multiplication of the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption.
- We are moving forward with a simplified proposal to limit income sprinkling, while supporting owners who invest in their growth, create jobs, strengthen entrepreneurship, and grow our economy.
- We are moving forward with measures to limit the tax deferral opportunities related to passive investments. We estimate there is between \$200 and \$300 billion in assets sitting in passive investment accounts held by only 2% of private corporations, growing by \$16 billion every year.
- We will create a \$50,000 threshold on investment income annually to still allow for enough flexibility so that small businesses can continue to save for new equipment, parental leave, or retirement.

Our Government will move forward on changes to the tax system that ensure that Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation status is not used to reduce personal income tax obligations for high-income earners rather than supporting small businesses. If you'd like more detailed information about any of these points, please email or write, and I can send it to you. I'd be happy to hear any further thoughts you have on this.

Contact Mike

Your opinion means a lot to me.

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

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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.