

# Bringing Ottawa to Kitchener-Conestoga



I am proud to be your voice in Ottawa, tirelessly advocating for your ideas and aspirations. Beyond being your representative in Parliament, I am committed to bringing Ottawa to Kitchener-Conestoga. It is my duty to ensure that the decisions made in Ottawa are reflective of the needs of the communities I serve.

One significant way in which I accomplish this is by inviting cabinet ministers to visit Kitchener-Conestoga; allowing me to showcase our diverse businesses, support systems, and resilient people. I take immense pride in providing ministers with a firsthand experience of our local strengths and challenges, showcasing Kitchener-Conestoga as a vibrant and thriving community. In 2023, Kitchener-Conestoga hosted 25 ministerial visits from 16 different cabinet ministers.

It is this pride that fuels my commitment to ensuring that your voices are not only heard but also fully understood in Parliament, connecting the heart of our nation's capital with the beating heart of Kitchener-Conestoga.



## 16 Cabinet Ministers - 25 Visits



Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport

Anita Anand, Minister of National Defense

Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture

Bill Blair, Minister of Emergency Preparedness

Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation

Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing

Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion

Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development

Helena Jaczek, Minister of Procurement

Kamal Khera, Minister of Seniors

Mark Miller, Minister of Immigration

Filomena Tassi, Minister of Federal Economic Development

Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister

Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business

# 2023 - In the Community



Training with Firefighters - Kitchener



Planting Trees - Wilmot



Family Day Free Skate - Woolwich



Kultrun World Music Festival - Woolwich



South Asian Sports Day



Farm Visit - Wellesley



Remembrance Day - Wilmot



Multicultural Festival - Woolwich



Habitat for Humanity Build - Kitchener



Ramadan Iftar - Kitchener



Apple Butter & Cheese Festival - Wellesley



Coldest Night of the Year - Wilmot



# TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener-Conestoga

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

Dear Neighbours,

As we take a moment to pause and reflect on the past year, I find myself humbled and inspired by the many heartfelt conversations I've had with incredible individuals like you throughout our community.

In every exchange—whether with families, local businesses, farmers, or our invaluable community organizations—I always notice a powerful common thread: our resilience and unwavering community spirit. It's this strength that defines Kitchener-Conestoga and fuels my immense pride in representing your voices in Ottawa.

I understand this past year has been challenging for many. In these trying times, I want to assure you that our government remains committed to providing the support Canadians need.

We're actively combating our biggest housing challenges with innovative approaches, like compiling pre-approved designs to build homes faster and more cost-effectively across the country. This strategy helped Canada quickly and affordably build thousands of homes after the Second World War, and now we're bringing it into the 21st century to change the way Canada builds homes. Through our government's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), we are providing \$42 million to build 1,200 housing units in Kitchener over the next three years.

The new Canada Dental Care Plan will help up to nine million eligible Canadians get the dental care they need.

In 2023, we implemented a 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline which provides callers with specialized support from an experienced network of partners whose trained responders provide help and compassion without judgment.

These are just a few of the ways our government is working for Canadians every single day.

My office is here to serve you. Whether I'm representing you in Ottawa or standing shoulder to shoulder with you in our community, know that I remain committed to being your unwavering representative. Your feedback and conversations are my guiding light, motivating me to work tirelessly on behalf of each and every one of you.

For more information on the support and programs available to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at 519-578-3777 or via email at [Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca).

Here's to continuing this journey together and the shared strides we'll make in 2024 and beyond!

Warm regards,

*Tim Louis*

2023 Year in Review

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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
- Passports
- Federal Government Grants

# 2023 Investments In Our Community

Part of my important work in Ottawa includes securing funding projects that will benefit our community. Meaningful conversations with constituents and businesses helps determine where funding can be most impactful. I continue to work tirelessly to ensure that federal government investments are directed towards Kitchener-Conestoga. Here are some examples:

## Children, Families and Seniors

In Kitchener-Conestoga, our federal government is supporting the vital service organizations in our communities with \$900,000 of funding to groups including Elmira District Community Living, Interfaith Counselling Centre, Wilmot Family Resource Centre, Community Care Concepts, Community Support Connections, and Woolwich Community Health Centre.



## Agriculture

Farmers feed families; as a member of the Agriculture Committee I am proud to support them. Federal financial support is helping to build a resilient agriculture sector for generations to come. In 2023, our government helped farmers in Kitchener-Conestoga with \$1.2 million in funding to install solar panels as part of the Agricultural Clean Technology Program.



