



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**BEN  
CARR**

Member of Parliament  
Winnipeg South Centre

## *A Message From Ben*

**Fall 2025**

The first few months of the parliamentary session have been packed with new legislation, committee studies, and plenty of stakeholder and local community engagements.

On the legislative front, we have taken important steps in a variety of areas, including bail reform, anti-hate provisions, and border security.

As the addiction, mental health, and toxic drug supply crisis continues to inflict damage on our communities, we have introduced policy and legislative changes that find the appropriate balance between providing the supports and compassion that people suffering require, while ensuring that public safety is at the forefront of our approach. Funding to cities and provinces through health care transfers and housing supports ensure the most vulnerable have increased access to wraparound supports.

Changes to the criminal code, including tougher penalties for repeat offenders, sexual assault offences, and longer sentences for violent crimes are critical steps in confronting the real challenges we face around public safety. We are also bringing in changes to address the massive rise in antisemitism and hate targeting minority groups in Canada. Criminalizing the direct, intentional obstruction of entry into spaces used by identifiable groups and banning hate symbols is something leaders from dozens of minority groups have been calling for - we are listening.

To learn more about these pieces of legislation, please feel free to reach out to my office and we can direct you to the independently run parliamentary website that can provide a non-biased, factual overview of the bills as presented in the House of Commons. With so much misinformation floating around, I always encourage people to read from the direct, objective source, so that they can formulate their own views from the start - it's the teacher in me!

On the Committee front, we have begun studies on growing productivity in Canada as well as a defence industrial strategy. If you are interested in learning more about the witness testimony that we have heard, the parameters of the study, or if you have your own feedback to provide on these issues, please be in touch with my team. We will happily assist in guiding you towards all of the publicly available information where you can learn more, or to set up a time for us to chat.

As always, being present in the community and attending local events remains a top priority for me. From community centre events, school visits, and individual meetings with residents, to local funding announcements that support our community, being present matters a great deal to me.

As the ongoing Canada Post dispute leads to some disruptions in mail delivery, my monthly newsletters to you may arrive slightly dated. I encourage you to visit my website and social media accounts if you are interested in staying up to date on my work in both Ottawa and Winnipeg.

Sincerely,



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## INVESTING IN GREENER HOMES

I was happy to host the launch of the new **Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program**. This is a no-cost initiative designed to help low-and middle-income households, including renters, make energy-saving home retrofits. It is a move in the right direction for accessibility and affordability. Manitoba is leading the way as the first province to roll out this program, setting an example in making energy-efficient upgrades more accessible for those who need them most. The Federal Government has partnered with Efficiency Manitoba, and will provide nearly **\$30 million** for this program. For more information, and to check your eligibility, visit the Efficiency Manitoba website.



With Minister of Environment Julie Dabrusin, and Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson



With Elder Wiebe, MP Duguid, Minister Mike Moyes and Funding Recipients at Fort Whyte

## PROTECTING LAKE WINNIPEG

One of the issues you have repeatedly urged me to advocate for, and take action on, relates to the environment and climate change. Lake Winnipeg is a treasure. In addition to being the world's 11th largest freshwater lake, it is a place where many families from our riding form some of their most cherished memories together. A changing climate along with high levels of phosphorus and other nutrients are impacting its ecological health.

I have used my voice as your Member of Parliament to respond to your calls for action.

Our government has committed **\$650 million over 10 years** for the renewed **National Freshwater Action Plan**. **\$64.5 million** is allocated specifically for improving the health of Lake Winnipeg. Recently, MP Terry Duguid and I were thrilled to announce **\$1.6 million** in 10 new freshwater projects to protect and restore Lake Winnipeg. Recipients include:

- **\$708,900 for Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium** to support in-lake science efforts. This includes the operation of their vessels, which are vital for governments and other partners to conduct research and monitor the lake.
- **\$150,600 for Ducks Unlimited Canada** to help reduce phosphorus entering Lake Winnipeg and support educational outreach to farmers to promote adoption of farming practices that reduce nutrient runoff.
- **\$218,000 for The University of Winnipeg** to improve understanding of the risk of phosphorus runoff during snowmelt, including through the development of a snowmelt runoff risk map for the Red River Basin.

