

HELPING CANADIANS GET AHEAD.



LEONA ALLESLEV, MP

AURORA—OAK RIDGES—RICHMOND HILL

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Dear Friends,

To date, 2019 has been a busy and productive year so far in Ottawa and in Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill. In the riding, I have spoken with many of you regarding your concerns with our economy, foreign affairs, and the need for comprehensive tax reform to improve Canada's ability to compete in the global market, and ensure Canadians are getting ahead, not just getting by. My Conservative colleagues and I are working hard to hold this government to account as we witness challenges to our economy the foundation of our democracy (**read more on page 4**). Your priorities are my priorities, and after speaking with residents from across Aurora—Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, here are the key priorities I am working on to ensure your voice is heard in Ottawa...

Creating a Competitive Economy and Quality Jobs for Canadians

Many of you have expressed your concerns around Canada's inability to compete in the global market, and the detrimental effects it has on Canada's employment landscape and our economy. Canada's job creation and economic success depends upon our ability to compete in the global economy. Canada no longer has a competitive edge, and it's affecting the quality of jobs for Canadians. More Canadians are precariously employed than ever before – low pay, variable work hours, no benefits, no sick pay, etc. We must define a legal and policy framework that fosters increased economic security, and positions Canadians to get ahead, and not just get by. **Read more on page 2.**

Comprehensive Tax Reform

Many of you have expressed to me the failings of our current

federal tax system. Overwhelmingly, the message is clear, Canadians feel our tax system is fundamentally unfair and broken. We have seen major changes in the foundations of which our tax structure was built in the 1970s, and our corporate tax structure is affecting Canada's ability to compete in the global market. Personal and corporate tax structures must be reviewed. **Read more on page 2.**

Foreign Policy

In the past three years, we have witnessed unprecedented instability in the world, and significant challenges here at home. Canada faces complex challenges to our trade relations, defence policy, and diplomatic relationships at home and abroad. We have watched the federal government respond by casting itself further adrift from our key allies and trading partners. To be economically secure, to create jobs and attract steady foreign investment, Canada must have a government that understands that diplomacy, defence, security, international trade and strengthening our economy to position Canada for the future are all inextricably linked. **Read more on page 2.**

Not all points in history are equal, and Canada is at a tipping point as it faces complex challenges that we haven't seen in the last 50 years. We must reinvigorate federal policies to make Canada competitive, resilient and relevant again. We need strong leadership will has the courage deliver foundational change for our economy and prepare Canada for another 150 years of prosperity.

Sincerely,

Leona Alleslev, MP

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

EMAIL

Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca

WEBSITE

LeonaAlleslevMP.ca

PHONE

905.773.8358

OFFICE

12820 Yonge St. suite 202
Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4H1



/LeonaAlleslev



@LeonaAlleslev



@LeonaAlleslev



/LeonaAlleslev

CONSERVATIVES STAND READY

to restore ethical, transparent, and accountable government to Canadians. A government that lives within its means, leaves you with more in your pocket and lets you get ahead.

ANDREW SCHEER
LEADER OF CANADA'S CONSERVATIVES



CREATING A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY FOR CANADIANS

This government wants us to believe that the economy has never been stronger, unemployment is at an all-time low, and because of that the deficit and debt are of no consequence and balancing the budget would be a fool's errand.

Yet what I hear consistently is that you don't believe that the economy is doing well. 48% of Canadians are within \$200 of not being able to pay their bills each month. Canada has the highest personal debt of all G7 countries. Deficit spending since 2015 has not delivered on the foundational change that will strengthen our economy. Our GDP grew by just 0.1% in the 4th quarter of 2018. It's time to address issues ranging from tax reform and trade, to precarious employment, to affordable housing and the rising cost of living in order to strengthen our economy.

Creating Stable, Quality Employment for Canadians

Canadians are concerned about the changing nature of employment. Those who have full time jobs have watched conditions change – longer hours, more responsibility for the same pay and erosion of pension and benefits. Part time workers have similar stresses but often compounded by the lack of any benefits and the need to have multiple part time jobs. In 2014, 30-32% of Canadians were in precarious work, with single parents (51.7%), recent immigrants (40.7%) and visible minorities (34.4%) amongst the highest percentage in Ontario alone. There is no commonly accepted definition of precarious employment. The lack of clear definition prevents the collection of concrete statistics to determine the extent of precarious employment and to develop a framework to reduce workplace insecurity. It is critical we begin collecting relevant data will allow the federal government to create comprehensive tax reforms and policies, and look at ways to incentivize corporations to provide stable employment for Canadians.

