

Connecting Families Initiative



We're connecting low-income families & seniors to **fast & reliable home internet for \$20 a month.**

Internet access is no longer a luxury, it's an essential resource.

Internet access helps Canadians find jobs, keep in touch with family, sell their goods and services online, and build communities. Yet for many Canadians, a reliable high-speed internet connection is out of reach.

The **Connecting Families Initiative** will connect hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors and families to affordable and reliable, high-speed Internet for \$20 a month.

This builds on work our Liberal government is doing to ensure that 98% of Canadians have access to high-speed Internet by 2026, and all Canadians by 2030.

Daily aspects of Canadians' lives are increasingly touched by digital technology, and access to high-speed Internet has become an essential service and a key driver for improving our economic and social well-being.

A STEP FORWARD

The Connecting Families Initiative will help bridge the digital divide for Canadian families who struggled to afford access to home Internet. This initiative relies on Internet service providers (ISPs) that participate voluntarily and without government subsidy.

The **Connecting Families** initiative brings together the public, the private and non-profit sector and has helped tens of thousands of low-income Canadian families access the Internet. Since the launch in November 2018, over 75,000 low-income households have benefited from the initiative.

This new phase will also broaden eligibility from families receiving the maximum Canada Child Benefit (CCB) to include low-income seniors receiving the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). The existing \$10 Internet plan will also remain available.

Computers for Success Canada (CFSC), a national not-for-profit organization, will continue to maintain and operate the secure online portal for use by eligible households who have received a letter from the Government of Canada.

The Connecting Families initiative aligns with Canada's Digital Charter, a principles-based approach to building trust in the digital world. The first principle of the Charter is focused on ensuring that all Canadians have equal opportunity to participate in the digital world and the necessary tools to do so, including access, connectivity, literacy and skills.

Community Highlight



Attended the grand opening of the Rohingya Center of Canada in Kitchener



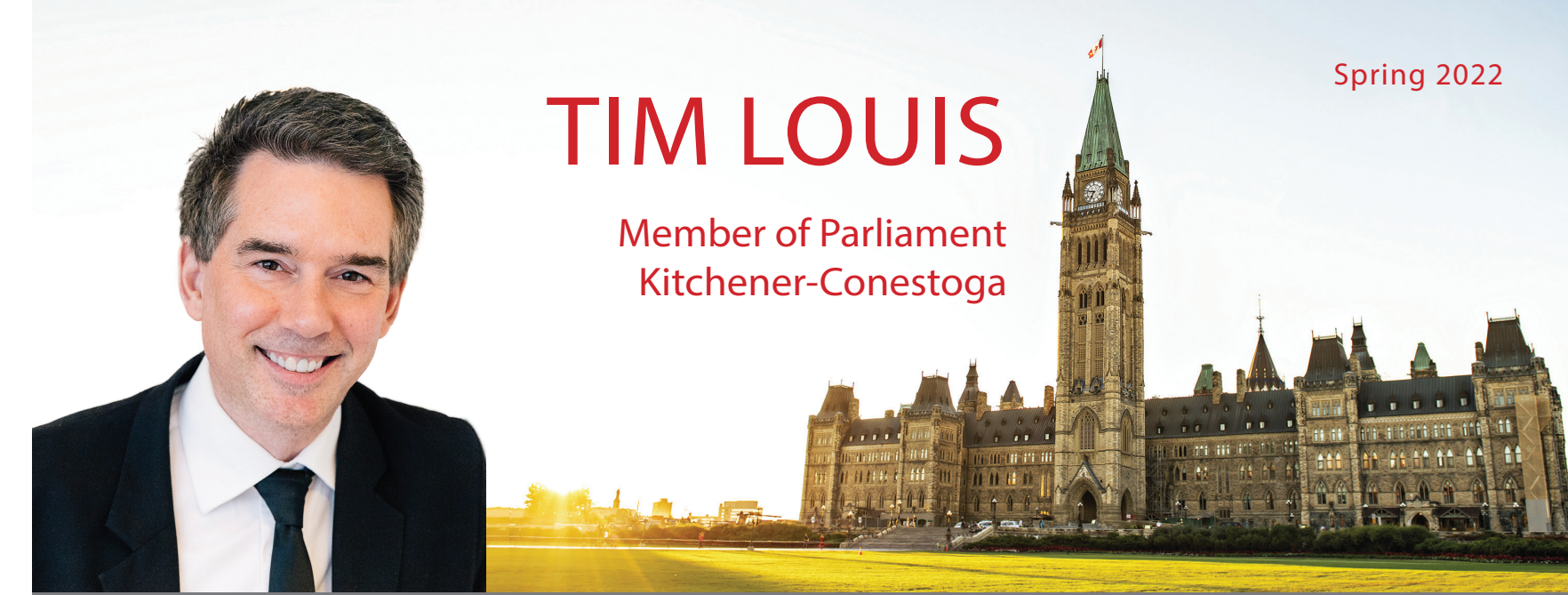
Visited the soft opening of the Neruda Arts Studio in St. Jacobs



Joined our community at New Hamburg Lanes Bowl for Ukraine event



Honoured to attend the Black Business Showcase hosted by LiftOff by CCAWR in Waterloo



Spring 2022

TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament
Kitchener-Conestoga

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Dear Neighbours,

Canada is working quickly to bring people from Ukraine here. We know they need a safe haven; we know they need a place to stay.

