



# Here to Serve

## John NATER, MP Perth—Wellington

September 2016

Dear Constituents,

Summer is winding down and after travelling across Perth—Wellington over the past few weeks attending community events, as well as conducting my “**Jobs Tour 2016**”, I am eager to apply the things I have heard from you to the issues and bills before Parliament.

I am pleased to share with you some of the news and events which took place around the riding over the past three months:

- ◆ Several municipalities and community groups benefitted from over \$12,000 in funding from the Celebrate Canada Program to assist with the organization of Canada Day events and activities.
- ◆ Rural Southwestern Ontario continued to gain improved access to high-speed internet through Federal investment
- ◆ Canadian athletes enjoyed tremendous success at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro thanks to many years of Federal support through the *Own the Podium* program.

Unfortunately, the news was not all good as Canada suffered significant job losses this summer. Over 31,000 jobs were lost in July alone with young Canadians particularly hard hit by an economy that is now struggling for the first time since the global economic crisis of 2008/2009. Canadians from coast to coast are also concerned with reports

which show that, for the first time in fifteen years, crime is on the increase in this country. As your Member of Parliament it is my duty to address these issues as best I can.

Parliament is returning for the Fall session with many important Bills coming before the House of Commons. One of the most active issues in Ottawa is electoral reform. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Electoral Reform has been meeting since July to study different ways Parliament could change the electoral system. Alternatives to the current “first past the post” system have been put forward and discussed. You will find some of those ideas and more information later in this newsletter. Unfortunately, most of the consultations to date have been conducted without input from a wide cross-section of Canadians. In the coming weeks, I look forward to consulting with the people of Perth—Wellington on this important issue in order to ensure the voices of Canadians are heard. I strongly believe no change to the electoral system should occur without a national referendum.

As always, if you would like to share your opinion on electoral reform or any other federal issue, please do not hesitate to e-mail me, call one of my offices, or send me a message through social media.



### Clifford Homecoming Receives Federal Support

In July the Federal government announced funding for The 150th Community Anniversary and Clifford Homecoming taking place in 2017. Through *The Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage* program, the Clifford Homecoming Committee received over \$24,000 to assist them in hosting celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Clifford Grist and Flour Mill.

I was proud to support the Homecoming Committee’s application, and I am very pleased Clifford was successful in obtaining this funding.

The Clifford Homecoming celebrations will take place August 4 to 7, 2017.

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## Summer Jobs Tour 2016

During the ten meetings I hosted across Perth—Wellington as part of my Summer Jobs Tour, I heard directly from employees, small business owners, local mayors and municipal councillors, economic and labour group representatives, and summer students, all of whom were very willing to discuss the economic challenges and needs of our communities.

The tour, which was officially launched in Teviotdale on July 5th, included stops in Drayton, Milverton, St. Marys, Mitchell, Harriston, Stratford, Arthur, and Listowel, with the final meeting held in Mount Forest on August 10th.

Over the course of the tour I listened to concerns, problems, and ideas from a wide variety of constituents on numerous issues including:

- Labour shortages in specific industries
- Strengths and weaknesses of the 2016 Canada Summer Jobs program
- Transportation and infrastructure
- The aging workforce
- Housing affordability
- Changes and developments in the agricultural sector

While the topics covered were wide and varied, two primary themes emerged from the discussions at every meeting I hosted:

1. It is incredibly important to ensure workers have access to skills training
2. It is a struggle for smaller communities to attract and retain new families.



Discussing Jobs Training in Stratford

I look forward to taking the information, concerns, and recommendations I have gathered to Ottawa in order to affect policy change and encourage focused and effective investment here in Perth—Wellington. My staff and I are currently preparing a report for the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Small Business and Tourism.

## *Around Perth-Wellington*



Clockwise from left:

Swiss Ambassador Dr. Beat Nobs (centre) visits the Fryfogel Inn

Welcoming guests to the opening of Stratford Summer Music

Ribbon Cutting at T&J Studios in Palmerston

Sod Turning at the Steve Kerr Recreation Complex in Listowel



## Electoral Reform

The current government has made a commitment to change Canada's Electoral System from the current "first-past-the post system", however no alternative has been officially proposed. The House of Commons Committee on Electoral Reform, which was established to examine alternatives, has been meeting throughout the summer and will report back to Cabinet and Parliament in December. Members of Parliament have been given until October 14th to provide feedback from their constituents to the committee.

