

## SUPPORTING OLDER ADULTS

Learning from my constituents is a huge part of the job. The ideas you provide are central to how I advocate. Recently, I had an engaging discussion with Beverly Suek, a valued member of our community. As Beverly shared experiences with me about her co-op living arrangements alongside other community members in Riverview, we reflected on ways we can be more bold and strategic. Specifically as it relates to supporting older adults, government can help tackle multiple issues at once.



Meeting with community leader Beverly Suek.

Since becoming your MP, I have secured \$397,435 in funding across 20 organizations supporting older adults in Winnipeg South Centre!

Creative ideas like providing seed funding, tax incentives, and surplus infrastructure to help older adults age with dignity can combat the crippling impacts of loneliness, tackle housing shortages, and streamline health services. If you have ideas about how we can support older adults in our community, or if you have experiences you would like to share that help shed light on some of the ongoing challenges we face, please do not hesitate to be in touch. Your input matters.

## CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

Last month, thanks to the unbelievable personal courage and professional skillset of team members at Sunshine House, nearly a dozen lives were saved in a single day from a drug overdose, as a toxic supply cut through the community. These lives were not saved by luck. They were saved because places like Sunshine House exist. They survived because we have a dedicated and caring community that sees addiction as treatable, and those suffering from it, as equal human beings. One of the investments I am most proud to have championed as your MP was securing \$458,065 to ensure Sunshine House's MOPS could remain open. As Pierre Poilievre and his team demonize those battling addiction and spread falsehoods about healthcare supports set up to serve those in need, we are focused on partnerships that address the extremely diverse and complex paths to recovery that must be in place.



Ben, Federal Minister of Addictions and Mental Health, Ya'ara Saks, and the leaders of Sunshine House outside of Manitoba's only Mobile Overdose Prevention Site.

## KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL

Congratulations to the Winnipeg South Centre recipients of the King Charles III

Coronation Medal for outstanding community service:

- ◆ Vicky Adams
- ◆ Sgt. Aaron Bourque
- ◆ Karen Dana
- ◆ Rt. Major Victor De Waal
- ◆ Dr. Jino Distasio
- ◆ Hon. Gary Doer
- ◆ Kourosh Doustshenas
- ◆ Spencer Duncanson
- ◆ Ab Freig
- ◆ Major Jacqueline Gardner
- ◆ Elaine Goldstine
- ◆ Rajinder Grewal
- ◆ Moira Horgan-Jones
- ◆ Tina Keeper
- ◆ Dr. Emma LaRocque
- ◆ Sgt. Matthew Lumsden
- ◆ Major Wayne Lundrigan
- ◆ Noreen Mian
- ◆ Art Miki
- ◆ Ash Modha
- ◆ Hugh Penwarden
- ◆ William Prince
- ◆ Dr. Noralou Roos
- ◆ Raymond Sokalski
- ◆ Rt. Justice Freda Steel
- ◆ Dr. Shelley Sweeney
- ◆ Raymond Wan
- ◆ Dr. Jonas Watson
- ◆ Dr. John Wiens
- ◆ Chris Young

## DEFENDING OUR VALUES

Recently, I attended the opening of a new exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights called "Love in a Dangerous Time", which documents the appalling treatment of LGBT Canadians in the RCMP, Military and Federal Public Service over decades. It was a powerful and moving evening with a wonderful display of courage, creativity, and compassion.

A few weeks ago, when I posted a photo of myself and Premier Wab Kinew on social media, an individual whose online professional profile states they are a member of the Winnipeg South Centre Conservative Riding Association, wrote a public reply with an image that said "Gay".

This '90s style locker room talk is both regressive and harmful.

The work we have done to create a more inclusive society is once again in jeopardy as people feel emboldened to attack the vulnerable and marginalized, with permission and protection from political leaders.

Defending the rights of our friends, family, and neighbours to love who they love is not "woke" nor is it a sign of weakness to advocate for diverse viewpoints and representation in our institutions.

"Progress" is not a dirty word. It represents the pursuit of an improved societal standard and ideal. It means we learn from past wrongs and commit to elevating our principles, both socially and economically. Of course, there is always room to debate the merits of public policy and to provide contrasting views, but there will never be room to deny people in this country hard earned rights that protect their dignity and autonomy. I will continue to be relentless in my defense of progress.

Regardless of who you vote for, I hope you will be a part of that fight, too.



Ben with Theodore



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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

March 2025

The values and relationships we have often taken for granted in Canada are under threat. The mutual benefit of trade relations with our Southern neighbours and the building of a Canadian "mosaic" as opposed to the American "melting pot" are among several aspects key to Canadian identity and prosperity that are under attack. They are threatened by Donald Trump, the rise of right-wing populist rhetoric, and by politicians here at home who are more interested in dividing through fear than by uniting through hope and vision.

I was in Ottawa recently meeting with our ministers of Public Safety, Trade, Defense, Foreign Affairs, Industry, and Finance, to talk about our response to provocations from President Trump. In addition, I am in frequent contact with Premier Kinew, Mayor Gillingham, former U.S. Ambassador Gary Doer, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, federal and provincial ministers, as well as local business owners and leaders to ensure that we are united in our Team Canada approach.

