

# TACKLING THE HOUSING CRISIS

# CONSTITUENCY SERVICES

Every Canadian has a right to a safe and affordable place to call home. That's why since 2015, the federal government has invested over \$36 billion for affordable housing to build and repair over 440,000 homes. We have introduced incentives for more affordable rental units, disincentives for house flippers and foreign buyers, a multigenerational home tax credit and a massive commitment of \$1.5 billion for the next generation of co-op housing.

But we know that there is still more to be done. All levels of have government have different powers under their jurisdiction, and must work together to increase supply, limit speculation, protect tenants' rights, and create livable communities.

Charles will continue to fight to make more accessible and affordable housing a reality for everyone in Mississauga—Lakeshore. These are just some of the measures our government has taken to help make the right to housing a reality, protect the dream of home ownership for Canadian families, and ensure more Canadians have access to housing they can afford:

## NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

One of the core pillars of our movement to increase affordability is the National Housing Strategy. The NHS is the largest and most ambitious federal housing program in Canadian history. We're investing **over \$82 billion** in housing across the entire continuum—from homelessness to supportive housing, social housing, and rental housing.

The goal of this historic strategy is to make sure Canadians across the country can access housing that meets their needs and that they can afford. Through 2028, the NHS will:

- cut chronic homelessness in half;
- remove 530,000 families from housing need; and
- invest in the construction of up to 160,000 new homes

## HOUSING ACCELATOR FUND

Housing policies are often barriers to producing results. It is clear that we need to accelerate change so the system works for all Canadians. The Housing Accelerator Fund offers \$4 billion in funding to local governments to fast-track the creation of **100,000 new homes** in Canada by modernizing their housing policies to address local needs such as:

- speeding up development and approval like fixing out-of-date permitting systems;
- introducing zoning reforms to build more density; or
- incentivizing development close to public transit.

By creating lasting changes at the local level of the housing system, we can make housing more affordable for Canadians across the income spectrum.



## REMOVING THE GST ON PURPOSE-BUILT RENTALS

The cost of rent is too high for too many right now. That's why we're taking action. We are removing the GST on new rental housing, such as apartment buildings, student housing, and senior residences.

This will accelerate much-needed rental housing builds across Canada. For a two-bedroom rental unit valued at \$500,000, this means \$25,000 in tax relief.

We're calling on provinces to waive the provincial sales tax on new apartments too. This will help rental housing get built faster, and encourage new builds to break ground.



## UNLOCKING CANADA MORTGAGE BONDS

In 2022, Canada completed construction of over **62,000** new rental homes – the highest of any year in the **past three decades** and an increase of over 40,000 more rental homes compared to 2015. But we know that's not enough.

That's why we're expanding access to low-cost financing for rental construction by unlocking up to an additional **\$20 billion** from Canada Mortgage Bonds and directing it to multi-unit rental projects.

This will help **create 30,000 more apartments every year.**

## HELP US HELP YOU

Our office provides assistance to constituents well beyond Canadian flags and pins. Casework is an important part of our office's operations. We can help to navigate challenges that arise between constituents and government offices such as the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC.) Immigration cases are often the most complex and difficult, even heartbreaking. The pandemic and numerous international crises have precipitated many into requesting help with applications. Our two caseworkers who manage over 350 open inquiries are able to:

- Request general updates for immigration applications and for temporary visa applications
- Provide clarity on decisions made by IRCC in some circumstances;
- Issue letters of support in *special circumstances*;
- Initiate a deeper inquiry in emergency circumstances (life and death);
- Communicate to IRCC and other government agencies any bottlenecks that applicants may be facing.

If you currently have an IRCC application you can view the status of your application at <https://tinyurl.com/ynrm899n>

While Charles and staff cannot influence or change the outcome of an application or interfere in the rules-based immigration system, we can advocate for broader policy changes. It is the case though, that sometimes, we can help to unstick things when problems do occur, when communication has not been clear or when some interpretation may be needed.

