



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 18, Fall 2012

Dear Constituents,

This fall has been one of the most eventful of my life. It began with a question from the Prime Minister during the summer, asking me if I would be willing to serve on a Cabinet Committee, one of only four non-ministerial MPs to have done so since our government was elected nearly seven years ago. In mid-September, I was sworn into the Privy Council, on the very same day the Honourable Peter Lougheed passed away. I consider it an absolute privilege that for one day we were privy councillors together.

In late September, my son Jaden and I ventured to New York, where we were invited by the wife of the UN Secretary-General and our friends at Autism Speaks to address the spouses of world leaders at an autism awareness event. It was a whirlwind trip, with several meetings, and interviews with CNN, ABCNews.com, CBC's The National, Canada AM and more. Jaden was a massive hit!

But always at the core of my role as your Member of Parliament is my responsibility to you, and to that end, I hosted my annual constituency pancake breakfast, held several roundtables, and attended numerous events throughout the riding.

Please take the time to read about it all in this newsletter, and let me know what's on your mind, using the form provided on page 3, or by contacting me via e-mail, or on Facebook or Twitter. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mike.



## Mike Appointed to the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada

### Ottawa

On September 13th, Mike was sworn into the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, along with Ron Cannan, which enables them to serve on the Priorities and Planning Sub-Committee on Government Administration.

This Sub-Committee has been mandated to consider proposals on whole-of-government opportunities for improved efficiency and effectiveness. The Sub-Committee will work to determine what additional, common sense improvements can be made in government.

The Queen’s Privy Council is the group of cabinet ministers, former cabinet ministers and other prominent Canadians appointed to advise the Queen on issues of importance to the country. This includes both issues of state and constitutional affairs.

The Governor General appoints each privy councillor on the advice of the Prime Minister. Membership is for life, unless the Governor General withdraws the appointment – again on the Prime Minister’s advice.

The Queen’s Privy Council for Canada consists of:

- Cabinet ministers
- Former cabinet ministers
- The Chief Justice of Canada

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## Mike and Son, Jaden, Speak at *World Focus on Autism* Event in New York City

### Ottawa

On Thursday, September 27th, Mike and his 16-year-old son, Jaden, were in New York to speak at the Fifth Annual *World Focus on Autism*, an event for spouses of world leaders and members of the disability community, co-hosted by the wife of the UN Secretary-General and Autism Speaks.

Bob and Suzanne Wright, co-founders of Autism Speaks, urged attendees to support a new U.N. resolution on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and developmental disabilities that was introduced by Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, during the 67th United Nations General Assembly session. The resolution calls for greater participation of the U.N. in recognizing autism as a public health crisis, and encourages member states to tackle developmental disorders at the local, national and international levels.

“The resolution will help individuals and their families with developmental disorders become a part of our life in terms of economic contribution, social participation and political significance,” Sheikh Hasina said. “We urge you to support, and raise awareness around the new UN resolution. With your support, we believe the resolution will be adopted and this small step for a small fraction of mankind will lead to a big leap towards better humanity.”

This year’s *World Focus on Autism* brought together more than 15 first spouses and two heads of state in an unprecedented show of support to raise awareness of autism around the world and encourage collaboration among

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Mike Speaks at the *World Focus on Autism* Event in New York City

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nations to improve service provision and share best practices. The event was held at, and co-sponsored by, the Roosevelt House at Hunter College and the Hunter Autism Research, Practice, & Policy (HARPP) Center. The event also featured a virtual art exhibit from people with autism around the globe.

Mike and Jaden closed out the event, and were introduced by Suzanne Wright, who showed video of Mike’s one-minute statement about Jaden from the House of Commons for this year’s World Autism Awareness Day, April 2nd.

During their two-day visit to New York, Mike and Jaden were featured on CNN, ABC News.com, CTV’s Power Play, CBC’s The National and Canada AM.

Source: *Autism Speaks* ([www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org))



Photo: *Autism Speaks*

Jaden gives the First Lady of Panama, Marta Linares de Martinelli, a high-five at the *World Focus on Autism* Event in New York.

For more information and to view the interviews please visit [www.mikelake.ca/autism](http://www.mikelake.ca/autism)



The Prime Minister and the Governor General speak with Mike and Ron Cannan after their swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall.

Mike Appointed to Queen’s Privy Council

(Continued from page 1)

- Former chief justices
- Former speakers of the House of Commons
- Former speakers of the Senate
- Former Governors General
- Distinguished individuals (as a mark of honour)

The Queen’s Privy Council for Canada was first established by the *British North America Act, 1867* (later renamed the *Constitution Act, 1867*). It has been adding members ever since.

Privy Councillors receive a document called a commission from the Governor General, summoning them to the Privy Council; swear two oaths: the Oath of Allegiance to the Queen, and the Oath of the Members of the Privy Council, and sign the Oath Book; carry the title "Honourable" for life and use the initials "P.C." after their names; are given a position of precedence on the Table of Precedence; and are honoured by half-masting of the flag on the Peace Tower upon their deaths. There are currently about 360 members of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada.

For more information about the Queen’s Privy Council please visit [www.pco-bcp.gc.ca](http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca)

Canada: An Economic Model, Leading the Developed World in Jobs and Growth

Ottawa

In recent weeks, the heads of two of the world’s leading economic organizations - the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - have singled out Canada’s economic and fiscal leadership for praise, and have pointed to Canada as a model for the world to follow.