I have seen an overwhelming response of goodwill coming from our community, and I want to express my appreciation. It is inspiring to see Canadians of all backgrounds stepping up with offers of support and demonstrations of solidarity for Ukrainians.

Here in Kitchener-Conestoga, and across Waterloo region, people are working together to help others in their time of need. Organizations like Immigration Waterloo Region are helping people start their lives here. And Waterloo Region Grassroots Response is an amazing group of volunteers who are teaming up to work on providing housing, donations, and basic supplies.

We are seeing local businesses, service groups, faith-based groups, individuals, and families – all partnering to ensure those who arrive have the support they need. Canada will continue to support and stand with Ukrainians, and I thank our community for your generosity.

Canada's cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and sources of pride.

This spring, families were able to come together and celebrate holidays like Easter, Ramadan, Vaisakhi, Passover and other special days. The opportunity to learn from neighbours about other cultures is something I always appreciate. In celebrating our differences, we become closer.

Staying connected has never been more important. We are bringing high-speed internet service to underserved homes and businesses throughout Kitchener-Conestoga. Construction is underway to bring high-speed internet service to homes and businesses in Woolwich Township. Residents living between Weissenburg and Maryhill will be getting high-speed internet soon.

The Government of Canada has announced the Connecting Families initiative - affordable high-speed internet to help connect low-income families and seniors. This \$20 a month high-speed Internet will help connect hundreds of thousands of low-income families and seniors. I will continue to advocate to make sure that everyone in Kitchener-Conestoga has access to affordable, high-quality, and high-speed internet.

As always, if you would like to get in touch with my office please give me a call at 519-578-3777 or email me at Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca.

Tim Louis

Contact Information

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My Office can help with:

- Permanent residency
- Canadian citizenship
- Canada revenue Agency
- Veterans' affairs
- Canada Child Benefit
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Support
- Employment Insurance
- COVID-19 support programs
- Federal government grants

Dear Tim,

Our government's commitment to making life more affordable is important to me.

Our government's commitment to protecting the environment is important to me.

I also want to bring the following to your attention: _____

From your constituent,

Name

Address

City

Postal Code

Yes, I'd like email updates from Tim

I'd like to receive email updates for Businesses from Tim

Email Address

Best Phone Number to Reach You

TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament
Kitchener - Conestoga

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Affordable Child Care



\$10-a-day early learning and child care to help families in Ontario.

\$10-A-DAY CHILD CARE FOR FAMILIES

This plan is already making life more affordable for families, creating new jobs, getting parents back into the workforce and growing the middle class, while giving every child a real and fair chance at success.

More than half of Canada's provinces and territories have already seen reductions in child care fees and, by the end of 2022, average fees for regulated early learning and child care spaces will be cut in half across the country.

In addition, the agreement includes a clear commitment to begin discussions with Indigenous partners on developing a collaborative plan that supports Indigenous children's access to affordable, high-quality and culturally appropriate early learning and child care.

Building a child care system that works for Canadians in every region of the country is a key part of the plan to make life more affordable for families while creating good jobs and growing the economy.

Citizen Spotlight

March was **Women's History Month**. During this month, we highlight and celebrate the contributions women have made to events in history and contemporary society, **Neala A. Taylor** is a great example of this. Neala is a veteran from New Hamburg who has been nominated for the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for her work with the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) and the Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans Care (TSCVC).

She has been a member of the RCL and board member of the TSCVC for more than 30 years. As a member of the RCL, she has held several executive positions and has been involved in fundraising and planning events.

As a board member of the TSCVC Neala has navigated the waters of the long term care home while always keeping Veterans as a priority. She has helped guide the centre through difficult financial struggles, legislative and policy changes and with serious outbreaks of influenza. She is committed to the comfort and security of Veterans. Regardless of the weather she commutes from Cambridge to Scarborough on a regular basis, not only to attend or chair meetings but also to ensure the staff and residents of the center have what they need or simply just visit and sit with some of the Veterans. Her tireless efforts were crucial in ensuring the TSCVC had the proper equipment and staffing to provide the best possible care for all the residents.