Our team is experienced, compassionate, and dedicated to supporting the community. We strive to maintain a positive and respectful environment, free from all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment. To open a new case please email [charles.sousa@parl.gc.ca](mailto:charles.sousa@parl.gc.ca)

## NEED ASSISTANCE? HERE IS WHAT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN HELP WITH:

### FEDERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

- Canada Revenue Agency (Taxes, TFSA, RRSP, RESP etc.)
- Service Canada (Passports EI, OAS, CPP, CCB etc.)
- Immigration and Citizenship (IRCC)
- Veterans Affairs
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Canada Border Services Agency
- Canada Post
- Correctional Services Canada

### MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

- Healthcare, drug coverage, long-term care, & OHIP
- ODSP, Ontario Works & OSAP
- Education & childcare
- WSIB
- Birth & marriage certificates
- Driver's license, vehicle registration & insurance
- Landlord & tenant issues
- Administration of justice & prisons

### CITY COUNCILLORS

Wards 1, 2, 7, & 8

- Property taxes
- Waste collection
- Parks & recreation
- Transit & road safety and maintenance
- Water & hydro
- Libraries
- Police, ambulance & fire
- Housing support services
- By-law enforcement
- Zoning and building permits

## CONSTITUENCY YOUTH COUNCIL

If you or someone you know is aged 14-25, interested in Canadian politics and wants to make a difference in the community, keep reading! Charles is forming a Constituency Youth Council for young people who want to discuss important issues impacting society and how to address them.

It's a great way to meet new people, collaborate on events and projects relevant to your interests, and share your thoughts with your MP! Charles will take what he hears and bring it back to Ottawa to help inform policy-making. More details can be found on our website. **Applications close December 10th, 2023.**

### SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER!



Interested in receiving a bi-weekly newsletter with Ottawa and riding updates? Visit our website to sign up!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are a student looking to get volunteer hours or just someone who wants to get involved in politics consider volunteering in our office!

Whether it be working in the constituency office or staffing events, this is a great way to engage with the community and earn valuable experience. Email for us more details!

## BENEFITS CALENDAR

If you receive federal benefits you will receive payment on these dates. Direct deposit can be set up through the CRA. Contact our office for help with benefits.

October	
GST Tax Credit .....	October 5
Advanced Canada Workers Benefit .....	October 12
Canada Child Benefit .....	October 20
Climate Action Incentive .....	October 20
Old Age Security .....	October 27
Canada Pension Plan .....	October 27
Veterans Disability Benefit .....	October 30

November	
Canada Child Benefit .....	November 20
Old Age Security .....	November 28
Canada Pension Plan .....	November 28
Veterans Disability Benefit .....	November 29

December	
Canada Child Benefit .....	December 13
Old Age Security .....	December 20
Canada Pension Plan .....	December 20
Veterans Disability Benefit .....	December 21



**CHARLES SOUSA**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
MISSISSAUGA—LAKESHORE

FALL 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE: CANADA SUMMER JOBS | HOUSING | AFFORDABILITY | COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Dear neighbour,

I hope you have had a chance to relax and enjoy this summer. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at community events and celebrations across the riding, like local farmers markets, Paint the Town Red, and Southside Shuffle! I've also had the pleasure of meeting some of the fantastic Canada Summer Job students.

Having completed my first session as your MP, I want to thank you for placing your trust in me to represent our community in Ottawa. This spring we passed 15 government bills in the House. I have also included information about some of the recent federal investments in Mississauga—Lakeshore. You can read about a few of them in this newsletter. I will continue to work hard to deliver results for our riding.

From the conversations my team and I have had with you over the summer I am acutely aware that Canadian of all ages are impacted by the rising costs of housing. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has reported that to make housing affordable an additional 3.5 million homes need to built by 2030. We are committed to meeting this challenge. We made the first significant housing investment in over 30 years with the introduction of the National Housing Strategy in 2017. We will continue to be relentless in our efforts and use every tool in available to meet this generational challenge and enable housing to be more affordable for Canadians.

I know that cost of living is top of mind for many, but especially young people. For students, we have eliminated interest on Canada Student and Apprentice Loans forever, we are increasing Canada Student Grants by 40%, providing up to \$4,200 for fulltime students, raising the limit from \$210 to \$300 per week of study, and we are waiving the requirement for mature students (22+ years) to go through a credit screening to qualify for federal student grants and loans for the first time.

As we return to the House of Commons know that my caucus colleagues and I remain focused on the issues that matter to most to you— making life more affordable, building more homes, creating more jobs, and protecting our environment. There is a lot of work to do, but we are committed to getting it done.

On a personal note, I am proud to have been named as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement (PSPC), Jean-Yves Duclos. PSPC supports all federal departments and agencies including being their central purchasing agent, real property manager, and pay and pension administrator. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to such a vital department, while continuing to serve our community. I welcome you to follow my work both in Ottawa and our community by signing up for my bi-weekly e-newsletter on my website.

