



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

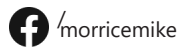


MIKE MORRICE

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

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Mike Morrice Kitchener Centre

June 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MIKE

Parliament can be a toxic partisan environment. But there are also so many opportunities to advocate for our community every single day, and my team and I are keen to make the most of every one.

Read on for updates on progress we’re making on just a handful of the many campaigns we’ve been focused on in recent months: including efforts to tackle the housing crisis, securing funding for organizations that provide lifesaving care, advocating for and passing a new law to help reduce domestic violence, and momentum we’re building to improve our democracy.

Each of these are priorities I heard directly from our community, and they’re just a small

snippet of the work we’re doing – alongside continued efforts to secure a Canada Disability Benefit and dedicated funds for mental health care, to end subsidies to the oil and gas industry, and much more.

Please continue to reach out anytime: all summer I’ll be offering conversations in parks and backyards, I’ll be knocking on doors, and available at our community office downtown. My contact information is listed to the right.

This kind of communication is critical for our democracy. Thanks for all the ways you invest in it.

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

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REPORT FINDS MOTION WOULD GENERATE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY

I’ve shared about my Private Members Motion 71 in this newsletter before, which calls on the federal government to end tax exemptions currently enjoyed by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

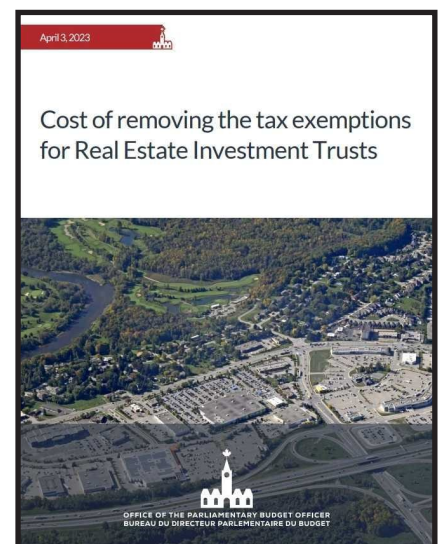
The non-partisan Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) just released a report showing closing this loophole would generate between \$285.8 million and \$670.2 million for us to invest in affordable housing over the next five years alone.

Since the 1990’s, we have seen REITs scoop up hundreds of thousands of units

across the country, often raising rents and making housing less affordable.

These corporate investors aren't focused on adding housing supply by building new units, but rather are buying up existing stock with the primary goal of generating maximum profits for their shareholders.

Ensuring these large investors aren’t getting preferential tax treatment - while also generating revenue to build affordable housing in our community - is one reasonable way we can level the playing field for homebuyers and renters.





SAVING LIVES AT SANGUEN HEALTH

Inside a mobile health van used by Sanguen Health Centre to treat unsheltered, underhoused, and at-risk people around our community.

Renewed funding means they can continue to deliver lifesaving care to our most vulnerable.

One of the successes for our community from this year's federal budget was the renewal of the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) funding, which I advocated strongly for.

SUAP provides funding for a wide range of projects that address substance use and addiction, including prevention, treatment, and harm reduction.

Local organizations like Sanguen Health and The Working Centre rely on this funding to deliver lifesaving services, including preventing deaths from poisoned drugs. SUAP funding was set to end this year, leaving critical supports in limbo and the people who depend on them few options.

When we learned that funding for Sanguen's Mobile Community Health Van was ending in March, my team and I fought to ensure their funding was renewed and services could continue without disruption. We were ecstatic when Sanguen received over \$500,000 in new funding and the SUAP budget was renewed!

Pictured here, I joined Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Carolyn Bennett at Sanguen to celebrate funding for their mobile health van in April. I'm proud to have worked alongside the Sanguen team, and other local MPs, to secure this critical support.

KEIRA'S LAW

When Keira's mom Jennifer went to the courts to seek protection for her daughter, the system failed them both.

In a heartbreaking loss, her four-year-old was killed by the ex-husband she had sought protection from.

Since then, Jennifer has turned her grief into advocacy, resulting in a bill affectionately known as Keira's Law, now passed in both the House and the Senate.

This bill will improve our justice system for domestic violence survivors, including by requiring more education and training for judges on domestic violence and coercive control.

Thanks to tireless advocates like Jennifer and organizations like Women's Crisis Services Waterloo Region for their hard work in getting this bill passed.



Celebrating Keira's Law passing in April, alongside other MPs and individuals who've been advocating for months.

