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Inside this edition

- ◆ Letter to constituents
- ◆ Progress on GHG emissions
- ◆ Improving flood prediction
- ◆ New passport and Service Canada office locations
- ◆ Addressing the cost of wireless
- ◆ Aging at home
- ◆ Our services
- ◆ Progress against animal testing
- ◆ The Grand parc de l'Ouest

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Dear Friends,

The summer was dominated by headlines of wildfires, community evacuations and smoke-filled air that on occasion drifted as far as New York City. In August, Hurricane Idalia caused shocking devastation south of the border. It is not an exaggeration to say that such events have heightened perceptions — and concerns — around the reality and consequences of climate change.

The climate crisis is, at its core, a water crisis: a matter of too much water or too little. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) are invisible, their significance not always easy to grasp concretely. But the destruction caused by flooding and drought, phenomena that are intensified by climate change, are all too real — and costly.

More precise flood and drought prediction is key to having the capacity to react quickly to these extreme weather events (see “Improving flood prediction” on page 2). At the same time, we must invest in bolstering the long-term resilience of our communities to the increase in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts.

This past June, the government released its much-anticipated National Adaptation Strategy, entitled *Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy*. The NAS provides a

roadmap for adapting to climate impacts in Canada. In the area of disaster-risk mitigation, the NAS action plan outlines ongoing government initiatives that are helping prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related disasters.

For example, the federal government is investing in wildland fire knowledge and research. Wildland fires depend on the interaction between climate, weather, fuel (grasses, shrubs and forests), ignition source, and topography. It is crucial to understand these variables and how they act together.

The government is also expanding the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program, investing to identify high-risk flood areas and creating a new publicly accessible online portal so Canadians can access information on their exposure to flooding.

In terms of helping compensate for flood damages, the 2023 federal budget allocated \$31.7 million to establish a low-cost insurance program to assist vulnerable Canadian households without adequate insurance coverage. The national flood insurance program should be available by January 1, 2025.

Progress on GHG emissions

In 2021, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions were 53 megatonnes (MT) less than the pre-pandemic year of 2019, and 62 MT below 2005 levels. This means we are almost a quarter of the way to our 2030 emissions-reduction goal of 40 to 45 percent below 2005 levels. Also, the emissions intensity for the entire Canadian economy (GHGs per gross domestic product [GDP]) has declined by 42 percent since 1990 and 29 percent since 2005.

The oil and gas sector is the largest contributor to Canada's GHG emissions, representing 28 percent of Canada's total emissions. The government has committed to capping the sector's emissions. In November 2022, it published a proposed framework to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector — by far the most potent GHGs and the main component of natural gas — by 40 to 45 percent by 2025 relative to 2012 emissions and by at least 75 percent by 2030. The government is currently developing a framework to cap the sector's emissions more broadly.

The good news is that oil and gas emissions peaked eight years ago and have since fallen by 7 percent. This is largely because of a series of federal and provincial actions, including federal regulations on fugitive emissions (leaks from connections between, for example, valves and equipment) and venting (controlled releases, for example during well completion, well maintenance and pipeline maintenance).

Improving flood prediction

Accurate flood forecasting is crucial to reducing damages caused by flooding, but flood forecasting is complex. Reliable flood-prediction models require knowledge of the characteristics of a river basin, such as soil-moisture conditions, ground temperature, snowpack, topography, vegetation cover, etc. In northern climates like ours, matters are further complicated by the need to take account of factors like ice jams which influence water flows and levels.

In Canada, flood forecasting is fragmented because of our unique federated structure. In an effort to encourage greater federal-provincial collaboration in flood forecasting, I have introduced a private member's bill — Bill C-317 — calling on the federal government to give priority to working with the provinces and Indigenous communities on developing a truly national flood-forecasting system.

New passport and Service Canada office locations

This past August, the Fairview passport office was relocated. The Service Canada centre in Pointe-Claire (St-Jean and Highway 40) also moved. Both have relocated to:

2400 Sourves Boulevard
Suite 106
Pointe-Claire, Quebec
H9R 0E9

All Service Canada services can now be accessed in one location. Compared to the old Fairview passport office, the new site offers a larger waiting area, modernized infrastructure and, importantly, complies with the most recent accessibility standards for both clients and employees. It is also easily accessible by bus and is close to the future REM station at Sources and Highway 40.



At the press conference to announce the plan to eliminate subsidies to the fossil fuel industry



Presenting a trophy to Flight Sergeant Noor Ullah of the 690 Lakeshore Air Cadet Squadron



Discussing Pierrefonds-Roxboro's spring flood-protection measures with Mayor Jim Beis



Speaking at the opening ceremonies of the ALPS swim finals at the Baie d'Urfe pool

Addressing the cost of wireless

By the end of 2021, the cost of mid-range wireless plans had dropped by 25 percent over a two-year period — ahead of the government’s target date of March 2022 for such a decrease. By the end of 2022, prices in lower-range plans (i.e. smaller data packages) had stayed much the same or were somewhat higher than in 2021. Higher-tier plans, however, saw price declines. Overall, prices continued to decline with an average decrease of 2.6 percent in 2022 relative to 2021 across all plans.