## Canada Child Benefit

The Canada Child Benefit provides 6,300 families in Kitchener-Conestoga with an average of \$6,000 per year. This year, our federal government continued to put families first by increasing the amount of the Canada Child Benefit.

## Small Businesses

In 2023, the federal government invested \$2.5 million in Kitchener-Conestoga's businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and supporting them is an investment in our community.



## Canada Summer Jobs

In 2023, the Canada Summer Jobs Program supported 57 employers from the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors in Kitchener-Conestoga with \$700,000 in funding to create 190 jobs. Investing in youth gives them the skills and experience they need to succeed in the workforce.

## Municipalities and Infrastructure

In 2023, over \$42 million in investments and supports was delivered to the municipalities of Kitchener-Conestoga. In addition, our government's investment of \$20 million in our regional airport has been crucial for facilitating efficient transportation, connecting businesses and residents to broader markets, and fostering economic prosperity in our region.

## Arts and Tourism

Our government has invested over 2 million dollars in Kitchener-Conestoga's Arts and Tourism sector to organizations like Drayton Entertainment, St. Jacobs Farmers' Market, Neruda Arts, and Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades Museum. Beyond providing entertainment, these organizations contribute significantly to jobs and revenue creation, and the overall vitality of communities.

## Broadband Internet

Our Universal Broadband Fund will ensure that 98% of Canadians are connected by 2026. The federal government has invested over \$18 million in Kitchener-Conestoga, including \$7 million in Wellesley in 2023 to respond to the needs of our small communities.



# Citizen Spotlight



If you've contacted or visited the office of the Woolwich Observer, chances are you have met Donna Rudy. She has been integral to the paper for 25 of its 27 years of operation.

Woolwich and the surrounding area are fortunate to have such a vibrant and independent newspaper at a time when local newspapers are more important - and more scarce - than ever.

Donna was born and raised in Woolwich and spent her school and adult years in Elmira, watching the community grow and change over the decades during her time at the Observer. At the same time, Donna became a vital part of our community. Donna says her work at the Observer has given her a front row seat to the stories of our citizens, and an ability to help support and grow their businesses. She has especially enjoyed watching children grow up and take over their family businesses or create new opportunities while helping Elmira and surrounding areas grow.

In all the challenges and opportunities of a dynamic news industry, Donna says the relationships with community members and business owners are a rich reward in themselves.

Even better, for Donna, is that some customers bring their dogs along for a visit; something that always brightens her day.

Thanks for all you do Donna!

# Feel-Good Story of 2023

Adam embarked on his Canadian immigration journey in February 2018, earning his Permanent Resident status by January 2021. However, his heart remained with his children—Lydia, Sarah, and Joseph—stranded in Ethiopia.

Their road to reunification was a long and difficult process.

Arranging a risky 700-kilometer trek through dangerous territories from their home to reach Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa, to have their medical testing completed, was just one of many hurdles they faced.

But through all the stress and tears, the family persevered with the hope they would be together again.



Finally, after five years of separation, Lydia, Sarah, and Joseph were reunited with their dad, Adam, in March 2023 at Toronto Pearson Airport — on Joseph's birthday no less. Our office was so thankful to get to know this family and help them navigate the process every step of the way.

You can see their happiness shining through on their faces while they enjoyed a Booster Juice at the airport, finally together once again here in Canada!



# TIM LOUIS

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# Winter Activity Corner



## Winter Word Search

V	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	X	O	A	W
D	N	S	O	C	K	S	X	S	I	P	M	E	T
E	O	G	H	Z	O	E	A	L	Q	R	M	S	W
C	T	K	O	N	P	M	A	E	N	I	N	D	
E	E	C	O	F	T	B	L	K	T	S	Y	O	T
M	B	U	D	S	I	C	L	R	Q	B	N	W	B
B	G	L	I	L	I	R	E	A	U	R	X	M	M
E	R	R	E	C	Y	T	E	T	N	G	L	A	I
R	H	G	I	P	N	Q	U	P	L	K	W	N	T
C	O	L	D	I	U	J	Q	X	L	O	E	L	T
I	M	F	W	B	A	F	L	X	N	A	X	T	E
C	A	J	R	D	R	K	U	S	V	L	C	Z	N
E	N	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	S	C	E	S
X	H	O	T	C	O	C	O	A	P	B	B	T	Y

WINTERTIME  
COLD  
SNOW  
FIREPLACE

HOODIE  
BLANKET  
CHRISTMAS  
ICE SKATES

ICICLE  
SNOWMAN  
ICE  
HOT COCOA

SOCKS  
MITTENS  
DECEMBER  
SNOWFLAKE

# FIND 10 DIFFERENCES

