

Catherine McKenna

Your Member of Parliament for Ottawa–Centre



SUMMER 2016 REPORT

Since taking office nine months ago, my team and I have been working hard to represent and serve the residents of Ottawa Centre. It has been rewarding to engage with constituents and organizations in the riding on a range of issues – from community mailboxes to electoral reform. I have really enjoyed connecting with you through meetings, public consultations, community events, and on social media.

In our discussions, I have heard from many of you how strongly you feel about having local representation on the board of the National Capital Commission (NCC). This was one of my campaign commitments. So I was very happy to see Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Gatineau Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin attend their first NCC board meeting last April as ex-officio board members. As well, I am very pleased the Memorial for Victims of Communism will be built at the Garden of Provinces and Territories – a much more appropriate site than the one originally planned by the previous Government in front of the Supreme Court.

I continue to hear from residents about the need for transparency and consultation in decision-making. At the public information session about the Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus, Dr. Jack Kitts, Member of Provincial Parliament Yasir Naqvi and I all agreed that we need to bring the community together around a new hospital in downtown Ottawa, with consultation, and open and transparent communication. This is why I fully support the NCC's ongoing review of federal sites for the Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus. Through an open and transparent process, the NCC will provide our government with a recommendation on a location in downtown Ottawa by November. We know Ottawa Centre needs a new, state-of-the-art hospital and our community needs to be engaged in the process – stay tuned for more information about the NCC's public engagement on this review.

Budget 2016: Growing the Middle Class

Our new government's first federal budget was released last March. Budget 2016 takes important steps to revitalize the Canadian economy, and also brings real opportunity and great news for Ottawa Centre. Here are some highlights:

- \$3.4 billion over three years for public transit, including funding for large-scale projects, such as Ottawa's new light rail transit, as well as smaller scale projects such as the pedestrian footbridge that will connect Old Ottawa East and the Glebe.
- \$2.3 billion over two years for affordable housing – I campaigned for this support as an important aspect of community building and sustainability in Ottawa Centre.
- Up to \$2 billion over three years to improve research and innovation infrastructure at post-secondary institutions like the University of Ottawa, Carleton and Algonquin College.
- \$2.1 billion over five years towards retrofits, repairs and greening government operations to reduce the footprint of federal government buildings, many of which are located in the National Capital Region.

Canadians understand that a country can't cut its way to prosperity. A new approach – one that includes smart investments and fair choices – is what Canadians need. And that's what Budget 2016 delivers.

Action on Climate Change

On April 22nd, I had the honour of joining Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the historic signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change at the UN in New York. On May 6th, I tabled the Paris Agreement in the House of Commons and it should be ratified later this year. Our government knows fighting climate change is a tremendous challenge, but can also give Canadians a tremendous opportunity to build a clean growth economy and create well-paying jobs for middle class Canadians. I am working hard with my provincial and territorial counterparts on a pan-Canadian plan to tackle climate change, to be announced this fall.

We know that to move towards a real solution we need to work with all partners – including at the community level. That is why I was very pleased to host a town hall on climate change in Ottawa Centre on April 28th at the Glebe Community Centre. Nearly 300 residents turned out to provide their ideas on how we can tackle climate change. I heard some great ideas on a range of topics, including reducing emissions, putting a price on carbon, growing good jobs through clean technology and preparing our community for the effects of climate change.

For those of you who weren't able to attend the town hall, I still want to hear your comments! Submit your ideas at www.canada.ca/climateaction.



On April 28th the residents of Ottawa Centre shared their thoughts and ideas on how we can tackle climate change at the Glebe Community Centre.

New Canal Access Points

On May 10th, I was joined by a flotilla of canoeists from around Ottawa Centre to open two new paddle access points along the Rideau Canal. The community around the Canal wanted these docks, which will give safe and easy access to the Canal for paddlers and their canoes, kayaks and paddle-boards, and allow even more community members and visitors to enjoy the history and beauty of our national treasure. As the Minister responsible for Parks, I was pleased to be able to deliver on this for the community.

One access point is on the west side in the Glebe at Patterson Creek and the other is on the east side in Old Ottawa East at Clegg Avenue. I encourage you to get out your canoes and kayaks and take advantage of these new docks with your family and friends. On June 25th, I held a community paddle, together with the Glebe and Old Ottawa East Community Associations, where we did just this, followed by a picnic at Patterson Creek!

The new paddle docks are just one part of the \$57 million federal government infrastructure investment to improve and repair the Rideau Canal. It is the largest investment of its kind in the 184-year history of the Rideau Canal and will be used to repair and restore bridges, dams, locks and historic masonry structures in communities along the Canal for future generations.

Canada Child Benefit

In our first term in office, our government has followed through on our commitment to support the middle class. I'm particularly proud of the new Canada Child Benefit (CCB). Starting this summer, families who need it most will start receiving CCB.

The CCB will benefit 9 out of 10 families, and will give parents more tax-free money to help with the high cost of raising their kids. In fact, three million families will receive more money than ever before.

Here is how the CCB is making a difference for families:

- Take Samantha. She's a single mom with a three-year-old daughter named Julia, and she earned \$30,000 in 2015. This summer, she'll receive her first tax-free monthly benefit of \$533, helping her pay for the family's ever-expanding grocery bill.
- Anne and John have two children – Chris is seven and Liam is four. John earned \$84,000 and Ann earned \$36,000 in 2015. This summer, their household will receive its first tax-free monthly benefit of \$328, giving them the extra boost needed to send Chris and Liam to summer camp.

Our government is working to build an economy that better serves the middle class, because we know that when middle class Canadians have money to save, invest, and grow the economy, all Canadians benefit.

What will the new CCB mean for your family? Find out more and calculate your benefit at: www.canada.ca/canada-child-benefit

How to Get in Touch

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Sign up for my new e-newsletter by e-mailing Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Stay tuned for more innovative and sustainable ways to communicate with me in the coming months!



I was thrilled to announce new paddle access points on the Rideau Canal on May 10th.



We're working to build an economy that works for the middle class, because we know that when middle class Canadians have money to save, invest, and grow the economy, all Canadians benefit.



It was an incredible honour to be at the signing of the Paris Agreement on Earth Day.