Comprehensive Tax Reform

Many of you have expressed to me that you feel our tax system is fundamentally unfair and broken. Canada's tax structure hasn't been substantially reformed since the 1970s, and since then we have seen major changes in the foundations upon our tax system was built such as family income structures, the nature of work, and the erosion of defined benefit pensions or any pension at all. The system has become so complex that it is impossible to phone Revenue Canada and get the same answer twice, and many Canadians are unable do their own taxes as a result.

Additionally, our tax structure affects our competitiveness as corporations use it as criteria when determining where to establish or expand their business. Our tax structure must be modernized to reflect Canadian society today and to position us to be competitive internationally. We owe it to Canadians to regain their confidence

and trust in the fairness of our tax system and to position Canada to compete in the global market.

Rebuilding Trade Through Trust

80% of Canada's Gross Domestic Product is derived from trade. Relationships with partner countries are the lifeblood of our economic viability and growth. As Andrew Scheer recently pointed out in his speech on foreign policy, trade is about trust. We are currently experiencing the largest withdrawal of foreign capital from Canada (\$100 billion in outflows in 2018) not only due to our inability to compete in corporate tax structures, but also a pattern of undiplomatic behaviour and resulting lack of confidence from other countries in our federal leadership. The USMCA, is worse than NAFTA. Canada didn't gain anything other than punishing tariffs on aluminum and steel. The trade deal with the European Union, CETA, has not resulted in increased exports to Europe, only increased imports from Europe, and there are still many countries that have yet to officially sign on to the deal, including France and Germany. Over 100,000 jobs have been lost in our energy and automotive sectors. Our canola farmers are being punished by poor foreign policy decisions in China, while Canadian soybeans, peas and pork exports face obstacles at Chinese ports. Federal leaders must understand that diplomacy, foreign relations, international trade and strengthening our economy to position Canada for the future all go hand in hand.

Economic Resilience and Preparing for the Storm

The current approach of deficit spending is unsustainable. High debt loads, both sovereign and personal, become dangerous when an economic downturn occurs. According to a report by the Fraser Institute, upon completing his term in 2019, Justin Trudeau is projected to be the largest accumulator of federal debt per person. Per-person debt will increase by 5.2% to \$32,589.

Canadian taxpayers also pay the price for interest on government debt. In 2016/17 interest payments on the federal debt totaled \$25 billion, costing each Canadian \$1,752. With debt and deficit increases, per-person debt will continue to rise and take more money out of taxpayers' pockets.

Most experts expect an economic slowdown in the coming year. The current Liberal deficits are due to high spending at a time when national revenues have actually increased. That means Canada's deficits will balloon further when revenue drops due to the coming downturn. Continuing on this path will jeopardize Canadian society's ability to support vital programs and critical infrastructure, make interest payments and bring down the national debt.

Read more about these topics on my website at www.leonaalleslevmp.ca.

A SOUND VISION FOR FOREIGN & DEFENCE POLICY

Canada must return to the steady, humble, reliable nation that has defined us as a trusted partner and ally. As a founding nation of NATO 70 years ago, Canada committed to safeguard the freedom of its peoples, the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.

To honour that commitment we must define a comprehensive foreign policy that recognizes the turbulent times in which we live. The threats we face today are different from those we faced in the 20th Century. In many ways they are more complex. But any solution continues to require strong partnerships of like-minded and confident nations, devoted to the protection and advancement of our values.

Canada's contributions in this endeavor must be supported by an informed defence plan that enables the defence of Canada, and restores our reputation as a trusted partner and ally.

On the home front we must not allow special interests and divisive politics to continue to paralyze our nation's ability to get things done but rather we must do what's in the best interest of the coun-

try and have the courage to nation build for today, tomorrow and many years to come.

Sir John A MacDonald showed great courage when he took a huge risk to build a railway, open the west, unite a country and lay the foundation of the economic growth and prosperity for over 150 years.

The time for great courage is once again upon us as we unite to build on what has served us well in the past. We must chart a course that focuses on reinvigorating our nation's core strengths, rebuild our defence capabilities and adjust our economic structures to regain the trust and confidence of allies and trading partners.