The CRTC, which is arm’s length from the government and therefore outside its direct control, is responsible for decisions that affect prices in the wireless market. But despite being arm’s length, the government can — and regularly does — issue broad policy directives to the CRTC that it is required to translate into detailed rules for the telecommunications sector.

In October 2022, the CRTC established new rules allowing regional service providers with their own infrastructure in a region to access the wireless networks of the large telcos like Bell and Rogers in another region at wholesale prices for resale. In February 2023, a new Cabinet policy directive to the CRTC came into effect. This directive calls on the CRTC to take action to ensure more timely and improved access to wholesale rates for resellers in order to better support competition.

Aging at home

Seniors — those over the age of 65 years — will represent almost 25 per cent of the population by 2051 and could reach close to 11 million people within 15 years. This makes seniors one of Canada’s fastest growing demographic groups.

The Prime Minister has mandated the Minister of Seniors, with support from the Minister of Health, to establish an expert panel to examine measures, including a potential aging-at-home benefit, to further support Canadians who wish to age within the comfort of their own homes. The expert panel held online consultations between March and April 2023 that sought relevant input from older adults, caregivers and other health and social-service providers, groups working with or representing older adults, and researchers and academics. A report from the consultations, complete with recommendations to the government, is expected in fall 2023.

Our services

Giving voice to the views, interests and concerns of constituents and voting on legislation are central to the role of Member of Parliament. But over and above these visible manifestations of democracy at work, M.P.s provide an array of services to the public that are not always well known or understood.

My office helps constituents in important and practical ways. In addition to offering information on government programs and services, my team and I support constituents daily in their dealings with federal departments. For example, we help constituents liaise with Immigration and Citizenship Canada on requests for permanent residence, visitor visas, work permits, and study permits. We also help individuals and businesses establish dialogue with the Canada Revenue Agency when a tax matter involves an added layer of complexity and frustration. Further, we are available to enquire into problems a constituent may be encountering with delays in the processing of their OAS, GIS and other benefits applications.



Welcoming a new Canadian from Ukraine at a citizenship ceremony on Canada Day



Celebrating the 100th and 101st birthdays of Jacqueline Everard (in photo) and Agnes Corcoran



Celebrating Canada Day in Pointe-Claire's Alexandre-Bourgeau Park



On a visit to the Laurus Summer Camp to mark the 7th anniversary of the Canada Child Benefit

Progress against animal testing

As a rule, the regulation of animal testing falls to the provinces. The federal government, however, is not without influence in the matter. The Food and Drugs Act governs how food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics are regulated. This past spring, Parliament amended the Food and Drugs Act to ban the testing of cosmetic products on animals. The ban will come into force on December 22, 2023.

More specifically, companies will no longer be allowed to test cosmetics on animals or sell cosmetics that have been tested on animals. There will also be a prohibition on false or misleading labelling of cosmetics on the subject of animal testing.



At the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers tournament

The Grand parc de l'Ouest

The stresses of the pandemic have heightened our appreciation of the benefits of being in touch with one's natural surroundings. It is no surprise to see a noticeable increase in public support for protecting green spaces like the Fairview Forest and the Monarch Fields at Trudeau Airport.

We are truly fortunate that the West Island includes rich natural spaces like Angell Woods, the Morgan Arboretum, the Ecomuseum, McGill's Macdonald campus, and the Cap Saint-Jacques and l'Anse-à-l'Orme nature parks. An initiative has been launched to consolidate these and other adjacent green spaces into an expansive urban park — the Grand parc de l'Ouest (GPO) — that will tie together large swaths of the West Island and L'Île-Bizard.

While the GPO remains a work in progress to be completed through a gradual process of land acquisition for the purposes of conservation, all three levels of government have already joined together to announce funding to strengthen resilience to spring flooding in areas that will form part of the future park. The federal government has committed \$50 million — as part of a total commitment of \$134.5 million from all three levels of government — to enhance the retention capacity of drainage basins but also to reinforce storm-sewer infrastructure against flooding in populated parts of Pierrefonds-Roxboro east of the GPO.



Visiting the Beaconsfield Lawn Bowling Club on la Fête nationale



Marching in the Montreal Pride Parade with colleagues Mélanie Joly, Steven Guilbeault and Anthony Housefather

Stay in touch

The number of avenues for communication between citizens and their elected representatives has greatly increased. This is 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 X 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.

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