



Mike Bossio

Member of Parliament • Hastings—Lennox and Addington



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The young and young at heart gave Mike a much needed cool down as he and his team marched in 35+ degree heat during the Bath Canada Day Parade. Thanks to all the volunteers, participants, and parade-goers who make this such a great annual event!

A Message from Mike

I hope that you are all enjoying the summer! The House of Commons has risen, and I am spending my time criss-crossing our beautiful rural riding meeting with businesses, farmers, non-profits, municipalities, and other constituents to get their feedback and share information about funding opportunities and programs that the federal government offers. Contact my office if you would like me to pay your organization a visit.

Before the summer recess, we finished our report on low-emissions buildings, and we also passed important environmental assessment legislation (Bill C-69) back to the House, with over 100 amendments to improve it. For my part, my experience in the megadump fight alongside so many of my fellow community members has shown me how important it is to have strong public participation. So, I tabled amendments that provide for "meaningful" public participation, which strengthens the language in the law, and will lead to stronger regulations on this issue. This will be a big win for public participation. I also

pushed for amendments that take into account using the term "indigenous knowledge," rather than "traditional knowledge" throughout the bill, which is in response to the excellent input we have received from Indigenous communities.

We also proposed amendments that incorporate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into this bill. The bill has now passed through the House of Commons, and at the time that the bill passes the Senate, it would be our first government bill that incorporates UNDRIP. This will be a landmark moment, and something that we can all be proud of!

I was also happy to announce over \$845,000 toward the cost of the water main extension for the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, and nationally our government has now lifted 66 long-term boil water advisories on reserve. This is real progress, and we are committed to doing more!

I am actively trying to get the word out about our once in a generation opportunity for affordable housing funding. I encourage interested municipalities, non-profits,



Improving the Canada Child Benefit More support for middle class families

indigenous organizations and the private sector to contact my office to find out more. Note: this funding is not for personal dwellings.

And good news: starting on July 20th 2018, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will be raised to keep up with the cost of living. This will give Canadian parents even more money each month to help them provide for their children. The CCB puts approx. \$5.9 million *every month* into the pockets of low and middle income families in Hastings-Lennox and Addington alone, who spend that money locally and help fuel our local economy. The CCB helps the parents of almost 17,000 kids in our community to have money for kids' sports or arts programs, summer camps, clothes, books, or food on the table!

Most importantly, because of the CCB, more than half a million people – including almost 300,000 children – are being lifted out of poverty, which is a 40% decrease in child poverty in Canada.

I also have great news for seniors, including information on pharmacare, OAS, GIS, and accessibility, which I encourage you to read about in full on the back page of this newsletter.

As always, never hesitate to reach out to me and my team whenever you have ideas, concerns, or questions. We love to hear from you!

Yours in service,
Mike

HLA on Parliament Hill



I love having constituents visit at Parliament Hill, and showing my colleagues the great things that HLA has to offer. Young Deseronto resident Mia (above) enjoyed her tour while she made plans to become an astronaut or the Prime Minister—or maybe both! I was also happy to help Bancroft's Turtle "Yarn Bomb" make its way to Parliament Hill



this spring, including my seat in the House of Commons and with Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna. I was grateful to the talented students at Napanee District Secondary School for loaning their amazing paintings to me this spring, and I got the chance to show them to the relevant Cabinet Ministers—including Canada's first astronaut, Marc Garneau, whose portrait it was! Thanks to artists Breanna Williams, Megan Turcotte, Kaylib Druru, Camelia Migneault, Olivia Sherritt, Tyler Shaw, Austin Dunham, Trinity Skinner, Dahri Koopman, and Katie Badour. And thanks also to Sherry Pringle and Marg Isbester for arranging this!



CONNECTING WITH CONSTITUENTS



STANDING UP FOR DAIRY FARMERS

Mike met with dairy farmer Mike Walhout, and reaffirmed his and our government's support for dairy farmers, the supply management sector, and all farmers. Thanks for the work you do!