I am travelling to Washington D.C. in February to meet with U.S. politicians and stakeholders in order to advocate for Manitoba and to reiterate to our American counterparts that our integrated economies are valuable to both nations.

At the time this was sent off for publication on February 4th, President Trump had introduced devastating tariffs of 25% on Canadian imports, and then, for now, backed off. The unpredictability of decision making from the U.S. administration requires us to be pragmatic, tough, and united.

We will fight back. Our sovereignty is not for sale.

Our collective strength and pride will persevere through this moment.

Although circumstances will have no doubt shifted when you receive this, the work to defend the interests of not only the Canadian economy, but Canadian identity and sovereignty, will not stop. I will continue to prioritize the protection of our collective interests and ensure they are at the forefront of all work undertaken on your behalf.

We are formidable, we are resolute, and we are determined. We know what we are fighting for.

Sincerely,



Ben meeting with Rebecca Molinoff, U.S. Consul in Winnipeg.

## CANADA-U.S. RELATIONS

I had a very productive meeting recently with Rebecca Molinoff, the newly appointed U.S. Consul in Winnipeg. We discussed the many ways our countries have mutually benefitted from a shared geography, historical alliances, trade deals, and trusted friendships. I am firmly committed to continue nurturing our partnership so that the interests of people on both sides of the border are improved.

I, alongside my federal colleagues, continue to press upon our American counterparts the essential role Canada plays in American prosperity.

For many of you, your business or livelihood involves direct trade with the U.S. For all of us, the impacts of U.S. tariffs would cause immediate economic pain, leading to increases in the cost of living and create uncertainty in our economy that we have never experienced before.

As I continue to work through these challenges with my colleagues in Ottawa, I ask that you please reach out to my office with your ideas, and guidance, so that I can incorporate the feedback and keep your voices and experiences woven into discussions about how best to fight.



## A SECURE BORDER

On February 4th, I spent time alongside Premier Wab Kinew, Public Safety Minister David McGuinty, and Minister Terry Duguid, as well as RCMP and CBSA Agents at the Emerson border crossing to discuss our collective efforts to strengthen the border.

We have a strong plan supported by outstanding government agencies, across multiple levels of government, in a united effort to enhance the security of our border, keeping both Canadians and Americans safe, with a specific focus on tackling the fentanyl crisis, as well as human smuggling.

In addition to the incredibly important role that border security plays in the relationship with our American neighbours, we will continue doing everything we can, together, to prevent tariffs that would have a devastating impact on both Canada and the United States.

I want to thank the brave officers who work tirelessly on our behalf, in often dangerous situations at the border, to keep us all safe and prosperous.



Meeting with RCMP officers and political counterparts at the Emerson Border Crossing.

## BEN IN THE COMMUNITY



Attending the opening of "Love in a Dangerous Time" at the CMHR.



Celebrating Lunar New Year with renowned community member Raymond Wan.



Learning about the work of a young Indigenous artist on display at Lord Roberts Community Centre.



Ben with Premier Wab Kinew at the Winnipeg Jets' WASAC Night.



Presenting certificates to the UNESCO students at Linden Meadows.



Hosting a joint Youth and Older Adult Council Meeting at the Constituency Office.



Enjoying an evening with community members at the Holy Family Perogy Dinner.

## IN THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY



It was another season of fun and successful winter festivals in Winnipeg South Centre. These events bring people together from across our riding in celebration of community. From the 4 on 4 hockey tournament at Riverview to the pancake breakfast at the Corydon Community Centre, and everything in between, the best of what our riding has to offer was on full display. A huge thank you goes out to the hundreds of volunteers who keep the ice smooth, canteens stocked, and the mood fun. I was happy to sponsor a hot chocolate station at the Fort Garry Community Centre Winter Carnival and the Linden Woods Community Centre Winter Festival, too.



Ben with Jino Distasio at Riverview Community Centre's annual hockey tournament.



Serving Pancakes with Minister Mike Moroz at Corydon Community Centre's Winterfest breakfast.



Presenting a certificate recognizing community service at the Linden Woods Community Centre Winter Festival.

## THE FUTURE OF CANADA

The decision by the Prime Minister to step down means that the Liberal Party of Canada must choose a new leader. In keeping with our Westminster Parliamentary traditions, the new leader, because they lead the party with the most seats in the House of Commons, will become Prime Minister. There are several highly qualified and capable leadership candidates who can defend Canadian interests against Donald Trump and protect the progressive policies that have strengthened the foundation of our communities over the past number of years.

I am in regular contact with Chrystia Freeland, Mark Carney, and Karina Gould, as well as their teams, in order to ensure that no matter who wins, the issues that matter to those I represent in Winnipeg South Centre are heard. I do not believe that only registered members of the Liberal Party of Canada ought to have their policy ideas shared with the leadership candidates. As such, I encourage all of my constituents, regardless of political leanings, to reach out to my office if you have suggestions you would like to offer to the next Prime Minister. Your participation in the democratic process is critical in upholding so many of the things we have fought for as a country.