Now is not the time for complacency, fear or retreat. Now is the time for courage, alliances and strength - we must prepare for the coming storm and face the challenges head on. Only with strong federal leadership and resolve will we rise to the occasion and prevail - One country One Canada, strong and free. Our country is at stake.

OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY!



In February, I hosted a Roundtable and Town Hall on **Taxes, Tariffs and Trade** to speak with residents about Canada's tax system, trade & competitiveness.



It was wonderful to visit residents at **Mon Sheong** to deliver red pockets and wish them a **Happy Lunar New Year!**



I had the privilege to attend the **51st Annual Richmond Hill Winter Carnival** to celebrate all things Canadian in our community!



One of my favourite things to do as a Member of Parliament is **meet with youth and discuss with them the role of our federal government**. In April, I got to meet **St. Andrew's College** grade 11 and 12 students, and **Our Lady of Hope** grade 8 students to discuss my role as their MP.



I was thrilled to wish a **Happy Nowruz** to everyone celebrating in our community at Michael Parsa's 3rd Annual Nowruz Gala in March!



Thank you to everyone who joined me for a **Town Hall on Employment in Canada: Shifting and Uncertain** to discuss the changing nature of Canada's employment landscape and precarious employment.



I joined the Richmond Hill Indoor Lawn Bowling Club to announce **\$14,198 in New Horizons for Seniors Program** funding to support the **Fitness for Seniors Project**.



My team and I were thrilled to host a booth at the **Aurora Chamber's Home & Living Show** to meet with residents and discuss their federal priorities!

If you have an event you would like me to attend, please e-mail me at: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca

THE RULE OF LAW, POLITICAL INTERFERENCE & ADMIRAL NORMAN

Canadians were shocked to hear the explosive testimony of former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould on the SNC-Lavalin affair earlier this year. Her story was one of inappropriate, and potentially illegal pressure placed on her by the Prime Minister and his top officials – all to let a Liberal-connected corporation off the hook on corruption charges.

The Prime Minister has a responsibility to put the interests of Canadians ahead of any private interest. Not only has the Prime Minister and his office been rocked by the SNC scandal, but there are also questions that remain over the breach of trust charge levelled against Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, who was only doing his job to ensure the Royal Canadian Navy received a desperately needed supply ship. Upon forming government, the Prime Minister attempted to halt the ship's construction and give the contract to a different company. But Vice-Admiral Norman stood in his way, and as a result the interim ship was built on time, on budget and is serving the navy. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister decided to punish Norman for standing in his way. Norman's reputation has been left in ruins and his family nearly bankrupted before the charge was stayed. But the staying of the charge doesn't mean that the issues surrounding the handling of Vice-Admiral Norman's trial is closed. Canadians still have questions about whether the process was followed and the rule of law upheld free from political interference.

In accordance with the National Defence Act, Members of the Canadian Armed Forces must be free from real or perceived partisanship and political engagement. Why then, did the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister make public statements presuming Norman to be guilty in 2017 before he ever stood trial? Why were two unelected, partisan staffers – Katie Telford and Gerald Butts – from the Prime Minister's Office, who are not in the chain of military command, briefed by the Chief of Defence Staff on the RCMP's (claimed independent) investigation into Norman on January 9, 2017? I asked these questions to the Minister of National Defence directly during a Committee of the Whole on May 14. In his answers, he takes no responsibility for these politically charged actions, calling into question this Defence Minister's understanding of his sworn obligation and jeopardizing the democratic governance of our military.

The Norman case also remains seriously troubling, as it casts doubt on the Prime Minister's motivations and adherence to the rule of law. Many questions remain that point to intentional political interference. Why did the Prime Minister not turn over documents that would have exonerated Norman? If there is nothing to hide, why not release these documents— unredacted— for Canadians to see and judge for themselves? The Prime Minister is failing to meet the obligations of his high office. If he will not stand up to protect the rule of law, the fundamental nature of our democracy is compromised. Canada must be a country where justice is blind and neither wealth, status, or political connections can



There are times you agree with what happens in a court, at times you don't.

[...] You don't put your finger and try to weigh in on the scales of justice. That is not what should be happening.

MARIE HENEIN / LAWYER TO VICE-ADMIRAL MARK NORMAN / MAY 8, 2019

Am I on the right track for Canadians?

Yes No Unsure

Comments

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

CUT HERE

FOLD HERE



No Postage Needed

Leona Alleslev, MP
12820 Yonge Street,
Suite 202
Richmond Hill, ON
L4E 4H1