I am proud that we are investing in science-based approaches that protect our water. We have a moral obligation to protect that which sustains life today and for future generations. Entrusting Indigenous knowledge, and our local and national experts to guide us towards a more sustainable future is a necessary and worthy investment we must make.

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On September 30<sup>th</sup> survivors, Indigenous leaders, community members and government officials gathered to unveil three plaques at the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School. This event marked a significant step in recognizing the painful legacy of residential schools and honoured the resilience of those who lived through them. Located at 621 Academy Road, the Assiniboia Residential School operated from 1958 to 1973 and was one of the few residential schools situated in an urban setting. I was invited to participate in the unveiling of the bilingual and multilingual plaques, which include text in English, French, and Indigenous languages – Anishinaabemowin, Cree, Dakota, and Dene – reflecting the linguistic heritage of many students who attended the school.

I grew up only a few blocks away from the school but did not learn about its history until I was an adult. The plaques that were unveiled represent both a painful truth and an educational tool. My 5-year-old niece, who attended the ceremony, will grow up understanding what happened here – not only from a book or in a classroom – but from this landmark in her own community, with names, languages and stories preserved.

This is how reconciliation begins: with awareness, honesty, and respect.



With Elder Mabel Horton, on Truth and Reconciliation Day, 2025

## SUCCESSION PLANTING

Over 3,000 trees have been planted and a generational sustainability plan implemented by residents over the past few decades in our riding. I joined neighbours in Wildwood Park for their annual tree planting event. It was a wonderful way to give back to our community, and help ensure a greener future for generations to come.



With Hugh Penwarden at the annual Wildwood Park Tree Planting

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



With Community Centre Presidents and Managers

Community Centres are the heart and soul of our neighbourhoods. Since first being elected, I have carved out time in my schedule regularly to attend festivals, meet with residents, and learn about the needs of the community from the leaders of those centres. Last month, I sat down with representatives from community centres across Winnipeg South Centre.

I believe an important part of my job is to help convene, collaborate, and build bridges. Meetings such as these are crucial to staying connected with the grassroots and identifying ways that we can further support our residents.

## REPRESENTING OUR REGION

I recently travelled to the Northwest Territories and Alberta in my capacity as Chair of both the Government's Prairies/North Caucus and the House of Commons Industry Committee. My meetings in the North included discussion with the Mayor and Town Council from Hay River, NWT, the Deputy Premier, and the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce.



In Calgary, I sat down with experts in energy development from the University of Calgary, the President of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, and the VP of Enhance Energy, which has sequestered over 7 million tonnes of CO2 in Alberta. As we confront serious challenges to the environment, it is important for us to remember that there are many incredible advancements being made in renewable and conventional energy sources to help us do our part in reducing emissions. The Prairie provinces have contributed immensely to our collective prosperity, and we need to support Western Canadian industry as it innovates and decarbonizes.



My major takeaways are that our region is still a major economic engine for Canada, and in addition, we are leading the way for the future. This includes significant advancements in sustainable energy production, critical mineral development, strategic defence hubs, and vast export market potential to diversify our trade. Prairie pragmatism through innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurial spirit is core to who we are.

These visits help me to better understand Western Canada while at the same time building new bridges and connections to Winnipeg that will help position us as a key player in these sectors moving forward.

Left: With Candice Paton, Enhance Energy's Vice President of Corporate Affairs

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROWTH

Recently, I joined the Minister of Housing to announce **\$82.3 million** in funding for Manitoba infrastructure through the **Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF)**. This flexible investment in growth enabling infrastructure can be used for roads to recreation, supporting the projects that communities need to grow and thrive. Over the past few years, I have enjoyed a warm, collaborative, and focused relationship with my colleagues and the leadership of both the provincial and municipal levels of government. It is not always the case in other parts of the country that elected officials from different parties and jurisdictions put partisanship aside to best serve the interests of the community. Announcements like these highlight the ways we work well, and respectfully, together - exactly as our constituents should expect us to.



Announcing \$82 million for Manitoba from the CCBF with Housing Minister Gregor Robertson, MP Duguid, MP Eyolfson, MP Lavack, and provincial and municipal partners