Also, please plan on coming to my town hall on November 14th. More information, including how to RSVP can be found on my website. I look forward to seeing you!

*Charles*

## CONTACT US

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

## MUSIC IN MISSISSAUGA

For 25 years the **Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival** has brought the best of blues music to Port Credit. Charles participated in the ribbon cutting and “Musical Mardi Gras” down Lakeshore. That same weekend he had the honour of inducting the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra into the **Mississauga Music Walk of Fame**. With a combination of community musicians and professional section leaders, the MSO has earned a reputation as the best hybrid orchestra in Canada.



Charles presenting greetings on behalf of the Prime Minister to the MMWF board.



Charles and community members officially opening the Rabba Fine Foods Southside Shuffle

## FLAG RAISINGS

To kick off Pride Month Charles joined Rainbow Sauga Alliance to raise the Pride Flag at Celebration Square to celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community. On Emancipation Day he joined Mississauga's Black Caucus Alliance to raise the Pan-African flag in commemoration of the abolishment of slavery in the British Empire.



Charles and members of the Wawel Villa Board of Directors



Charles showing President Rebelo de Sousa, Min. Joly & PM Trudeau his father's display.



Recognizing Johnny Bozzo with a Coronation Pin

## HAPPY CANADA DAY!

On Canada Day we celebrate our extraordinary country and what it means to be Canadian, and there's no better place to celebrate than Paint the Town Red! After marching in the parade Charles presented Johnny Bozzo with a Coronation Pin in recognition of his service to the community. As part of Heritage Canada's Celebrate Canada program the federal government awarded a \$32,000 grant to Paint the Town Red.

## CARASSAUGA

In May Charles attended the opening of Carassauga, Mississauga's festival of cultures and one of the largest cultural festivals in North America. Now in its 38th year, with 25 pavilions all over the city, Carassauga is a perfect display of Canada's diversity.



Charles with a Carassauga performer.

## FOREIGN VISITS

In June Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki came to Canada. Charles attended a reception with Wawel Villa board members. In September President Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa and a delegation came to Toronto to celebrate 70 years of Canadian-Portuguese relations. Charles joined him, Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Joly for the Movimento Perpétuo photo exhibit where he proudly showed them a display about his father Antonio.

## LATEST LEGISLATION

This spring parliamentary session was incredibly productive. In 15 weeks, the House passed 15 significant government bills that will help make life more affordable, protect our environment, and strengthen our social programs. Some are now law, while others are still in the Senate. They include:

### ESTABLISHING THE CANADIAN DISABILITY BENEFIT

Canadians with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty compared to those without a disability. That is why our government introduced C-22, the Canadian Disability Benefit Act. The CDB will provide low-income working-age people with disabilities a monthly federal income supplement. It will supplement, not replace, existing federal and provincial-territorial supports. A cornerstone of Canada's first-ever Disability Inclusion Action Plan, this benefit will **lift hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty.**

### INVESTING IN EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

C-35 will enshrine the vision and guiding principles for a Canada-wide early learning and childcare (ELCC) system into law. Our government is committed to ensuring that all families in Canada have enduring access to affordable, inclusive, and high-quality ELCC. We are working hard to make this a reality — federal investments have resulted in nearly 52,000 new childcare spaces, and across Canada **childcare fees have been cut in half** on average. Every province and territory will have \$10-a-day childcare by 2026.

### STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

S-5 passed the first set of comprehensive amendments to Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) since it was passed in 1999. S-5 recognizes for the first time in federal law that everyone in Canada has a right to a healthy environment. It also strengthens the rules for chemical management and information reporting. With this Bill our government is delivering on its commitment to strengthen and modernize CEPA, enacting one of the most substantial improvements in Canadian environmental law in decades.

Want to learn more about Parliament?  
Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://lop.parl.ca/sites/Learn>



# OTTAWA UPDATES

## CEBA REPAYMENT

Small businesses are the heart of our communities, and backbone of our economy, and since day one, our government has been there to support them. Through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) we've supported nearly 900,000 small businesses and non-profit organizations through the pandemic.