LISTENING TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL VOICES

Thank you to all of the individuals and groups who took the time to meet with me, including:

- Ontario Jewish community organizations for Jewish Disability Advocacy Day on the Canada Disability Benefit
- The Registry Theatre on federal investments in the live performance sector to ensure artists and organizations can bounce back to pre-pandemic audience levels
- National Council of Canadian Muslims on forced labour in Canada's supply chains and what the federal government can do to address international human rights abuses
- Together Waterloo to discuss the inequity of funding for Perinatal Mental Health and the need for more dedicated supports for racialized parents, newcomer parents, parents with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ families
- Métis Nation of Ontario about implementing self-government legislation
- Local firefighters on the harmful use of PFAs in their equipment and the need for improved regulations around fire safety at airports
- Women's Shelters Canada on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
- Canadian Federation of Elizabeth Fry Societies as part of my advocacy for inmates at Grand Valley Institution for Women, including on eliminating the practice of solitary confinement
- Waterloo Region Association of Realtors on the housing crisis in our community

MAKING EVERY VOTE COUNT

Motion for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

Jointly seconded by:



Motion by:
MP Mike Morrice



Daniel Blaikie



Wayne Long



Jenica Atwin



John Aldag



Gord Johns



Sean Casey



Nate Erskine-Smith



Ben Lobb



Julie Dzerowicz



Elizabeth May



Arielle Kayabaga



Rachel Blaney



Michael Coteau



Leah Taylor Roy



Taylor Bachrach



Yasir Naqvi



Patrick Weiler



Tony Van Bynen



Brendan Hanley



Richard Cannings

The way Canada's current electoral system works, most voters cast ballots for a candidate who does not get elected, leaving people feeling disenfranchised when election results don't represent their views.

In 2015, the Liberals promised that election would be the last under our first-past-the-post voting system, but they never followed through.

My Private Members Motion 77 calls on the governing party to create a national citizens' assembly on electoral reform, as a first step in making our democracy more representative of our interests. The motion has received widespread support from MPs across party lines, and has hit the maximum of 20 joint seconders (pictured above).

With growing support, the Liberal party recently voted in support of a similar resolution at their annual convention, also calling on the government to establish a non-partisan citizens' assembly. The Prime Minister reacted by saying it would not be a priority for the government until there is consensus on how to move forward. A citizens' assembly could help build consensus by bringing together a diverse group of Canadians to study our voting system and propose changes.

I will continue working alongside my colleagues and local and national organizations like Fair Vote Canada to make sure every vote counts.

AMPLIFYING MARGINALIZED VOICES

It's incredibly powerful to see and hear the stories of folks with lived experience of homelessness. I recently received a copy of Douglas MacLellan's beautiful photobook, *Making Home*, featuring people The Working Centre serves everyday.

I promised Douglas I would bring his photos with me to Ottawa, to remind me of some of the people I'm there to fight for.

I recently flipped through his book before a ten-minute exchange on the housing crisis with MP Irek Kusmierczyk. Afterwards, I showed him the book and shared photos and stories of our neighbours.

I'm grateful to Douglas for helping me centre those in our community that I wish more Parliamentarians got a chance to get to know.





At the United Way Spirit Awards with award winning team members from Kind Minds and The Literacy Group.



Standing with Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit at a sacred fire on Red Dress Day, remembering those missing and murdered.



Recognizing the leadership of Carizon, KW Counselling, and Monica Place, uniting to strengthen services as one through Camino.



Honouring the 108th anniversary of the Armenian genocide with Armenian community members.



Celebrating Sustainable Waterloo Region and incredible local businesses and charities at their Evening of Recognition.



Speaking to hundreds of high school students from across the region during simulated government negotiations.

WORKERS' RIGHTS



It was an honour to join picket lines in Kitchener and Ottawa in solidarity with federal workers fighting for fair wages, more inclusive workplaces, and for remote work options to be included in their collective agreement.

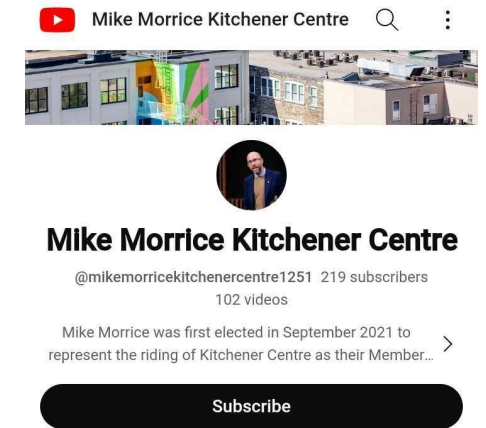
I'm glad both the Union of Taxation Employees and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) have each reached tentative deals with the public service, allowing employees to return to work.

Wages and working conditions in the public service raise standards in the private sector too: when public sector workers win, all workers win.

I'll be watching the ratification process for Canada Revenue Agency workers in our community, as well as the larger deal negotiated for 120,000 other PSAC workers.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

It's important to me to report back on the work I'm doing for you in Ottawa. If you're interested in seeing how I'm tackling your priorities in the House of Commons, check out or subscribe to my YouTube channel found at mikemorricemp.ca.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Did you know you can book a phone, video, or backyard chat with me to hear from you and a group of your local family, friends, or neighbours?

Let me know what's important to you— book a Community Conversation through my website mikemorricemp.ca or call my office at 519-741-2001.



Earlier this year I was happy to meet with residents of Sandhills Retirement Community for a Community Conversation on what's important to them!