

Francis SCARPALEGGIA

Member of Parliament for Lac-Saint-Louis



Inside this edition

- ◆ Letter to constituents
- ◆ Join me on Facebook
- ◆ A national food policy
- ◆ The role of caucus
- ◆ Protecting our rivers and lakes
- ◆ Delivering results

Constituency Office

1 Holiday Avenue
635 East Tower
Pointe-Claire, Quebec
H9R 5N3
Tel: 514-695-6661
Fax: 514-695-3708

Stay in touch

Ottawa Office

413 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-995-8281
Fax: 613-995-0528



www.scarpaleggia.ca



[Facebook/fscarpaleggia](https://www.facebook.com/fscarpaleggia)



[Instagram/francis.scarpaleggia](https://www.instagram.com/francis.scarpaleggia)



[Twitter/ScarpaleggiaLSL](https://twitter.com/ScarpaleggiaLSL)



francis.scarpaleggia@parl.gc.ca

Dear Friends,

Budget 2018 strengthens the foundations of economic growth while promoting equality of opportunity. It does so against the backdrop of expected declines in the federal deficit and debt as percentages of GDP.

The government continues to roll out its \$180-billion multi-year infrastructure plan, which includes \$1.3 billion for the REM light-rail project. But the government also understands that with Canada's unemployment rate at a 40-year low, future prosperity will depend on expanding the supply of labour so that businesses can grow.

For example, the participation rate of young people in the labour market remains low — it has not recovered from its levels before the 2008 financial crisis. Budget 2018 thus further invests in Canada's Youth Employment Strategy which helps youth make a successful transition into the labour market.

According to RBC Economics, if the labour-force participation rates of women and men in Canada were equal, our GDP could see a boost of as much as 4 percent. Budget 2018 supports greater equality in the home and in the workplace by introducing additional weeks of "use it or lose it" EI parental benefits when both parents agree to share parental leave.

In Canada, fewer than 16 percent of businesses are majority-owned by women. The budget thus provides new funding to Canada's regional development agencies, the Business Development of Canada, and Export Development Canada specifically to support women-led businesses.

Join me on Facebook

The number of avenues for communication between citizens and their elected representatives has greatly increased. This a good thing: it is only through open dialogue that politicians can get to know their constituents' priorities and link these to the business of government. My Facebook page — and Twitter account — are important vehicles for obtaining your feedback on those issues that matter to you. They also allow me to keep you informed of my activities.

A national food policy



Hosting a town hall to gather ideas for a national food policy

The government has committed to creating the very first national food policy for Canada. The policy will aim to: increase access to affordable food; improve health and food safety; conserve our soil, water and air; and grow more high-quality food. As part and parcel of this vision, the government has launched the *Healthy Eating Strategy*, which includes the following initiatives: revising Canada's food guide; prohibiting the use of partially-hydrogenated oils in foods; instituting front-of-packaging symbols that will allow consumers to identify foods high in sodium, sugars, or saturated fat; and restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods and beverages to children.

On Parliament Hill



Chairing the weekly meeting of the National Liberal Caucus

The role of caucus

Party caucuses occupy a central role in our Canadian democracy. Our Westminster parliamentary system requires that the party in power be able to command the confidence of the House of Commons in order to govern. Maintaining that confidence is what allows the government to win the votes — on the Throne Speech, the Budget and other legislation — that advance its agenda based on its election platform commitments. The caucus solidarity that is required to carry votes in the House is often mistaken for simple partisan conformity. This view, however, fails to appreciate the purpose of party caucuses in our parliamentary system. Caucus is where Members of Parliament of the same party come together — typically once a week, behind closed doors — to communicate their constituents' views to colleagues with the intent of having those views influence the party's positions in Parliament.

Photo gallery



Speaking to the National Liberal Caucus



With John Abbott student and *Forum for Young Canadians* participant Emily Palmer



In the House of Commons with former World Middleweight Boxing Champion Otis Grant



At the Goldbloom Awards with (left to right), Jocelyn Hay, Dr. Sheila Goldbloom and award recipient Clifford Lincoln

Delivering results

Accountability is at the very heart of a healthy democracy. The lifeblood of accountability, in turn, is information. Citizens must have access to the information they need — in clear and understandable formats — to evaluate their governments' performance. With this fact in mind, the government has launched Canada.ca/Results. This new website reports publicly on progress in delivering on the 364 commitments contained in the Prime Minister's mandate letters to cabinet ministers. The website allows Canadians to easily track the federal government's performance in areas like fighting climate change, growing the economy and strengthening the middle class.