We have heard from small businesses that some continue to face challenging times, and as a result on September 21st further changes to CEBA were announced to ensure that businesses have more flexibilities including:

- Extending the CEBA repayment deadline, for businesses who want to have up to \$20,000 of their CEBA loan forgiven, to **January 18, 2024**;
- A refinancing extension until **March 28, 2024**; and,
- Giving small businesses who cannot meet those deadlines until **December 31, 2026** to repay their loan in full

## VISITING OTTAWA?

Do you live in the federal riding of Mississauga–Lakeshore and are planning on visiting Parliament Hill? Don't forget to let us know!



Charles and Queen Elizabeth PS students during their school trip.

Our office can help you obtain tour tickets, and tickets for Question Period. We would also love to take you for a personal tour of the Parliament Buildings! Email us at [charles.sousa@parl.gc.ca](mailto:charles.sousa@parl.gc.ca).

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, honours the lost children and survivors of Indigenous residential schools, their families, and communities. Charles had the opportunity to meet with Chief Willie Littlechild, a former TRC Commissioner, on Parliament Hill. He previously met with Ava Hill, former Six Nations of the Grand River Chief, at the former Mohawk Residential School. They discussed the ongoing impacts of Indigenous residential schools and the important work still to be done as we continue on the path to reconciliation. He also attended the Kichi Zibi Mikan parkway renaming, which signifies the importance of the Ottawa River to the Algonquin Nation.

# DELIVERING RESULTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Charles's top priority in Ottawa is advocating for government resources and support for our community. Here are a few of the federal investments that Mississauga–Lakeshore has received recently:

## CANADA SUMMER JOBS

FUNDED BY EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA (WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH)

Since 2015, our government has made it a priority to help young people across the country access new jobs, training, and skills development opportunities. This includes creating tens thousands of jobs through the **Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)** program every year.

This program provides wage subsidies to small businesses, non-profits, and municipalities so they can hire students for the summer. In Mississauga–Lakeshore this year more than \$1.24 million in federal funding was awarded to employers, creating over 360 jobs for young people in our community. This means we are boosting the local economy while helping students gain the skills and experience they need to kickstart their careers.



Charles meeting with CSJ campers and counsellors at BGC Peel

## BUILDING MISSISSAUGA'S CLEAN ECONOMY

FUNDED BY NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA

On July 6th Charles joined Julie Dabrusin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources, to announce that Pearson International Airport will be home to Ontario's first public hydrogen refuelling station for zero-emission vehicles powered by fuel cells. Hydrogen is clean-burning, meaning it doesn't produce greenhouse gases — just water vapour.

Carlsun Energy will build, own, and operate the station, which is being enabled by a \$1 million investment from Natural Resources Canada. The refuelling station will have capability for both cars and transport trucks, ensuring that supply chains continue to grow while reducing carbon emissions.

"With a significant share of Canada's emissions coming from the transportation sector in Ontario, it's imperative that we start deploying hydrogen infrastructure in transportation corridors," said Carlsun president Jason Van Geel.

This project will create good jobs and deliver clean air, while ensuring Ontarians can access clean fuels as we build a net-zero economy.



Announcing the hydrogen refuelling station at Pearson International Airport

LOOKING FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR AN ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT? OUR OFFICE CAN HELP! EMAIL US FOR ASSISTANCE

## COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOVERY FUND

FUNDED BY EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA (FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)

Charities and non-profits — and the incredible staff and volunteers who make them work — are at the forefront of addressing needs in our community. During COVID, many of these organizations struggled. Their post-pandemic recovery is key to their continued ability to offer services and adapt to the changing needs of communities across Canada.

That is why our government launched the Community Services Recovery Fund. This fund is a one-time, \$400 million investment to support community service organizations to help organizations adapt, modernize, and be better equipped to improve the efficacy, accessibility, and sustainability of the community services that they provide.

Six organizations in Mississauga–Lakeshore received a combined **\$820,000** to support the work they do to help make our community a better, safer, and stronger place to live.

## CANADA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FUND

FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO

The Clarkson Village BIA received \$15,394 from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for streetscape improvement projects. Funding assists with our community vitality, support social and economic cohesion and help reanimate communities following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clarkson improvement projects include:

- Two traffic signal control boxes wrapped in original artwork by local artists Sally Co and Lynn Taylor.
- The BIA purchased 20 self-watering hanging basket planters. Each planter has a built-in reservoir that collects excess rainwater and water from top-watering, making the need for watering by a landscaper less frequent.
- Colourful new banners now installed throughout the village. Banners feature the work of students from iCreate Art Studio in Clarkson Village.

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