

REAL CHANGE FOR CANADIANS

MIKE BOSSIO MP
Hastings-Lennox and Addington

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Dear friends,

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 MP in Hastings-Lennox and Addington is done in as non-partisan a way as possible. That's why I have adopted the House of Commons green colour scheme for my office, and for my newsletters.

I also understand that many Canadians are frustrated with the amount of newsletters that they have received, sometimes with partisan angles and misleading questionnaires. I want to do things differently. Those who know me also know how environmentally conscious I am, so I really struggled with this use of paper. If I could reach everyone by email, phone, and door to door, I would, but at the end of the day, in a riding of over 92,000 people, there are many who can only be reached by these newsletters. I have a responsibility to them. Therefore, while I will be sending a small number of newsletters throughout the year, they will be focused on what services my office can provide, as well as what work I and the government are doing and what vision we have. My constituents deserve to know these things so that they can hold me, and their government, accountable.

Since the election, I have met with over 50 municipalities and organizations throughout the riding, along with countless private meetings with constituents. I have also been blessed to be placed on two committees in Parliament—Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. My Liberal colleagues also entrusted me with the position of chair of National Rural Caucus.

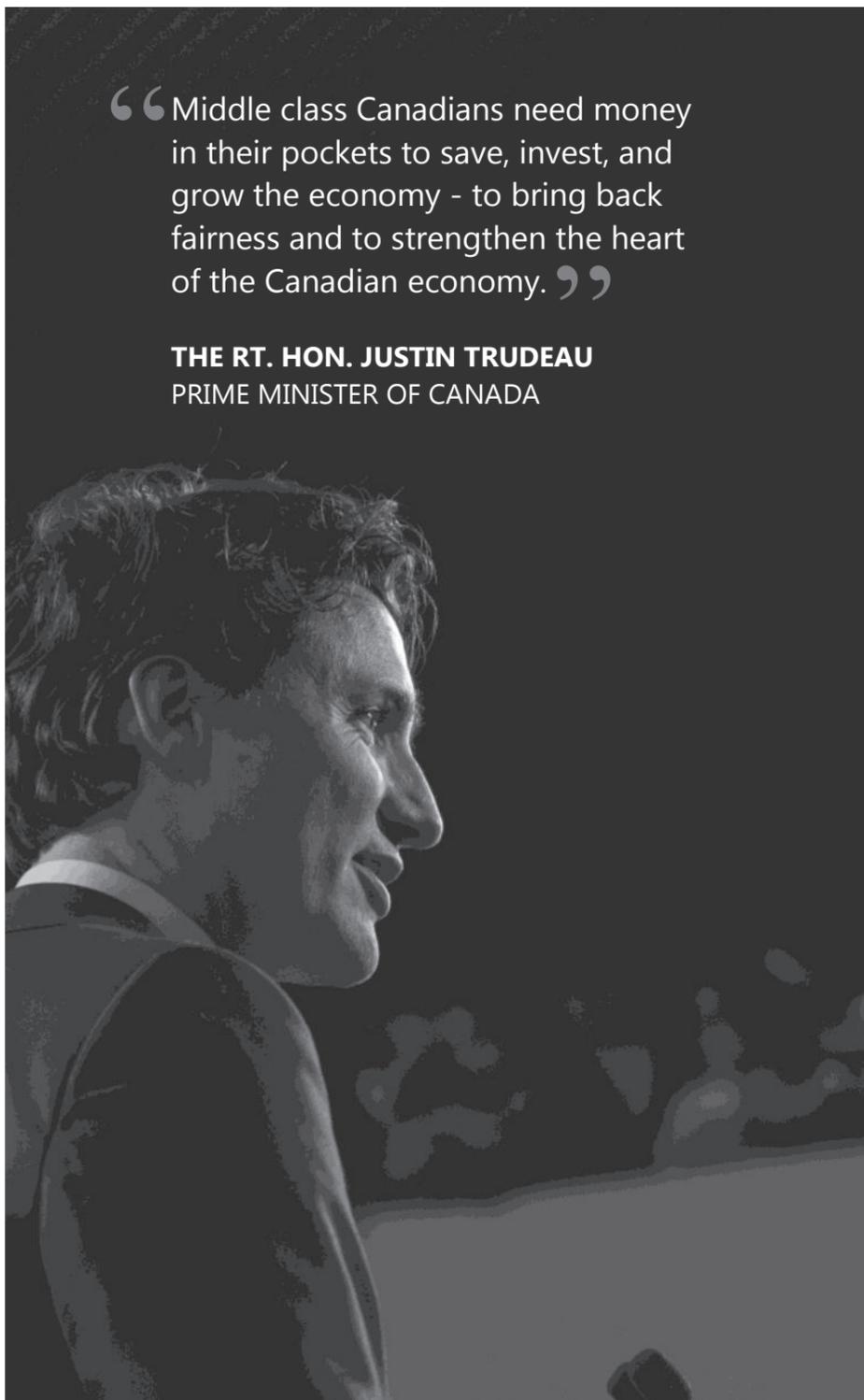
I pledge to work my very hardest to see positive change on all these files, which are very dear to my heart. I look forward to hearing from you on these and any other issues.

