

Mike Bossio

Member of Parliament • Hastings—Lennox and Addington



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Madoc Advocate Meets PM



Nicole Flynn, her father Duane Flynn, and mother Kathryn Primrose, met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and MP Mike Bossio in late October. Flynn presented the Prime Minister with a copy of her poem, "I am not invisible".

Nicole Flynn from Madoc is really going places – all the way to the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, in fact.

In October, Nicole joined Mike Bossio for a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in his historic Centre Block office.

"Meeting the Prime Minister was a dream come true, I was ecstatic," said Flynn. "I didn't know what to say. The Prime Minister looked

"He knows that I have a difference, but he treated me equal to everyone else"

right at me. He did not treat me like I was invisible. He knows that I have a difference but he treated me equal to everyone else. I look up to Prime Minister Trudeau because he encouraged me. I know I have to start with my education so that I can get up to where I want to be for my career and he encouraged me."

As a person with Down Syndrome, Nicole advocated for the meeting in order to present the Prime Minister with a poem that she has written called "I Am Not Invisible," which she had presented to Bossio earlier.

"I don't make many meeting requests of the Prime Minister since he has such a busy schedule, but I really wanted to come through for Nicole on this meeting," said Bossio. "I met with Nicole earlier this year and she impressed me so much with her strength, dedication, and tenacity."

Nicole has been interested in politics for quite some time, and has ideas of her own to contribute, which quickly becomes clear in discussions with her.

"If I had more time I would have liked to tell the Prime Minister that I support a change to our electoral system to give smaller parties an opportunity to get a seat and to be heard. Maybe there could be a Disability Party," suggested Flynn.

Flynn's goal is to become a senator someday, but she believes that it is not fair that "the rule for people applying to be a senator says the individual must own a piece of land." She points out that since she has a disability, she "cannot own land or I will lose my Ontario Disability Support Program benefits."

Bossio pointed out that "Nicole instantly makes a good impression. I know that with her hard work ethic she will go far. If she sets her mind to it, the possibilities are endless."

Bossio & Rural Caucus Secure \$2 Billion for Rural Communities

More federal money will be invested in rural communities across Canada after Mike Bossio and National Liberal Rural Caucus met with the Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau, who announced \$2 billion in additional infrastructure funding for rural and remote communities in the Fall Fiscal Update.

"As chair of Rural Caucus," says Bossio, "I am continuously advocating on behalf of my colleagues to bring the unique needs of our rural communities to the attention of the government. I'm proud to say that we have a government who not only makes every effort to consult, but who listens and acts on it." (Cont'd page two)

I AM NOT INVISIBLE

By Nicole Flynn

People talk to me as if I am a child...
I am an adult,
Look in my eyes and talk to me as an adult.

People talk to me as if my feelings don't matter
I feel things,
I hurt inside when things happen.

People won't even let me try
I want the chance to try,
I might make mistakes; I will keep trying.

People do not see me; they treat me like I am invisible
I am here,
I want people to look at me.

People tell me what to do all of the time
I can make decisions,
I am able to think for myself.

People treat me like a non-person
I am a human being,
I am not a mistake.

Funding for Rural Communities Cont'd



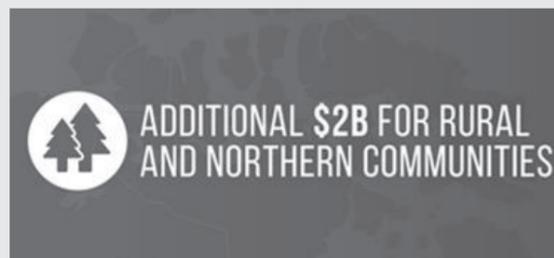
Mike Bossio, as Chair of the National Liberal Rural Caucus, welcomed Finance Minister Bill Morneau to a meeting of rural caucus in October in order to outline the priorities of Rural Canada for budget consultations.

Investing in rural and northern infrastructure will help grow local businesses, ensure all Canadians benefit from—and play an active role in—their communities, and better safeguard the health and environment of communities across Canada.

In a country as vast as Canada, each region and community has unique challenges. Rural and northern communities require a tailored approach to meet their infrastructure needs.

