

IREK KUSMIERCZYK

Member of Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh



IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

THE CANADA RECOVERY BENEFIT

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

A MESSAGE FROM MP IREK KUSMIERCZYK

When Canadians work together - good things happen.

That was certainly the case last week when all parties voted unanimously in favour of the **Canada Recovery Benefit** - which will replace the CERB and provide workers, the self-employed and families looking after loved ones the support they need to get through the next stage of the pandemic.

The **CRB** will make sure that no Canadian will have to choose between working and taking care of their health - or the health of their family.

That spirit of collaboration was evident once again working with Windsor **Mayor Drew Dilkens** and **Public Safety Minister Bill Blair** to extend funding for the migrant worker isolation & recovery centre through the Canadian Red Cross

Finally, the **Speech from the Throne** delivered our Government's clear vision and direction for Canada - one that focuses on protecting the health and safety of Canadians while building back a stronger, more resilient, more equitable and sustainable Canada.

Let's keep working hard - and working hard together.

Speech from the Throne

BUILDING A STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT CANADA

FOUNDATIONS

Protecting Canadians from COVID-19

Supporting Canadians through the pandemic

Building back better

Fighting for a more inclusive Canada



Last week the Governor General presented the Speech from the Throne, outlining our **Government's plan for building a stronger, more equitable, more sustainable and more resilient Canada**. At the same time, our top priority remains protecting the health and safety of Canadians through the COVID19 pandemic.

Outlined were many important commitments that will ensure residents, families and businesses in communities like ours in **Windsor-Tecumseh not only have the resources to combat COVID19, but also have the support and investments to thrive moving forward**. Some specific commitments that will help our region, protect jobs and strengthen the prosperity of our region are:

- Extending the Wage Subsidy and introducing the Canada Recovery Benefit
- Historic investments in the manufacture of zero emission vehicles, batteries & clean technology in Canada - protecting and growing manufacturing jobs in Windsor-Essex
- Develop an affordable Canada-wide early learning and childcare system
- Establish National Standards for Long Term Care homes and penalize those who neglect seniors under their care
- Universal pharmacare that will help families save money on costly prescriptions
- The largest investments in history of our country in the training and upskilling of Canadians will prepare our workers and residents to compete today and tomorrow

Throughout this challenging time our community has demonstrated tremendous resilience and compassion, neighbours helping neighbours, small businesses supporting each other and residents, and frontline workers keeping our families healthy and safe.

To build a Canada that works for everyone, we need to take bold action on health, the economy, equality and the environment. This is our opportunity to contain the global crisis and build back better - and more importantly- build back together.

The Canada Recovery Benefits

It was a very productive week in the House of Commons, as all parties voted unanimously in favour of Bill C-4, which replaces the CERB with the new **Canada Recovery Benefit**. This historic legislation will enable workers who are not

**CANADA RECOVERY
BENEFITS ARE NOW
IN EFFECT**



canada.ca/coronavirus

Canada

eligible for EI, they will now be able to access income support through the new Recovery Benefits. I was honoured to speak in support on behalf of the residents of Windsor-Tecumseh.

This will benefit many in our community, because while many have seen their jobs come back, there are still some sectors that have been particularly hit hard and continue to need support. These benefits will provide income support to Canadians while promoting economic recovery by introducing measures that encourage people to safely return to work. Specifically, the legislation includes:

- **A Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not eligible for EI and who still require income support. This Benefit would support Canadians who have not returned to work due to COVID-19 or whose income has dropped by at least 50%. These workers must be available and looking for work, and must accept work where it is reasonable to do so;
- **A Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)** of \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19. This Benefit supports our commitment to ensure all Canadian workers have access to paid sick leave; and;
- **A Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)** of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19 or because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine

I am proud of the work of my **Minister Carla Qualtrough** and her incredible team for their tremendous hard work and always staying focused on the priority; helping Canadians.

More Funding for Local Charities

The United Way/Centraide of Windsor-Essex has received an additional \$390,000 through the second round of funding from our federal government's **Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)**. The fund provides financial support to charities adapting their frontline services to support vulnerable Canadians during the COVID19 pandemic.

In May 2020, the United Way was granted \$1.34 million to invest in our community through this fund. After the initial call for applications, United Way approved 35 local projects for funding. Organizations that have previously applied for funding may apply again to extend or expand programming, or to invest in new projects. Learn more about ECSF requirements and how to apply at www.weareunited.com/funding.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

Join United Way WE for a livestream **Watch Party on Tuesday, October 6 beginning at 12 p.m.** For every Facebook view, the official Campaign sponsor, **UNIFOR Local 444 will generously donate \$5** to this year's campaign. So, just by joining the Watch Party, you can help your community. It couldn't be easier - or more important.



Canada Summer Jobs Program



Meet Sonia, Ethan, Owan and Patricia, who were Summer Students through the **Canada Summer Jobs** program at **Bike Windsor-Essex** - a regional non-profit advocating for improved cycling infrastructure that also organizes and supports events that promote fun and safe cycling while serving as a liaison for all cyclists in Windsor Essex.

The students worked in **the Bike Kitchen**, a bike repair shop where the community can learn basic bike mechanics and how to repair their own bike. Kudos to the while bike crew!

Mental Health Awareness Month

I was delighted to wear my #ShowYourSole socks to Parliament Hill on the 1st of October as October is Mental Health Awareness Month - when we stand up for mental health and work together with organizations like the **Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor Essex Branch** to end the stigma around mental illness.

The COVID19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the mental health and wellbeing of Canadians - and it is one reason why early on our Government committed \$240 million for the creation and expansion of virtual care and mental health tools like **Wellness Together Canada**.



We Are Here to Help



CONTACT INFORMATION

519-979-2707

Irek.Kusmierczyk@parl.gc.ca

IrekMP.ca

HAVE A QUESTION OR CONCERN?

Let us help you find the right answer and navigate federal programs, services and agencies, including:

- **Canada Revenue Agency:** Canada Child Benefit (CCB), tax inquiries
- **Service Canada:** Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS)
- **Immigration and Citizenship:** Passport Canada, Permanent Residency, Family Sponsorship
- **COVID-19 Support:** Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)