Mike welcomed members of his Youth Council for their end of year trip to Ottawa, where they met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Pictured in no order are: Ariel Burgess, Ben Bell, Callum Levett, Emerson Bonter, Jonah Korporaal, Jonathan Nayler, Jordan Brownlee, Kate Brown, Lauren Dowling, Madelyn McEwen, Matthew Thompson, Meghan Mosgrove, Moira Wilson, Zack Walker, and Nicole Flynn (Mike's Intern through Loyalist).



Mike began Canada Day at the pancake breakfast in Madoc, before attending events in Napanee, Bath, Tamworth, and Stirling. Thanks to everyone who makes Canada Day so special in our community!



Mike announced over \$94,000 in federal funds to improve accessibility at Centreville Memorial United Church, Tamworth Community Hall and Library, and the Stone Mills municipal office in Centreville.



Mike visited the new Hastings Historical Society installation celebrating the founding of Thomasburg.



Mike attended the annual Mohawk Landing at Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. The event marks the arrival of the Mohawks to the territory after the American Revolution in 1784.



Mike was at Sandhurst Shores to wish Charlee Marucci well in her "I Challenge Diabetes" challenge to kayak with Olympian Chris Jarvis across the bay to Prince Edward County. Great job, Charlee!



Members of the Royal Canadian Navy were on hand for the Greater Napanee Riverfront Festival, so Mike took the chance to thank them for their service.



Mike was in Bancroft with Natalie, Ava, and Susan for the North Hastings District Hospital Auxiliary BBQ fundraiser, which was raising funds for ten pumps on the IV units at the hospital. Thanks for all your work for our community!



Mike and neighbouring MP Kim Rudd met with proponents to discuss Marmora Pumped Storage.



Mike attended the Napanee Multicultural Festival. Thanks to everyone who makes this event happen!



Mike attended the opening of the Crowe Valley Jamboree in Marmora.



Mike met with the Kaiser family at Kaiser Lake Farms in Greater Napanee to thank them for the work that they do. As a multi-generation farm family, Eric, Max, Rob, and Molly also want to thank YOU for buying Canadian-produced food that they and so many other Canadian farm families produce. Great job on the sign, Molly!

Protecting Our Future Generations



Mike visited Topsy Farms on Amherst Island, a cooperative family farm that cares deeply for the environment, and which has also been featured on the Discovery Channel, making our community proud! Through low-till or no-till practices, good stewardship, Environmental Farm Plans, and more, farmers make great efforts to fight climate change, and unfortunately they are also one of the first to suffer from its effects through severe weather events like drought and flood. When farmers can't grow food, we are all in trouble. To help, our federal backstop carbon price includes an exemption for on-farm fuel.

The fight against climate change is one of the most important fights of our generation, and future generations depend on us. I promise you that I will never stop fighting to protect our environment, as I have already been doing for years as a community activist fighting to protect our community's water against the mega-dump expansion in Napanee.

Recently, scientists announced that Antarctica lost 3 trillion tonnes of ice between 1992 and 2017. This means that sea level rise may be even higher than previously projected. We can also think locally about the severe drought in our area (worst since records started in the 1880s) and severe floods of the last few years. These are 100 year events now happening regularly.

The evidence is clear, and protecting future generations and our planet should not be a partisan issue. Yet, the Conservatives seem perfectly fine with future generations paying the vastly higher—even existential—costs of climate change, and they have no plan. Meanwhile in the real world, the costs of doing nothing are far higher. For example, from 1983 to 2004, insurance claims in Canada from severe-weather events were almost \$400 million a year. In the past decade, that amount tripled to \$1.2 billion a year, and this cost continues to increase.

Telling future generations that we had good intentions but couldn't do anything because the US chose to do nothing is not good enough. We need to take responsibility for the pollution we are creating, not just pass that burden to future generations.