Please remember to recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it. Thank you!

Yours in service, Mike

“Middle class Canadians need money in their pockets to save, invest, and grow the economy - to bring back fairness and to strengthen the heart of the Canadian economy.”

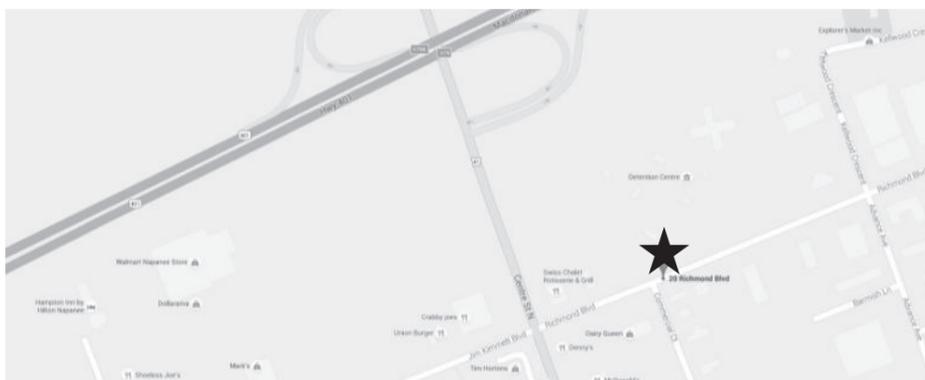
THE RT. HON. JUSTIN TRUDEAU
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA



Our main constituency office is here:
20-B Richmond Blvd, Napanee ON, K7R 4A4

We also have 5 satellite office locations throughout the riding on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Find more details inside this newsletter.

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PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS	MIKE'S WORK FOR YOU	OFFICES AND SERVICES	MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT	ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
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Pre-Budget Consultations

Our Government has promised real change in Canada. That means investing in middle class families and making sure they have every opportunity to succeed. It means creating jobs by making the right investments in roads, bridges, transit, housing and green infrastructure. And it means asking those who have a lot, to give a little more to those who need it.

But it also means doing politics differently. Talking to people, bouncing ideas off of each other – working together towards innovative solutions. That's why Mike Bossio has been so active in Hastings-Lennox and Addington with pre-budget consultations, including four large roundtables with businesses and not-for-profits in Bancroft and Napanee, as well as about 50 meetings with municipalities and organizations throughout the riding since the election.

As we look to Budget 2016, we know there's never been a better time than right now to make the right investments. Ones that create jobs, put more money in people's pockets, and support economic growth.

We have seen the difference that open-dialogue can make in achieving real change, and we have options about how to invest, where to focus our efforts, and how to grow an economy that works for Canadians. The



Mike held Pre-Budget Consultation roundtables in Bancroft and Napanee. He also met with about 50 municipalities and organizations throughout the riding.

Liberal government knows that Canadians like you are on the front lines of our economy every day, and real change means listening to your concerns and ideas.

That's where you come in.

To prepare for our upcoming 2016 Federal Budget, Finance Minister Bill Morneau travelled the country to hear from you, and Liberal Caucus MPs held meetings in their ridings to consult. Your observations and opinions are important, and every Canadian deserves a voice at the table when decisions are being made about our future.

Tens of thousands of Canadians engaged and shared their thoughts for Budget 2016 through meetings, events and through online channels – the highest-ever turnout for pre-budget consultations on record.

If you have further thoughts on the budget, Mike would be happy to hear from you. You can contact him directly by mail, email, or phone (listed on the back page of this newsletter).

The budget date has now been set for March 22, 2016.

Mike's Work for You

Consult, Consult, Consult!

From day one, I wanted to hit the ground running. So, by now I have met with about 50 municipalities and organizations in the riding alone, from Hastings Highlands to Loyalist Township, and many places in between. In order to be your voice in Ottawa, I know that I have to consult on a regular basis. I've also had countless private meetings with constituents to talk about their concerns, ideas, and cases. I have an amazing team on my staff to help me serve the great people of Hastings-Lennox and Addington. We will all continue to work hard!