"I heard time and again from the over 80 calls and meetings that I've had with municipal officials in our riding about how challenging it is for our small communities to compete with large communities for funding, and how important it is to upgrade their water and sewer systems." says Bossio. "The \$2 billion in additional funding for infrastructure in rural and remote communities across Canada that was announced in the Fall Fiscal Update is

further proof that our government is taking its commitment to rural communities very seriously. I will continue to work hard to level the playing field."



Taking into account existing infrastructure programs, new investments made in Budget 2016, and the additional investments contained in the Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Canada will be investing more than \$180 billion in infrastructure over 12 years. Investments will be made in five key priority areas: public transit, green and social infrastructure, transportation infrastructure that supports trade, as well as rural and northern communities.

In Business? Get to Know Community Futures!

CFDCs, are community-based, non-profit organizations aimed at encouraging business growth, entrepreneurship, and economic development. Supported by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, your local CFDC offers a range of services to support your business including:

- Business financing up to \$250,000*
- Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) grant funding
- Free business advisory services
- Connections to other service agencies and community partners
- Various additional supports and services

Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation

Serving Lennox & Addington County and Prince Edward County
Napanee: 613-354-0162
Picton: 613-476-7901 x 200

TREIVAL Business Development Corporation

Serving Belleville, Quinte West, Stirling-Rawdon, Tyendinaga Township, and Deseronto
613-961-7999

Community Futures Development Corporation of North & Central Hastings & South Algonquin

Serving Bancroft, Tweed, Madoc, Marmora and surrounding Townships
Bancroft, Main Office: 613-332-5564
Madoc: 613-473-1616

Remembering Those Who Serve

There is no day more solemn in our calendar and in our hearts than Remembrance Day. We remember the courage, service, and sacrifice of Canada's veterans. We remember the dedication of their families and our commitment to them. And we remember the still-serving men and women of Canada's Armed Forces – many far from home but always close to our hearts.

They are ordinary Canadians making extraordinary sacrifices. As such, we owe them a duty to help heal the deep wounds of combat, to care for them beyond the battlefield, and to all always remember their individual and collective sacrifice for freedom and peace. Lest we forget.



Mike was honoured to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony in Tamworth this year, and to join in the activities at the Legion after the ceremony. Pictured left to right are Terry Shelly, Mike, Roger Szapira, and Kathleen McBryan. Photo courtesy of Barry Lovegrove Photography.



Mike joined MP Neil Ellis and Belleville Senators VP Roger Lajoie to discuss new economic opportunities



Mike popped into Mike's Tire Service in Napanee to announce development funding for a tire machine



Mike spoke to students at North Hastings Secondary School, including Jordan & Lexus, who are members of our Constituency Youth Council in HLA



Mike and volunteers marched in several Santa Claus parades, including this one in Amherstview



Mike announced \$38,450 for Vi-Lux Building Products in Napanee to support production expansion



Mike went to Garrow's Car Care Centre in Napanee to announce development funding for emissions testing accreditation equipment and training



Mike announced a \$10,400 investment for Stinson Studios in Tamworth to stabilize and enhance capabilities, which will lead to increased production and the ability to increase the company's export sales.

CRA, Benefits, & You!

"My Canada Revenue Agency Benefits have stopped!" "What can I do to ensure my benefits don't stop again?" Our office often gets calls from panicked constituents asking these questions. Staff members are happy to inquire with CRA and/or provide guidance. Avoiding this scenario in the first place, however, is always good! Our key tips:

- Be sure to file your income tax and benefit return on time. Even if you have no income in that year, filing ensures you'll continue to receive any benefits you're entitled to.
- Keep your personal information up-to-date. This includes change of address, current marital status, and direct deposit information. Any change that isn't reported promptly can delay payments or result in incorrect payment amounts. No one wants to be paying back CRA!
- Sign up for direct deposit to avoid mail issues. If you change deposit accounts, consider keeping the old one open for one payment cycle to give CRA lead time to update your account.
- Open mail from CRA promptly! It's best to respond to CRA requests as soon as possible, because they may stop benefit payments while they await a response.
- Spouses or common-law partners, communicate with each other! Benefits like GST are paid to the partner whose tax return CRA completes first.
- Keep your supporting documents or copies in case CRA requests them in the future.
- Consider signing up for an online CRA My Account, or downloading the CRA app MyBenefits for your phone. These allow you to do many things easily: for example, address changes, banking updates, and statement requests.
- Questions? Call CRA's Benefit Enquiries line at 1-800-387-1193. Or if you need help resolving an issue, please contact our constituency office; we'd be pleased to assist.