The IMF and OECD each predict our economic growth will be among the strongest in the industrialized world over the next two years. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, formerly France’s Finance Minister, notes, “Canada can teach the rest of the world about how to build a stronger, safer financial system ... If I look at Canada and the anomaly that it constitutes compared to other countries—because it’s growing pretty well, because its banking system is solid and growing, because its inflation is under control, because its fiscal deficit is also pretty much under control and its level of indebtedness is reasonable—you know, it’s not bad a scorecard.”

OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría was similarly congratulatory, saying,

“(Canada is) well prepared. You have been better prepared and therefore you’ve weathered the storm a lot better. You are well prepared now. Your fiscal policy, your monetary policy, your financial system (is) in better shape. And therefore, you are doing better in ... the world economy.”

Here are a few details from the scorecard to which Ms. Lagarde refers:

- Since July 2009, Canada has seen over 820,000 net new jobs created. This is the best job growth record in the G-7, a group of countries that includes Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Forbes magazine ranked Canada the best country in the world to do business.
- Canada still maintains the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio in the G-7.
- All three of the major credit rating agencies, Moody’s, Fitch, and Standard & Poor’s, have reaffirmed Canada’s top credit rating.
- The World Economic Forum says our banks are the soundest in the world.



You’re invited to our 7th Annual  
Christmas Open House

WHEN: Thursday, December 20th - 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
WHERE: Mill Woods Assembly Café, 2225 - 66 Street (West Entrance)

We look forward to seeing you there!







Mike’s annual pancake breakfast was a huge success, raising over \$40,000 for the Autism Society of Edmonton Area.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Raises \$40,000

Edmonton

On Saturday, August 25th, Mike held a pancake breakfast in support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area (ASEA). The event was a huge success, raising over \$40,000 for ASEA.

Mike thanked those in attendance on the brisk Saturday morning. "Every year, I am amazed at the ever-increasing support Edmontonians give our families living with autism. The willingness of the sponsors to contribute to this event, and the community to show up in the numbers they do, has been overwhelming."

ASEA is a non-profit, charitable society which began in 1971. Today, they help families and communities embrace and support people on the autism spectrum throughout their lives.

For more information about ASEA please visit: [www.autismedmonton.org](http://www.autismedmonton.org)

Mike Visits Samaritan’s Purse and World Vision

Calgary and Mississauga

This summer, Mike visited the Canadian head offices of both Samaritan’s Purse (Calgary) and World Vision (Mississauga). The purpose of the visits was to learn about the work these organizations are doing for maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) in Africa.

World Vision promotes health and prevention, providing mothers useful information on healthy lifestyles and better nutrition. They place emphasis on maternal and newborn health care, including community awareness and quality services.

Samaritan’s Purse also promotes nutrition, as well as disease prevention and medical care. Through community development and vocational programs, they help people break the cycle of poverty and exploitation.

Mike enjoyed his visits and looks forward to working with these incredible organizations that are making a difference in the lives of so many families.

To learn more about Samaritan’s Purse and World Vision please visit: [www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca) and [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)



John Clayton, Projects Director for Samaritan’s Purse shows Mike around the Calgary facility.



Mike visits with students at a summer camp for children who have recently moved to Canada with their families.

Mike Meets Students at a Summer Camp for New Canadians

Edmonton

In July, Mike visited with a group of children who have recently moved to Canada with their families. Each year, the Welcome Centre for Immigrants organizes a summer camp for students five to fifteen years old to help them transition as smoothly as possible to life in Canada.

Established in 1997, the Welcome Centre for Immigrants is an umbrella organization of three social agencies - Catholic Social Services, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and the Indo-Canadian Women’s Association.

The centre is critical to many families in Southeast Edmonton, providing settlement and employment services to people new to our country.

For more information please visit: [www.wciedmonton.ca](http://www.wciedmonton.ca)

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA: MIKE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What are the top three (or more) priorities that you would like to bring to the attention of Mike and the federal government?

How would you rate the overall performance of the Conservative Government?

Excellent

☐

Good

☐

Fair

☐

Poor

☐

How would you rate Mike’s performance as your Member of Parliament?

Excellent

☐

Good

☐

Fair

☐

Poor

☐

Please complete the survey and send it back to our office, *postage free*. Feel free to fold and tape to conceal personal information, but please do not staple.

Name:

Address:

City:

Province:  Postal Code:

Phone Number:

E-mail:



## CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Our offices are here to be of service to you.

*We regularly help constituents:*

- Navigate their way through federal government departments and services;
- Obtain Canadian flags and pins for travel abroad;
- Receive Congratulatory Certificates for milestone birthdays and anniversaries from the Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Governor General, and Her Majesty the Queen;
- Get answers to immigration questions; and
- Find information on government policies and procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments or concerns and we would be more than happy to assist you.

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### Youth Leadership Award

In June, Mike spoke at the J. Percy Page graduation ceremony and presented the Youth Leadership Award to honours student, Jyoti Aheer.



### Montrose Manor Opening

Mike attended the official opening of Montrose Manor in Beaumont in August. This new building provides 66 additional units of affordable housing in Beaumont.



### Wings of Providence Visit

In July, Mike toured the Wings of Providence facility. The facility provides programs and a safe environment for women with children, who have experienced family violence.



### Connecting with Students

This fall, Mike visited various schools in the riding. He spent time reading books with the younger grades and speaking about his role in government with grade nine students.



### TEC Edmonton Tour

Mike toured TEC Edmonton with CEO, Chris Lumb. TEC Edmonton is a business accelerator, helping to transform innovative technologies into business opportunities.



### Homeless Connect Edmonton

As they do twice a year, Mike and his family volunteered at Homeless Connect this October. It is always one of the highlights of their year.

*Photo: Edward Allen*

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No  
Postage  
Required

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