When you change the rules of Democracy, every Canadian should have a say. This is why I firmly believe that before a final decision is made all voters must be consulted through a referendum.

In May, IPSOS Public Affairs conducted a poll and found 73 percent of respondents agree "The Liberals should not make major changes to Canada's election system without holding a national referendum to get the public's approval for the changes". In July, Forum Research conducted a similar poll and found 65 percent of respondents agreed "Canada should have a national referendum on electoral reform before any changes are made to the way we elect our MPs". Seventeen percent of respondents were unsure.

The Minister of Democratic Institutions is not bound by the Committee's recommendations and will be free to propose a variety of changes.

Some of the proposed changes include:

- Introducing on-line voting
- Implementing mandatory voting, or fees for refusing to vote
- Applying proportional representation.
- Adopting a hybrid model of local and list MPs (often referred to as Mixed-Member Proportional).

If you would like to learn more about electoral reform and the work of the committee please contact me or visit the committee website:

[www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/ERRE](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/ERRE)

## ***Make your voice heard***

Do you support Mandatory Voting?

Yes  No  Unsure

Do you support online voting?

Yes  No  Unsure

Only for Canadians with mobility issues

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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What matters to you in an electoral system? Please rank the following values and principles upon which Canada's electoral system **should** be based from 1 to 6, (1 being most important, 6 being least important).

- \_\_\_ Having a local representative (MP)  
\_\_\_ Election results available on election night  
\_\_\_ Results proportional to the popular vote  
\_\_\_ Following a general election, the leader of the party with the most votes becomes the Prime Minister  
\_\_\_ Produces Stable Governments  
\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Canada's electoral system should be changed only if approved by the majority of Canadians in a referendum.

Agree  Disagree  Unsure

Contact Information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Frequently called Federal Government Agencies

For assistance in locating an agency or program not listed here, call toll-free:

**1-800-O-CANADA  
(1-800-622-6232)**

<b>Canada Revenue Agency</b>	
GST Credit	1-800-959-1953
General Tax Return Info	1-800-959-8281
Tax Refund Status	1-800-959-1956
<b>Canada Pension Plan &amp; Old Age Security</b>	
	1-800-277-9914
<b>Child Tax Benefit</b>	1-800-387-1193
<b>Citizenship and Immigration</b>	
	1-888-242-2100
<b>Border Info Services</b>	1-800-461-9999
<b>Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation</b>	1-800-461-2342
<b>Canada/Ontario Business Centre</b>	1--800-567-2345
<b>CRTC and the Do Not Call List</b>	1-877-249-2782
<b>Environment Canada</b>	1-800-668-6767

## Visiting Ottawa?

If you are planning a trip to Ottawa and are interested in attending a session of Question Period, please contact my office for more details and to arrange passes.



Information on tours of Centre Block and East Block can be found at:

<http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/Visitors/visit-e.html>



## Contact John

[www.johnnater.ca](http://www.johnnater.ca)

### Perth Office

59 Lorne Avenue East Unit A  
Stratford, ON N5A 6S4  
Phone: 519-273-1400  
Toll Free: 1-866-303-1400  
Fax: 519-273-9045

Hours: Monday –Friday 9:00-5:00  
(appointments available)

### Wellington Office

39 Elora Street South, Unit 1  
PO Box 464  
Harriston, ON N0G 1Z0  
Home: 519-338-3589  
Fax: 519-338-5615

Hours: Monday to Friday  
10:00-1:00 & 2:00-5:00  
(appointments available)

### Ottawa Office

441 Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Phone: 613-992-6124

Email: [john.nater@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.nater@parl.gc.ca)  
Twitter: @JLNater  
Facebook: /jlnater2014  
Watch John's videos on YouTube

Cut



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**John Nater, MP**  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

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