National Rural Caucus

I couldn't be more grateful to my colleagues for entrusting me with the responsibility of chair of National Rural Caucus. There is a lot of work to do, but you can really feel the energy and enthusiasm for getting it done throughout the Liberal Caucus. It's exciting to be a part of it.

I feel that we need to take a holistic approach to rural Canada. Rural Canada

includes agriculture, forestry, and fishing of course, but it also includes access to high speed internet, cell coverage, tourism, small business development, mining and many other issues. There are common issues in rural Canada, but no rural riding is completely alike. One big issue so far has been carving off a piece of funding for small rural communities. Building long term, sustainable rural communities is at the heart of all the work that this caucus will be doing.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

I am so honoured to be on this committee! My experience as a community activist founding and leading the group against the mega-dump expansion of the Richmond landfill led to a close working relationship with my friends and neighbours in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, including Chief R. Donald Maracle.

I'm also privileged to have an important friendship with Prof. Marlene Brant-

Castellano O.C., a past leader in the Native Studies department at Trent University and a co-chair of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In fact, she and I attended the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission together.

I am seized with the weight of this file, and will work collaboratively on a nation to nation basis to see real change for First Nations in Canada. I am also very pleased that my committee has agreed to an open and inclusive approach of having as many of our sessions televised as we can. Find more information online here: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/AANO>



Mike joined Indigenous Affairs Min. Carolyn Bennett and his Aboriginal Affairs Committee colleagues for a breakfast to get to know one another.

"I want to be the voice of my constituents in Ottawa, not the voice of Ottawa in the riding. To do that, I have to be consulting and listening constantly."

— Mike Bossio

Offices and Services

We live in a huge riding! So, in order to provide the services that my constituents deserve, I have to make sure that I am providing access in several different parts of the riding. Of course, my teams and I are always available by email and phone, but we want to do more than that too. So, in addition to the full time office in Napanee, my staff and I will be holding offices hours at satellite offices throughout the riding. Here are the details:

Main Office: Napanee

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

Satellite Offices:

Bancroft

Municipal Building (24 Flint St). Second Tuesday of every month. In 2016, that's: Feb. 9, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14, Jul. 12, Aug. 9, Sep. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13
12:00pm – 4:00pm

Madoc (Centre Hastings)

Municipal Building (7 Furnace St). Third Tuesday, every other month. In 2016, that's: Feb. 16, Apr. 19, Jun. 21, Aug. 16, Oct. 18, Dec. 20
12:00pm – 4:00pm

Tweed

Municipal Building (255 Metcalf St). Fourth Tuesday, every other month. In 2016, that's: Mar. 22, May 24, Jul. 26, Sep. 27, Nov. 22
12:00pm – 4:00pm



Mike is joined by family and friends at his swearing-in ceremony at Parliament Hill in November 2015.

Stirling

Municipal Building (2529 Stirling-Rawdon Rd). Third Tuesday, every other month. In 2016, that's: Mar. 15, May 17, Jul. 19, Sep. 20, Nov. 15
12:00pm – 4:00pm

Flinton

Municipal Building (72 Edward St). Fourth Tuesday, every other month. In 2016, that's: Feb. 23, Apr. 26, Jun. 28, Aug. 23, Oct. 25
12:00pm – 4:00pm

My team and I are here to help in cases where we are able to do so. While we cannot give legal advice, we are here to help on case work that involves the federal government.

We can point you to governmental and local support resources in terms of utilities, rent, and food. We can also offer help in difficult cases with:

- Employment Insurance

- Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Veterans Affairs
- Service Canada-related issues such as CPP, CPPD, OAS, and GIS

We can also help you with:

- Passport applications and renewal

We can offer congratulatory letters from myself, the PM, or the Queen, for select special occasions (such as 100th birthdays).

I will aim to include more information on all of these types of services and more in future newsletters.

Please also let me and my team know if you have a special event or celebration that you would like me to attend or to recognize.

You can also contact my office if you want to be placed on my non-partisan email list for the most up to date news!

Middle Class Tax Cut

When middle class Canadians have more money in their pockets to save, invest, and grow the economy, we all benefit.

In December 2015, Finance Minister Bill Morneau introduced new legislation that will cut the second personal income tax bracket to 20.5 percent from 22 percent. To help pay for this middle class tax cut, the Government is asking the wealthiest one percent of Canadians to contribute a little more by introducing a new tax bracket of 33 percent for individuals earning more than \$200,000 each year.

Canadians with taxable annual income between \$45,282 and \$90,563 will see their income tax rate fall.

