



John Nater, M.P. *Perth-Wellington*

Summer 2022



Dear Friends,

This summer promises the return of the many in-person events we have all missed over the past two years. This year, more than ever, I am looking forward to attending as many of the agriculture fairs, community celebrations, sporting and other events as possible, which will be taking place in communities across Perth—Wellington.

I would like to say thank you to the businesses, organizations, volunteers, and others who have remained committed to supporting their communities. They have adapted and found innovative ways to reach out, stay connected with their neighbours and friends, and maintain the wonderful sense of community which is unique in rural areas.

I hope all of you will join me in pledging to support community events, and to shop, eat, and drink locally whenever possible. Organizations and businesses have supported our communities for years--the least we can do is support them now.

I appreciate all the feedback I have received from businesses, organizations, and individuals since the Federal election last fall. You have reached out and shared your comments and concerns regarding major issues which are affecting your lives on a daily basis. At the forefront are the housing crisis and homelessness, inflation and the cost of living, food insecurity, labour shortages, and Russian sanctions which are impacting the

agriculture sector. I certainly share the concerns which have been raised and I have expanded on some of them within this newsletter.

My focus has always been to work collaboratively with my colleagues at all levels of government, and across party lines, to address the issues which are affecting the residents and communities in Perth--Wellington.



I am pleased we will be able to enjoy Canada Day festivities in-person this year in communities across Perth—Wellington. On the back of this newsletter is a Canadian flag which I hope you will display proudly in your windows. We have much to celebrate as a country. While we honour the achievements of the past, we must also acknowledge the times we have failed, and we must commit to further actions; particularly on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

This summer I hope everyone will be able to enjoy all that our communities have to offer!

Happy Canada Day!



There are dozens of issues affecting the people and communities in Perth—Wellington. The issues below are the ones on which I am receiving the greatest amount of feedback and correspondence

Housing Crisis

Since I was first elected, I have raised the issues of homelessness and our national and local housing crises with federal cabinet ministers, and prior to every Federal Budget I wrote to the Minister of Finance asking for action to alleviate these crises. In Perth—Wellington the average cost of a home rose by over 65% between April 2020 and April 2022, and active listings are more than 60% below the five-year average. (CREA) I have urged the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development to improve national housing commitments, and I have made the Minister of Rural Economic Development aware of the specific barriers faced in rural communities. I am very concerned that the Government continues to prioritize large urban centres to the neglect of smaller towns and rural communities, such as Perth—Wellington. I have had very productive meetings and discussions with local organizations that are working tirelessly to support the homeless and housing insecure populations in our community. I will continue to work with those organizations and call on the government to ensure that people, particularly the most vulnerable individuals, are always at the forefront of any policies related to Canada's health and economic recovery.



Food Insecurity

We are lucky to live in a region of Canada that is quite literally among the most prosperous agricultural communities in the world. However, despite this natural benefit, there remain far too many Canadians, and residents in our area who are food insecure or are at risk of becoming food insecure. I have benefitted from the advice and input of a variety of local and national organizations, including Community Food Centres Canada and locally from the Local Community Food Centre in Stratford. I will continue working with these local and national partners on ways to achieve concrete solutions to the challenges of poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity.

Inflation and The Cost of Living

It will come as no surprise that this is the issue on which I am receiving the most feedback. While there is not a single solution to immediately fix all the problems related to the cost of living, there are nonetheless many measures which governments at all levels can take to make life more affordable for Canadians, including those who live in rural communities like ours. One specific action the federal government should have taken was to cancel increases to the escalator tax and the carbon tax, both of which increased on April 1 of this year. Conservatives have put forward a concrete plan to reduce the costs of some of the day-to-day expenses families face. This plan focuses on the high cost of cell phone and internet rates, addresses grocery prices through a Grocery Code of Conduct, makes regulatory changes in the banking and technology sectors, and lowers taxes.

Fertilizer Tariffs

There is no question that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is having a significant impact on Canadian farmers and the agriculture sector worldwide. While all Canadians recognize the necessity to levy sanctions against Vladimir Putin for his unprovoked and unlawful attacks on Ukraine, we must be sure that these sanctions actually impact Putin and his regime, rather than simply putting additional financial burdens on Canadians. I have been in frequent contact not only with local farmers and agri-businesses, but also with my colleagues in Ottawa from all political parties. I wrote to the Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-food and Finance asking them to exempt farmers and suppliers who ordered fertilizer before, or on, March 2, 2022 from incurring the costs of the 35 per cent tariff sanction on imported fertilizer. However, Minister Bibeau confirmed in committee the government would neither exempt these orders, nor offer compensation to offset the costs of these tariffs. I will continue to advocate on behalf of the agriculture sector, and I will do all I can to ensure farmers and farm families have the certainty necessary to maintain our food supply chain and tackle the pressing issue of food insecurity.



Meeting Canadian beef farmer Jack Chaffe with Senator Rob Black



Supporting healthy eating and *The Great Big Crunch* with Derek Barnes at the Local Community Food Centre

AROUND PERTH- WELLINGTON



First Tapping at Hoover's Maple Syrup near Atwood with Mayor Todd Kasenberg and MPP Randy Pettapiece



Touring Musashi Auto Parts in Arthur

With Rose Austin and Irene Drost from Saugeen Economic Development Corporation in Ottawa at the "Rural and Remote Opportunities" Conference



Here for you!

As your federal government representative, my staff and I are happy to assist with issues you may experience related to Federal Government programs and agencies. Please call or email my office if you have any questions or concerns.

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HAPPY CANADA DAY!