For families in Canada, **access to high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive child care is not a luxury—it's a necessity**. That is why the Government of Canada announced an agreement with the Government of Ontario that will deliver high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive child care for families in Ontario.

This early learning and child care agreement is a five-year deal to reduce child care fees in the short term, deliver \$10-a-day child care for Ontario families and create 86,000 new licensed early learning and child care spaces in the province.

This agreement will see **\$10-a-day child care** in the next four years, cut fees by 25% starting later this week, and deliver 50% fee reductions by the end of this year which will save Ontario families \$6,000 per child on average.

We will also provide support to ECEs, who do the important work of caring for and shaping the minds of our youngest children, by growing a strong and workforce, through wage improvements and opportunities for professional development.

Ottawa Update

Every day I am in Ottawa, I am aware that it is your voices that I bring to Parliament. The conversations I have with you by phone, email, online, or in person all shape the conversations I have in the House of Commons.

I proudly represent the agricultural sector in our region as a member of the **Agricultural Committee**. Our committee has completed a study on the agri-food supply chain, and how we can help Canadians from farm to fork with nutritious food. Our current study is analyzing the environmental contribution to agriculture. I have met with farmers and stakeholders in our riding, to find how we can all work together to feed our families and protect our land and water. This winter, we also studied the effects of the blockades we saw at border crossings. Millions of dollars' worth of trade travels across the U.S.-Canadian border daily and we heard directly from sector representatives about the impact border blockades had on farmers.

I am also a member of the **Heritage Committee**. We completed a study on the recovery of the arts, culture, heritage, and sport sectors from COVID-19. We heard from artists, performers, organizations, and other witnesses about pandemic supports and recovery. Here in Kitchener-Conestoga, and across Canada, our hospitality, tourism and arts community will be among the last to recover. These are local businesses and jobs, and I will continue to advocate for the hardest hit sectors in our economy.

My caucus work continues as well. As Chair of the Southwest Region Caucus, I continue to advocate for our entire region. As a member of the Women's Caucus, the Rural Caucus, the Arts Caucus, and the Indigenous Caucus, I will continue to advocate for programs that will support Canadians here and throughout Canada.

I always look forward to returning to Kitchener-Conestoga and hearing from you at home.

If you have any questions about my work in Ottawa, please contact my office at tim.louis@parl.gc.ca.

Ukraine Assistance

In March, I sat in the **House of Commons** and heard a powerful personal speech from Ukrainian **President Zelensky**. He reminded us of the friendship between our two countries and described the atrocities being played out in Ukraine in a compelling address.

In April, I met with a delegation of parliamentarians from Ukraine who told us first-hand of the horror of the war, and the bravery and determination of Ukrainians.

Whether it is opening our hearts and homes to people fleeing Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, or other countries, **we welcome those arriving to seek a better life**. Here in our region, we are a resettlement community. I have attended numerous meetings with stakeholders and volunteers who have shown the willingness and the capacity to help. The collaboration of so many, and the goodwill coming from our community, is inspiring.

In response to Russia's ongoing, illegal, and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, **The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)** was launched. It offers Ukrainians and their family members free, extended temporary status and allows them to work, study and stay in Canada.

If you are looking for ways you can help, contact our office for more information about donating, hosting, volunteering or hiring those who arrive in Canada as part of the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program.



Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan



Canadians have been clear about what they want: clean air and good jobs, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

The **Government of Canada** delivered a plan that outlines the next steps to continue delivering on those priorities for everyone.

The plan is an ambitious and achievable sector-by-sector approach for Canada to reach its new climate target of cutting emissions by 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, and to put us on track

toward our goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Building on the actions of millions of Canadians, Indigenous Peoples, businesses, provinces, territories, and municipalities, the Government of Canada is continuing to take action to fight climate change, create jobs, and ensure that Canadians are global leaders in the transition to clean industries and technologies.

The plan includes funding to:

- Make it easier and more affordable for Canadians to switch to electric vehicles.
- Improve building codes and invest in energy retrofits to build greener buildings.
- Support industry in developing clean standards.
- Build a greener electricity grid.
- Reduce oil and gas emissions.
- Improve carbon sequestering in natural environments.
- Support farmers to make agriculture greener, more sustainable, and save them money.

We will continue to take action to fight climate change, create jobs, and ensure that Canadians are global leaders in the transition to clean industries and technologies.

International Students Overcoming War

In March, I had the pleasure of meeting with the group **International Students Overcoming War** to discuss their proposal for Federal partnership.

ISOW is a multi-faceted initiative unique to Wilfrid Laurier University that brings students, staff and faculty together to enable students from war conflict countries to study in safety and security in Canada.

In the meeting, we discussed the need for providing the same opportunities to students from places where their education system has collapsed and how the ISOW plans to offer more than just scholarships and aid fleeing students.



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