Farmers want to pass their farms to the next generation, and we are doing everything we can to protect and innovate the farms of today. But, it will all be for naught if we don't protect the land from the ravages of climate change. Not only is our federal government doing something about carbon pollution but we are investing in the future through investments in innovation, public transit, modern and efficient water and wastewater systems, and stronger emissions regulations. Strong action on climate change incentivizes innovation and thereby ensures that we stay ahead of the rest of the world and become industry leaders, which is important for job creation and economic growth.

Back in April, our government released a report on the cost of the federal carbon pricing plan. Key findings, which came as no surprise, were that pricing carbon reduces pollution at the lowest cost to businesses and consumers. British Columbia's direct price on carbon pollution has been in place since 2008.

Analyses suggest that the policy has reduced emissions by 5-15%. Meanwhile, provincial real GDP in BC grew more than 17% from 2007 to 2015, outpacing the rest of Canada, and per-capita gasoline demand dropped 15% between 2007 and 2014.

Our government has said all along that the environment and economy go together. This is why at the same time we are putting a price on carbon and making the transition to clean energy, we also approved the Trans Mountain pipeline as a crucial economic tool during that transition. Oil and gas exports are worth \$75 billion to our economy, yet 97% of exports go to the USA. We have always been a large resource-rich nation with a small population, which means our prosperity depends on being able to export. Given the current trade dispute, there is no more crucial time to diversify our trading relationship than now, and it is our duty to act in the best interests of Canadians by getting our resources to new markets.

For more, I recommend Gary Mason's article "The carbon-tax debate is filled with dishonesty" in the Globe and Mail, and Andrew Coyne's article "We know how much a carbon tax would cost. If only we could say the same about the Tories' alternative" in the National Post.



Did you know?

As an avid fisherman and hunter ever since growing up in Madoc (pictured), Mike understands how much the outdoors community cares about good stewardship and passing traditions down to future generations. That's why we need to protect the environment for our kids, grandkids, and future generations.

Support for Seniors Now *and* for the Future



One is a National Pharmacare Plan. We believe that Canadians should have easy access to the prescription drugs they need, and we are proud of our publicly-funded, universal Medicare system. However, when one in four Canadians can't afford to fill or finish a prescription, something needs to change. We announced the appointments of six accomplished Canadians that will serve as members of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, chaired by Dr. Eric Hoskins. This council has a mandate to study, evaluate, and ultimately recommend options on a path forward on Pharmacare that puts Canadians first.

The second is putting \$4 billion into the Canada Housing Benefit, which will be launched in 2020 to respond to local housing needs. Once fully running, the CHB will assist at least 300,000 families and individuals, including seniors, and provide an average of \$2,500 per year to each recipient household. This is money that will go directly to help offset the costs of rent.

When we were elected in 2015, we kept our promise to restore the age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) to 65, after the previous government's decision to raise it to 67. This is putting thousands of dollars back in the pockets of Canadians as they become seniors.

We also *raised* the amount received through the Guaranteed Income Supplement for low-income seniors, which is sending \$1.7 million more each year to 2,400 low-income single seniors in Hastings--Lennox and Addington.

In addition to strengthening the Canada Pension Plan going forward, we are also investing \$6 billion nationally to support improved access to home care, which especially in aging rural ridings like ours will provide crucial support to help seniors stay in their

homes longer. We also have Canada's first National Housing Strategy, which is investing \$40 billion in affordable housing, including for seniors.

I have also been fortunate to announce over \$366,000 in local seniors projects across the riding since I became an MP, and there are more to come in the annual New Horizons for Seniors program. Thank you to those who attended our application sessions for this program in Madoc and Napanee this year. In addition, we have already received over \$214,000 in funding to make our community more accessible for those with disabilities (14% of our population), and for our aging population. Once again, there is more to come from this annual Enabling Accessibility Fund.

I am also very excited about two more plans we have.



Nearly 1 in 4 Canadians can't afford to fill their prescription.

Prescriptions should be affordable.

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