Tackling the Suicide Crisis



After returning from a four day parliamentary trip to study the suicide crisis in indigenous communities, Mike met with local advocates Shawn Antoski and Lisa Kemp to share what he learned, and to learn more from them.

I recently returned from an Indigenous Committee trip to Vancouver and Sioux Lookout to study the suicide crisis in indigenous communities and seek solutions. When I got back, I met with two local advocates in our riding, Shawn Antoski and Lisa Kemp, to exchange ideas, since as Shawn says, “the scary part is that we tend to think that it is other communities that are struggling, but this is everywhere.”

Anyone who has followed our local news knows the heartbreaking stories of suicide—particularly youth suicide—in our own community. The statistics are staggering: 1 in 20 people, or 5-7% of our population are thinking about suicide at any time. In 2012, it was listed as the 2nd leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds globally.

There are no easy solutions to a systemic

problem, but we agreed that we need to train more people to look for the signs of distress, and we really need to create a culture where it is okay to talk about mental health in general—to break the stigma.

I am also encouraged to see Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, announce the development of a national suicide prevention service. This will use text, chat, and phone technology to integrate regional crisis line services across Canada. Once fully implemented in late 2017, it will ensure that individuals in crisis, regardless of where they live in Canada, have access to free and confidential support on a 24/7 basis.

If you or someone you know are in need of help, please reach out to the resources that are available. I have included them here in this newsletter.

Resources Available

- Open Line Open Mind (613) 310-OPEN (6736) is a free, confidential service to get information, support and referral to all mental health and addictions services in Hastings County.
- Kids Help Phone 800-668-6868 (Crisis Line) is Canada’s only bilingual phone and on-line counselling service for youth. It’s free, anonymous and confidential. Professional counsellors are available any time of the day or night, 365 days a year, to help young people deal with concerns large or small.
- Children’s Mental Health Services—dedicated to serving children, youth and their families in Hastings County. Voluntary service committed to strengthening and supporting the emotional well-being of children, youth, and their families in the least-intrusive and most confidential manner. 613-966-3100
- 211’s award-winning telephone helpline (2-1-1) and website provide a gateway to community, social, non-clinical health and related government services. 211 helps to navigate the complex network of human services quickly and easily, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 100 languages. Phone 211
- Addiction and Mental Health Services (Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington): If you’re in distress, struggling or just feel you just can’t cope anymore, or know someone who is, they are here for you. Crisis Services are available to anyone in the community experiencing a crisis. They will provide support, advocacy and referrals to agency and community services where needed. 24/7 Crisis Phone Line: 613-354-7388. Toll Free: 800-267-7877
- Canadian Mental Health Association (Hastings and Prince Edward Branch) - Suicide Bereavement Group. This is a closed group, supporting family members through the loss of someone to suicide. This is an 8 week program, with three facilitators. There will be reunions once a month after the formal group sessions are finished. This group is only for the family members or close friends – no observers or students. Contact their office at 613-969-8874

Attention Small Businesses & Not-for-Profits: Apply Now for the Canada Summer Jobs Program!

Canada Summer Jobs applications for small businesses, public-sector, and not-for-profits are available at Service Canada Centres and online at www.servicecanada.gc.ca/csj

Applications must be submitted by January 20, 2017. Employers will be able to complete and submit their applications online, by mail or in person (note that faxed applications are not accepted).

If employers have specific questions about applications, please contact Service Canada officials, who are available to provide clarification and assistance. Their phone number is: 1-800-935-5555.

The Canada Summer Jobs Program is a key component of the Youth Employment



Strategy, a Government of Canada initiative. This program helps employers create summer job opportunities for students in their communities. It is designed to focus on local priorities, while achieving tangible results for both students and their communities.

The program provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create summer job opportunities for students aged 15 to 30.

Your opinion means a lot to me.

Send your postage-free letters to:

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