The middle class tax cut will provide roughly \$3.4 billion in annual tax reduction to nearly 9 million Canadians.

Single individuals who benefit will see an average tax reduction of \$330 every year, and couples who benefit will see an average tax reduction of \$540 every year.

Canada Child Benefit to be Included

in Budget 2016

Going forward, the Government of Canada will introduce proposals in Budget 2016 to create the new Canada Child Benefit (CCB)—one simpler, tax-free, and more generous benefit, to help those families who need it most.

The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will provide tax-free support to families and lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty. Nine out of ten Canadian families will be better off with this new child benefit system.

TAXABLE INCOME	OLD Rate %	NEW Rate %
Up to \$45,282	15.0	15.0
\$45,282 - \$90,563	22.0	20.5
\$90,563 - \$140,388	26.0	26.0
\$140,388 - \$200,000	29.0	29.0
Over \$200,000	29.0	33.0



Mike cuts the ribbon to open his office with Napanee Mayor Gord Schermerhorn, Hastings County Warden Rick Phillips, and L&A County Warden Clarence Kennedy

Mike's Speech at Environment Committee

(Edited to shorten its length. Contact me for the full version, or visit my Facebook page)

It's wonderful that we're finally taking climate change seriously, and wanting to deal with carbon—what we see as the main instigator of climate change. The elephant in the room that many don't talk about is consumption. Consumption, to me, really is the cause of climate change and the cause of a lot of other things we have to deal with in our society, in that it's unsustainable at the levels it's at today.

How do we deal with consumption? We need to look at the social and the environmental costs of consumption in order to properly look at the true costs of what we're doing in society, from an economic, social, and environmental standpoint.

Today, part of the problem we have with consumption is that for the last 60 years advertisers have been telling us to consume, and to consume as quickly as possible. The taxpayer has been responsible for dealing with the end of life of that consumable good or product. Because we're dealing with end-of-life from a consumer standpoint, and the consumer has been convinced they should consume, nothing is ever going to be done with consumption unless we take a different approach to it via stewardship, making producers responsible for what they produce.

Everybody looks at stuff today that we consume and they go, "Yes, but it's recyclable." That seems to be the first point they go to, when actually, the first point should be **Reduce**. The second point, I think, should be **Repair**. The third point should be **Reuse**, and the fourth should be changed to **Upcycle**, not to recycle. The second we think of recycling, we automatically think of down cycling, that it doesn't have as much value as it should, in my view. If we change it, if we frame it in this way, we'll go a long way to mitigating the impacts of consumption, and do it in a more responsible way.

Why is it a washing machine only lasts five years? Because they want it to last for five



years so that you buy a new one. Why is it more expensive to repair than to buy new?

If you start repairing things, all those repair jobs that we had a generation ago that went away because we decided it was cheaper to buy a new one than it waste fix it, they come back and that creates a whole level of employment within our society that we lost, and a whole level of experience in skills, trades, that we've lost that need to come back, because that's once again the only way we can be sustainable moving forward.

Then if you look at things from an upcycle standpoint, all of a sudden things become more modular. You take a washing machine, the only thing that has changed in a washing machine in 30 years or 40 years is the electronics in it, the control systems. So instead of throwing away the whole machine just to replace the control systems, you make it modular, and you take that out and you unplug a new electronic component, you plug it back in, or if it's broken you replace them, or if it's completely obsolete you bring it back to the factory and the factory rebuilds it as a modular unit and then turnaround and sells it again.

I think we need to shift, and that shift has to happen here. This is where the leadership is in our country. This is why we chose to be on

this committee. It starts with us.

Here we are, we're talking about climate change, yet as a government all of us MPs are flying all over the place or taking trips here and there. A number of us have to commute from our home ridings, which is completely understandable, of course, but why is the government not looking at carbon offsets to offset that footprint for flights? Why is government not using electric buses? We have a company in Quebec that actually manufactures electric buses that we should be buying and they're selling them all over the world, and we don't even buy them here in our own country. We have to lead if we expect others to follow.

Once again, conservation is really the direction we should be heading in first. If we start to think how do I consume less and reduce my footprint on this planet, you know, we will look at how we can leave this world better place for not just the next generation but for two or three or four generations or, as the indigenous communities say, seven generations ahead. It really does start with us. I'm going to continue to work very hard on this to try to figure out where can we plant the seeds and then how do we nurture them to take root and take on a life of their own.

What issues facing Canadians should the government focus on ?

Contact me at mike.bossio@parl.gc.ca

Or you can send a postage-free letter:
Room 601, Justice Building
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Or you can call my office:
Telephone: 613-354-0909
Toll-free: 1-866-471-3800