

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

A recent visit to New Flyer Industries in Winnipeg, alongside Industry Minister Melanie Joly, Premier Wab Kinew and Mayor Scott Gillingham, marked the opening of its new **All-Canadian Build** facility. During the visit, we rode on a Manitoba made electric bus fresh off the production line and met the skilled workers who help power the province’s advanced manufacturing sector.

For the first time in over a decade, buses will be built from start to finish in Canada. The facility was supported by a joint Federal and Provincial investment of **\$38 million**, helping expand local production capacity. This investment will create good jobs and further reinforce Manitoba’s position as a national leader in heavy-duty manufacturing and clean transportation technology.



With Minister of Industry Melanie Joly, and Premier Wab Kinew at New Flyer Industries

DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Canada’s first ever **Defence Industrial Strategy** aims to strengthen our domestic industry by ensuring that defence spending supports Canadian innovation, manufacturing, and skilled jobs. By partnering with Canadian companies, the strategy promotes defence production within Canada while contributing to national security and economic growth.

Winnipeg-based Magellan Aerospace, which I visited recently, highlights how Canadian firms can play a direct role in this strategy – developing high-precision components, supporting supply chains for allied defence programs, and demonstrating the country’s capacity to compete in the global defence and aerospace sector. Strengthening this sector is especially important for Winnipeg South Centre, where advanced manufacturing jobs help to support local workers, innovation, and long-term economic growth.



With Minister Joly and MP Kevin Lamoureux at Magellan Aerospace

HOME-GROWN INNOVATION

I had the opportunity to meet with Fred Meier, President and CEO of Red River Polytechnic and his team at the Price Institute of Advanced Manufacturing and Mechatronics. We toured their state-of-the-art facility and saw firsthand how innovation and education are coming together. As the Chair of the Industry Committee, I was particularly interested in how these kinds of partnerships are helping to strengthen Manitoba’s manufacturing sector.



An instructor demonstrates technology developed at RRC

During our visit, I learned how they are actively collaborating with Manitoba companies to help bridge critical skills gaps in the manufacturing sector. Partnerships with industry leaders such as Magellan Aerospace are creating hands-on learning opportunities for students while ensuring businesses have access to a highly skilled workforce and technology developed on site. This model of collaboration is a powerful example of how education and industry can work together to strengthen the local economy and prepare the next generation for in-demand careers. The Federal Government is proud to be a partner on these critical initiatives.

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

February was I Love to Read Month—a month long celebration of literacy through activities and sharing stories. As a former teacher and principal, I love the opportunity to get back in the classroom to connect with kids.

It was fun to be a guest reader at Harrow School, Ralph Maybank School, SPLASH Early Learning Centre, Whyte Ridge Elementary, and Universal Daycare, all located in Winnipeg South Centre.

I also enjoyed my visit with students at Grant Park High School, who asked thoughtful questions about my role as a Member of Parliament and the issues shaping our world.



Celebrating I Love to Read month at Harrow School



Speaking with students at Grant Park High School

Their curiosity about how global events impact Canadians made for an interesting discussion and left me with much to reflect upon.

Students raised important questions about social media and its potential harms. Their concerns highlight how closely young people are paying attention to the digital world and Artificial Intelligence.

The Industry Committee, which I chair, has just begun a study on Artificial Intelligence. I welcome both student and community input broadly speaking, as the study evolves.

Visits like this are incredibly meaningful as they help inform my conversations in Ottawa.

Friendly Reminder

- ♦ Filing your taxes is the only way to trigger payments like the **Canada Child Benefit**, **GST/HST credits**, and the new **Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit**
- ♦ Annual filing is required to confirm your eligibility for the **Canadian Dental Care Plan**
- ♦ Local tax clinics are available through the **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**
- ♦ Contact my office for assistance in navigating CRA services



BEN CARR
Member of Parliament
Winnipeg South Centre

A Message From Ben

Spring 2026

Dear Constituents,

Last month, I attended the NATO Parliamentary Annual General Meeting in Brussels, Belgium. It was an opportunity to gather with colleagues from allied nations, share policy ideas, and elevate Canada’s voice on the international stage. I left with a deepened sense of appreciation for the role our NATO Alliance plays in protecting Canada’s security and prosperity.

What was clear, is that Canada’s leadership in the world is generating real results for us at home. Prime Minister Carney’s speech at Davos, in addition to his longstanding reputation as a valued international leader, has earned him and Canada a renewed role in global leadership. Since the election, Canada has signed new trade deals or commitments with 15 countries, including the European Union, unlocking the potential for hundreds of billions in new investments. We are the only country in the G7 that has trade agreements with all other G7 allies.

