



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

# BEN CARR

Member of Parliament  
Winnipeg South Centre



/bencarr



@BenCarrwpg



bencarrwpg

March 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

I am continually grateful for the opportunity to serve as your MP. It's a true privilege that I do not take for granted. I believe strongly in the need for elected officials to be accessible to those they represent. My team and I do our best to communicate with you through various channels, such as these newsletters, community review articles, in-person meetings, and social media. Each week, we post a recap on social media focusing on key moments from the past 7 days. We post a highlight on a daily basis, too. I encourage you to follow these accounts if you are interested in staying up to date. During a sitting week, my schedule usually has me leave for Ottawa on Sunday morning, getting back to Winnipeg late Thursday night or early Friday morning. While at home on Fridays and Saturdays, I spend as much time as possible out in the community, as well as in my office, meeting with constituents. If you would like to meet with me to discuss a particular issue, or just to touch base, please do not hesitate to reach out to my team, and we will be happy to set something up. If you have any ideas on how we can improve our interactions with you, let us know!

### INFO

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Ben and Laura Thomas, President of the Linden Woods Community Centre at the Winter Carnival

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Volunteers are the heart of who we are, and help bring to life countless events throughout the year.

Whether it's withstanding the freezing cold to make sure the outdoor ice is ready for kids the next morning, or setting up tables and chairs for fundraisers, so much is made possible by the kindness of those wanting to help.

As a kid, I spent hours at our community centres, hopping from rink to rink, drinking slushies from the canteens, and making new friends.

Winter Festivals put the best parts of our community spirit on display. It was lots of fun to serve pancakes and take in the U-9 hockey tournament at the Corydon Community Centre Winterfest. I had a great time meeting new constituents and

enjoying the outdoor festivities (especially the petting zoo) at the Fort Garry Winter Carnival.

The Linden Woods Winter Carnival featured some incredible outdoor ice and tons of winter sporting activities. William Osler's festival was booming with music and skating. Thank you to all of our community centre staff and volunteers for making it happen.



Minister for Public Safety, Dominic LeBlanc, Executive Director, Liana McDonald, MP Ben Carr, Associate Executive Director, Signy Arnason

## KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Having spent much of my career working with young people and their families, I am all too familiar with the risks that modern technology and social media platforms are posing to the health and safety of children.

Located right here in our riding, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection is a world leader in combatting the sexual victimization of children in Canada. I have made several visits

to the CCCP and learned about innovative, victim-centric supports they use to combat the proliferation of child sexual abuse material on the internet.

You can help support their efforts and keep our community safe by learning more.

It is important that the kids in your life know they can go to [NeedHelpNow.ca](https://www.needhelpnow.ca) for help if they need it.

## GETTING BACK TO MY ROOTS

February was "I love to read" month. I appreciated the opportunity to interact with the amazing staff and students at schools across our riding, including Linden Meadows and Robert H. Smith.

I started my teaching career at Robert H. before moving over to Kelvin High School, so spending time with former colleagues brought back cherished memories of my time there as a

young Gr. 6 French Immersion teacher.

I also attended Vincent Massey Collegiate's "Diversify 2024", where the student body's dedication to improving our world was truly inspiring.

I am grateful to all of those in the education system, who day after day, give everything they have to improve the lives of our kids.



## INVESTING IN LAKE WINNIPEG AND LAKE OF THE WOODS

We have a moral obligation to protect that which sustains life today and for future generations.

The Federal Government recently launched the **Canada Water Agency**, which will be located here in Winnipeg. It will work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local governments, and scientists, to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed.

In addition, **the Federal Government is investing \$650 million over 10 years** to protect and restore the water quality and ecosystem health of our major watersheds across the country.

This includes **tens of millions of dollars to support Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods**, which are, along with the Great Lakes, specifically identified to receive support.

Many residents of our riding enjoy spending time at their cottages, going camping, and making day trips that form some of their most cherished memories with family.

I am proud that we are investing in science-based approaches to protecting our water so that future generations can benefit from the beauty that surrounds us.





## SUPPORTING UKRAINE

Canada's steadfast support for Ukraine continues.

In the spirit of strengthening our ties to Ukraine and showing our support for their fight against Putin's illegal and cruel invasion, I continue to engage with the Ukrainian community across our city.

Recently, I visited the Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, met with

leaders from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and took in a delicious perogy dinner with community members at the Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Our riding is home to a large population with Ukrainian heritage. Manitoba has been a national leader in welcoming thousands fleeing the war at home.

Our renewed Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement is one of

the key ways that we are defending the interest of our ally at this critical time.

I was proud to rise in the House of Commons on several instances to speak in favour of this deal, which has since passed.

Unfortunately, the Conservatives remain the only political party who do not support the deal that President Zelenskyy himself asked Canada to pursue.



Ben and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland



## RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE

I speak daily with constituents from all parts of our riding who write and call to share their views with me. These interactions represent the most important part of my job.

As we see the quality of our public discourse weaken, the ways in which we choose to approach interactions with one another is becoming increasingly important.

I appreciated the conversations because they help me to learn, grow, and reflect on issues from varying perspectives beyond my own lived experiences.

These discussions were honest, and genuine, with a real desire to broaden understanding of the different ways we view the world. This contributes to the meaningfulness of thinking critically through difficult issues.

In order for us to maintain a healthy dialogue as we work through challenging times, we will need to hold the values of respect, compassion, and kindness close, while choosing to see the best in one another.

Making time in my schedule for dialogue with constituents will always be my top priority. I look forward to the many conversations to come.

## CARING FOR OUR LAND

As the climate crisis progresses, taking concrete measures to protect our environment is as important as ever.

I joined our Minister of Environment and Climate Change, along with Indigenous nations, and the government of Manitoba, in signing an agreement to protect the Seal River watershed in Northern Manitoba, one of the world's largest watersheds.

This is a critical step in our joint efforts to fight climate change, preserve and protect land, and work with Indigenous partners in a spirit of reconciliation.

It is also an example of the cross-partisan relationship growing between our governments on behalf of Manitobans.

I was happy to be able to facilitate a meeting between the Minister and Sustainable South

Osborne. Founded in 2009, this organization converted barren public land into fruitful community gardens and orchards.

They share their produce with members of the community and those in need, and they host an amazing harvest dinner. We discussed their endeavors to support sustainable food systems in Winnipeg South Centre.



Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Ben and Mathew Scammell, Sustainable South Osborne



# MOTION M-86: CITIZEN'S ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM

Motion M-86 called for the creation of a "Canadian citizens' assembly on electoral reform, which would...determine if electoral reform is recommended for Canada, and if so recommend specific measures that would foster a healthier democracy."

I know that there are many in our riding who remain disappointed that changes to our system have not occurred.

After discussions with constituents over the past six months, I am aware that electoral reform remains an issue that matters to people in Winnipeg South Centre.

I voted in favour of M-86 because I recognize that there are gaps in our electoral system. It was also a way for me to ensure that I reflected the interests and values of my constituents in Parliament.

I am always keen to engage with anyone who is looking to enhance the quality of our democracy.

I want to thank those of you who reached out to share your views on this motion, and for bringing your ideas, energy, and passion to a topic that deserves the space for future dialogue.

# HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE

The number one issue on the minds of voters I speak to is health care.

Whether it is long wait times, doctor shortages, mental health and addictions services, or supports for older adults, people are worried about the quality of our system.

Recently, I joined my colleagues in welcoming the Prime Minister to Winnipeg, where alongside

Premier Wab Kinew, we announced an historic investment in Manitoba's health care system.

Over **\$630 million from the Federal Government** will be invested directly into Manitoba. Specific measures are in place to ensure money is being spent on areas of core concern, like those listed above.

In addition to this deal, the new **Canadian Dental Care Plan**, which

offers lower income earners, starting with older adults in Canada, is up and running.

It is not always easy to make sense of Government programs. If you or loved ones have any questions about the new dental care plan, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support—we are here to help.



Federal Minister of Health, Mark Holland, Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, Bernadette Smith and MP Ben Carr

# INVESTMENTS THAT I AM PROUD TO HAVE SUPPORTED IN WINNIPEG SOUTH CENTRE



**PRIDE WINNIPEG FESTIVAL INC.**

\$181,450



**GOLDEN RULE SENIORS' RESOURCE CENTRE**

\$24,334



**SOUTH WINNIPEG SENIORS' RESOURCE COUNCIL**

\$23,750



**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WINNIPEG**

\$79,599



**BETHEL PLACE**

\$9,650



**ITALIAN CANADIAN LEAGUE OF MANITOBA INC.**

\$23,015



**LIBERIAN CANADIAN ASSOC. OF MANITOBA**

\$24,995



**KOREAN 55 CENTRE**

\$25,000



**CRESCENT FORT ROUGE UNITED CHURCH**

\$24,575