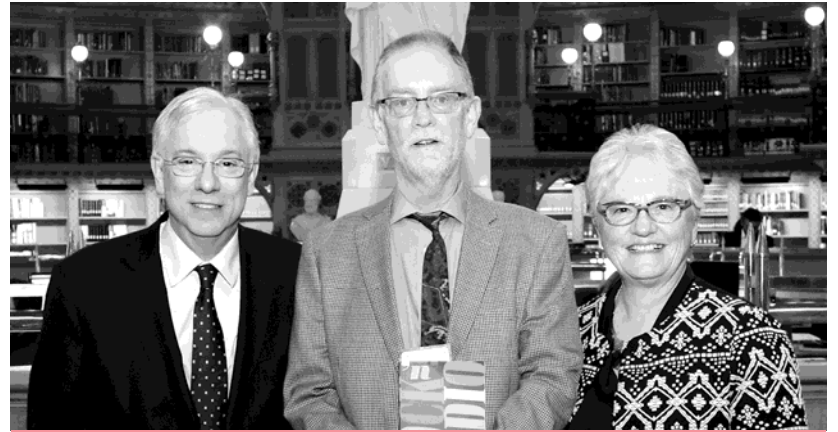
At the City of Kirkland's annual St. Patrick's celebration

The water file: protecting our rivers and lakes

In Canada, water is, for the most part, something that is under the jurisdiction of the provinces. That said, however, Ottawa still has an important role to play in managing and preserving the health of the country's freshwater ecosystems. The federal government exercises this role through its constitutional responsibility for protecting fish (for example, from pollution) and for navigation.

The right to free and unobstructed navigation on Canada's waterways is established under common law and civil law. The 1882 *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA) held that no one could block, alter or destroy a navigable waterway without the federal government's approval. While the law was primarily aimed at protecting the right of navigation, it also indirectly protected the country's freshwater bodies. This is because building culverts, wharves, dams, bridges, and causeways, or undertaking activities like dewatering, dumping and dredging, can affect water quality.

In 2009, the Harper government streamlined the process for approving works in navigable waters. This change to the law exempted certain kinds of works from having to apply for approval. In 2012, the government again amended the NWPA, further reducing its scope. The law's application was now limited to major works in 159 waterways only (a list known as the "Schedule"), instead of in all navigable waterways in Canada. This past February, the Liberal government introduced legislation to, among other things, strengthen the law governing navigation in Canada. *Bill C-69*, if adopted, would require ministerial approval for major works on *any* navigable waterway in Canada (not only those on the Schedule).

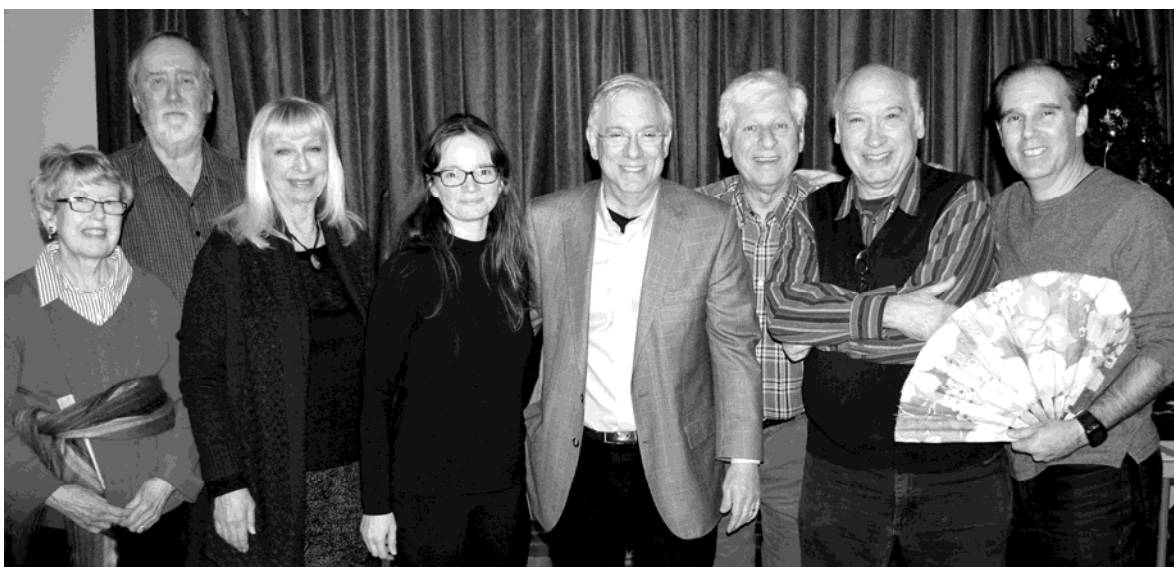


In the Library of Parliament with Ian Howarth, author of a history of Montreal rock/pop radio



With Maxine Bredt, World War II nurse with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps

In the community



At a rehearsal of the Lakeshore Light Opera's performance of *The Mikado*

Canada Child Benefit

THE CANADA CHILD BENEFIT
is supporting families in
Lac-Saint-Louis

Monthly payments	Children supported	Average payment
8,970	15,970	\$520

**Total Monthly Payments in
Lac-Saint-Louis**

\$4,660,000

#realchangeisworking

Based on January 2018 CCB data