The Prime Minister recently announced over **\$35 Billion** for investments directly into our Arctic and Northern defence. As the Chair of the Government’s Prairies North Caucus, and the House of Commons Industry Committee, this is particularly welcome news for me. These investments will not only increase our defence capabilities in a volatile world, but they will also spur substantial economic growth in Northern communities through dual-use infrastructure. We will do this through the use of domestic resources, supported by a new, targeted **Buy Canadian** policy.

On the ground in Winnipeg South Centre, I had lots of fun attending Winter Festivals over the past few months at our amazing community centres. In addition, I spent time with members of various community groups to celebrate holidays, including Lunar New Year and Iftar dinners for Ramadan. Our diversity is an ongoing source of pride and inspiration for me.

As always, thank you to those who have taken the time to reach out respectfully and thoughtfully to share your views with me – our democracy depends on this ongoing dialogue.

Sincerely,

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CELEBRATING RAMADAN

This month, I participated in an Iftar dinner for Ramadan in Ottawa. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather with members of the Muslim community, and beyond, in celebration of this holy month in the Islamic faith. I was quite moved by the words of one speaker in particular who shared reflections on the importance of Ramadan to him. I wanted to include some of the profound perspectives he shared here:

"Ramadan is not about surviving without food. It is about learning to live with purpose. It is a month where millions of ordinary people voluntarily embrace discomfort so we can become more disciplined, more grateful, more generous... when you deny yourself what is permissible, you strengthen your ability to avoid what is harmful. And when you break your fast at sunset, you don't just eat, you appreciate.

It turns an everyday act into a moment of gratitude. But Ramadan is not only personal, it is communal. Every evening, families gather, neighbours invite neighbours, mosques fill with people shoulder-to-shoulder, young and old, new immigrants and multigeneration Canadians, doctors and students, business owners, labourers, all in the equal position of prayer. It is a month where community becomes a habit again and I think that is one of the reasons an Iftar in Parliament matters because Parliament is where we negotiate the public good and Ramadan is where we refine the private self. The public good and the private self are not separate projects."

Asif Khan, National Secretary for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



At an Iftar dinner with Asif Khan, National Secre-

SUPPORTING ARTS IN THE VILLAGE

A **\$600,000** Federal investment will support important upgrades at the Gas Station Theatre in Osborne Village. This funding will help the beloved venue expand and modernize its facilities. The funding will contribute to improvements including an upgraded outdoor courtyard, an expanded lobby, and the addition of a new café and wine bar, creating more welcoming spaces for audiences and artists alike.

Since opening in 1983, the Gas Station Theatre has been at the heart of Osborne Village, serving as an affordable venue that champions small, emerging, local and alternative performances. I was proud to advocate for this funding, which will help ensure the theatre continues to thrive as a vibrant cultural hub in the community for years to come.



Reviewing expansion plans with Gas Station Theatre Executive Director Nick Kowalchuk

BEN IN THE COMMUNITY



Visiting the Winnipeg South Sikh Centre with Secretary of State Randeep Sarai, and MP Terry Duguid



Enjoying the sleigh rides at the Fort Garry Community Centre Winter Festival



Handing out hot chocolate at the Linden Woods Community Centre Winter Carnival



Meeting with my Older Adults' Council and Minister Mike Moroz



Celebrating Lunar New Year at Kum Koon Garden



Attending the Perogy Dinner at Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church



Team Carr at the Corydon Community Centre Pancake Breakfast



Kicking off Black History Month at City Hall

CANADA AND NATO

I travelled to Brussels, Belgium recently as part of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation. There, I was proud to represent Canada, joining colleagues from across the organization at a time when global security issues remain front of mind.

NATO now includes 32 member states, and the meetings brought together parliamentarians from across the membership to discuss the critical challenges facing our shared security interests. These gatherings provide an important opportunity for elected representatives to exchange perspectives, build relationships with partner nations, and deepen our understanding of the issues shaping collective defence. Over several productive days, we engaged in thoughtful dialogue about evolving security threats, our shared responsibilities, and the role each of our countries plays in maintaining a strong and effective NATO.

The Arctic, Ukraine, and cyber warfare were prominent themes throughout the conference. We were briefed on several occasions by NATO's top intelligence officers. For me, it was especially valuable to gain deeper insight into the work being done within NATO and the priorities guiding the organization.

As a country with a vast northern region and growing strategic importance in the Arctic, Canada has a vital role to play within NATO. These conversations reinforced how Canada, and particularly our northern communities, fit into the broader security picture and how we can continue contributing to collective defence. I was grateful to participate alongside colleagues from across party lines and to bring those insights back home as we continue working to keep Canadians safe and strengthen our partnerships with allies.



Ben at NATO in Brussels

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION

I was honoured to host the Canadian Centre for Child Protection at a reception in Ottawa last month.

Located in Winnipeg South Centre, the CCCP protects children from exploitation, supports survivors, and advances prevention and education. Their work makes a meaningful difference for families across Canada.



With Minister of Justice Sean Fraser, and members of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection