

United against a repressive regime

The protests that convulsed Iran over the fall have reverberated throughout the international community and continue to have a profound impact on the North Shore of BC's Lower Mainland, where one in ten residents is of Iranian descent.

My constituency office has fielded innumerable calls from people intensely worried for friends and family in Iran – from those urging Canada to forcefully condemn Iran's vile theocratic regime, to those concerned the tentacles of fear that have ruled Iran for over 40 years have crept into our local community. Those fears appear well founded.

The images and reports of the protests have been agonizing. The resolve and bravery of the women at the forefront of the defence of their most basic human rights continues to be humbling and inspiring.

ACTS OF COURAGE | Change begins with individual acts of courage.

Thousands of Iranian women have risked their lives by walking through public spaces without headscarves to defy a regime that has, for too long, callously demonstrated blatant cruelty against its own citizens.

It is not clear how many lives have been lost, but the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights has confirmed that hundreds of people – including dozens of children – have been killed since the protests began. Many people have been maimed and disfigured by rubber bullets and buckshot used indiscriminately to attempt to control crowds.

Many thousands of protesters are reported to have been arrested. Warehouses have been requisitioned as detention centres. Trials have begun for thousands of those held; the death penalty is being imposed by those in power – it is important to note that Iran has one of the highest rates of executions of women and children in the world.

Many of the protesters have been Iranian youth – the average age of many early in the protests was just fifteen. The country's Education Minister stated that detained school children were being sent to "psychiatric centres" to be "corrected."

The Canadian Government continues to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the sustained and violent crackdown on those protesting Iran's oppression of basic human rights – in particular, the rights of women.



STRENGTHENING SANCTIONS

Canada has long had amongst the toughest measures against Iran of any country in the world. We have pushed much further during this crisis by imposing significant additional sanctions that raise the international bar to hold Iran accountable.

- **Ten thousand senior members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) are banned from ever entering or doing business in Canada** – a measure previously used against regimes that committed war crimes or genocide. Canada's approach treats the IRGC as a terrorist entity without interfering in the lives of regular citizens who were merely drafted for mandatory military service in this organization.
- In addition to being banned from entering Canada, **current and former senior officials present in Canada may be investigated and removed from the country.** This measure aims to prevent senior members of the Iranian regime from finding safe haven in Canada.
- **We have aggressively expanded targeted economic sanctions against top officials most responsible for Iran's egregious behaviour.** Those listed to date include at least eighty-three individuals and 176 companies.
- **Canada is investing \$76 million to strengthen our country's capacity to take action against agents of the regime** by freezing assets and combating illicit financial activity. We know that declarations of sanctions are meaningless without resources to enforce them.

CLOSE TO HOME

The focus of sanctions enforcement will include measures close to home. I have often heard concerns from individuals within the North Shore Iranian-Canadian community about money laundering and political intimidation by individuals with connections to the Iranian regime who live here in Canada. There remains concern about publicly identifying such perpetrators of such alleged activities due to the possibility of repercussions – against those who report them or their relatives in Iran.

Let there be no uncertainty about whether Canada has the will or resources to act on concerns such as these. We do and we will.

I have been, and will continue to be, a constant advocate for the Iranian-Canadian community in Ottawa. As the ongoing courage and resolve of protestors in Iran dissolves the regime's grip of fear everywhere, including here on the North Shore, we will work tirelessly to ensure that the grip of this regime does not affect Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Iranian origin.

Let history record the sacrifice on the streets of Iran as a turning point. And let us echo the chant of the protestors: Hoghoghe zanan, hoghoghe bashar ast. Women's rights are human rights.

North Vancouver resident receives Order of Canada

Don Mavinic is a husband, father, and long time North Vancouver resident. However, these are a far cry from the only hats he wears. Don has been a professor at UBC, advisor to public health projects, consultant on water treatment technologies, researcher in environmental engineering, science and technology, and the list goes on. But, at his core, Don is a civil engineer.

Civil engineering stole Don's heart in the early years of his bachelor's degree at the University of Windsor; it was a love story that would lead him to obtain his masters and his PhD, ultimately becoming a leading expert. This has taken him across the country, the continent, and the world, helping in some of the most remote communities, and earning him some of the most prestigious awards in his field, at home and abroad.

Most recently, Don flew to Ottawa to collect his Order of Canada from Governor General Mary Simon. While he was awarded this honour in 2019, due to the pandemic Don was unable to receive it in person until recently. Don is a globally recognized leading figure in water treatment, particularly wastewater management.

Don's career has been centered around engineering, but what drives him is his love of helping communities thrive through his expertise in water treatment, data analytics and research. His intervention in Walkerton, Ontario, helped to bring one of the worst Canadian public health disasters – involving municipal contaminated drinking water – to a halt. Mentoring students, investing passionately in ideas, creating spaces where innovation flourishes – these are his hallmarks.



When asked if there was something in his career that he's most proud of, his answer is relatively simple. Don takes enormous pride in teaching future generations, to help create a world driven by innovation and sustainable practices. He passionately and adamantly encourages his students to think outside of the box. Above all else, he says, "Never. Stop. Learning."

Thank you, Dr. Mavinic, for all you have done to help Canadians with your brilliance and expertise.

In The Community



Cousteau Eco School teacher Lucille Denys gets the Prime Minister's Award

Visiting the Global Perspectives class at Sutherland Secondary



With Mayors, MLAs and French Consul on November 11th



Get your flu shot and have a healthy, happy holiday season. Our Constituency staff is here to serve you.

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JONATHAN WILKINSON

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, NORTH VANCOUVER

HOLIDAY EDITION 2022

North Vancouver Constituent Update



Planning for the Future

A message of hope and joy is particularly welcome for the holidays this year. My warmest wishes to my constituents, and a bit of good news for everyone...

Canada has come through the pandemic in a strong economic position – particularly when compared to other G7 nations. We have seen one of the fastest jobs recoveries, in part due to the pandemic support measures the federal government provided for workers and businesses. **About 400,000 more Canadians are working today than before the pandemic, and the unemployment rate of 5.1% in November is close to a record low.**

In addition, real GDP growth in the first half of 2022 was 3.2% – by far the strongest amongst G7 countries. Canada has the lowest debt-to-GDP ratio, and will have by far the smallest deficit this year as a percentage of GDP.

However, while Canada has indeed fared relatively well economically post-COVID, we are facing significant short and longer-term challenges.

Presently, inflation is higher than we've experienced in recent years – which is creating hardships for many Canadians. And, while inflation is actually lower in Canada than many peer countries, this does not bring comfort to those paying higher prices for groceries, gasoline and other necessities.

To ensure Canadians – and, in particular, those living on modest means – can weather such strains, this federal government has been reinforcing Canada's social safety net over the past number of years.

And it is also why we announced several additional measures in the Fall Economic Statement (FES) released in November.

It is why we created the Canada Child Benefit and increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and why we indexed pensions to inflation. It is also why we recently announced a doubling of the GST tax credit and advanced payment of the Canada Workers Benefit. It is why we are ensuring all children in Canada can afford to see a dentist, and why we are providing temporary support to low-income renters.

LONGER-TERM CHALLENGES

While targeted supports under our current conditions are critical, we should also know that these challenges are time-limited – they will pass – and we must also be positioning for Canada to succeed in the long term.



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The world is experiencing a changed geopolitical environment. With the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the increasing aggressiveness of China, the importance of democracies working closely together politically and economically is clear. We are entering an “era of friend-shoring,” where democratic countries and the companies based in them will increasingly seek to shift their activities from dictatorships to democracies.

We live in a world economy that must be lower carbon-emitting. The science of climate change is, quite simply, fact. If we wish to leave a habitable planet to our children, we must act aggressively now.

Consequently, in addition to reducing emissions, we must also act to seize the economic opportunities offered through the energy transition. Canada is well placed to succeed economically over the long term. We possess the natural resources to power the global energy transition to more sustainable technologies. These include critical minerals, hydrogen, biofuels, nuclear technology and other critical clean technologies.

The FES recognized the need to act decisively to seize opportunities. Investments announced through tax credits for clean technology and clean hydrogen will kick-start the development of sectors critical to the energy transition. And the new Canada Growth Fund will help attract billions of dollars in investments to fight climate change and create good jobs.



We're doubling the GST tax credit to put **hundreds of dollars in the pockets of those who need it the most**

A UNIQUELY CANADIAN APPROACH

The past two years have been challenging for Canadians – but we have come through this period well compared to peer nations. We now face a new set of challenges. Canada’s approach to addressing these challenges must be thoughtful, inclusive and compassionate - an approach that seeks to build on Canada’s strengths, including its most precious resource – people.

In this time of increasing polarization, it is important that we come together with a vision and a purpose that can unite Canadians – a vision that includes compassion, social justice, environmental stewardship and a keen focus on building sustainable prosperity for our children – and for generations to come.



Scan to read the 2022 FES

OTHER WAYS WE'RE MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

- Cutting child care fees in half this year
- Boosting OAS payments by 10% for seniors over 75
- Putting up to \$2,400 in the pockets of workers through the enhanced Canada Workers Benefit
- Tackling housing speculation and building new homes

Empowering young women with Flip the Script

Last year, I met with Michelle Dodds, Executive Director, and Lorie Barton, Volunteer Program Coordinator of the North Shore Women’s Centre. They were on the cusp of a really great breakthrough to help young women recognize the components of a healthy relationship and reduce dating violence. They had assisted with the development of a pilot program here in North Vancouver and had seen solid, positive outcomes. They were ready to launch this program on a wider basis but needed funding to train their trainers and deliver the program to a wider audience. The demand was great – many schools around the province were begging to have the program in their communities.

As a father of two daughters, I am acutely aware of the need for better equipping young people to look out for each other, protect themselves and empower them to change the culture of violence that may still prevail in youthful relationships.

The North Shore Women’s Centre applied for funding to Women and Gender Equity Canada via the Feminist Response and Recovery funding stream, with the backing of social scientists, local experts in the field and my office. **They were successful in obtaining a \$360K grant to undertake a 30-month project.**



Flip the Script™ is a sexual assault resistance program that has been shown to reduce a young woman’s risk of experiencing sexual violence by more than 46%, with effects lasting up to two years. This program also teaches participants how to recognize the warning signs for abusive relationships, and how to advocate for the emotional and sexual intimacy that they desire.

Training for facilitators is time-consuming and the program delivery involves two facilitators for each training session. While the program is an expensive one

to provide, it is far less expensive in so many ways than the consequences of sexual assaults on young people.

With their new funding, they will be educating teachers, administrators and community members on best practices to reduce gender-based violence among high school students, using the Flip the Script Assault Resistance programming in community settings across BC.

A Starr in the e-bike constellation

Looking out the window of my constituency office, where the Spirit Trail converges with the busy Shipyards district, the range of electric vehicles going by is really quite staggering. I see electric cars of course, but also kick scooters, skateboards, Segways, hover boards, unicycles, walk cars, electric skates, and bikes of all kinds, including commercially viable cargo bikes. These are becoming so widely used, in fact, that earlier this year, the non-profit Our Greenway hosted a community cargo bike ride from Shipyards along the waterfront trail.

And leading this charge, literally and figuratively, is Sam Starr, self-described cargo bike guru based in North Vancouver, but working across the country to establish cargo bikes as, among other things, a viable way of decarbonizing the first and last kilometer of delivery systems.

This approach has the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of goods delivery systems by 70%.

From Zero Logistics in Squamish to Co-op Carbone in Quebec, Starr works to establish hubs of cargo bikes called ‘libraries,’ allowing small businesses to lease and test different kinds of cargo bikes in their supply chains before making a deeper investment to purchase their own fleet.

Starr recently explained that there are no codes delineating regular bikes from e-bikes, all of which are imported to Canada. That means that presently, there is no advantage to importing e-bikes despite their obvious contributions to lowering the carbon output of supply chains and personal mobility.



There is a movement to set up manufacturing in Canada to reduce the need to order all e-bikes from overseas. This would significantly reduce the cost of e-bikes and cargo bikes and reduce their production footprint as well.

These non-profit networks are appealing to private companies to test out the logistics of using cargo bikes, as well as helping municipalities to recognize the advantages of e-bikes.

Starr came from a background in systems engineering, fell in love with cycling and discovered that he could apply his passion to the new field of low-carbon transport and delivery. Next thing he knew, he was being invited to international meetings on the subject. This fall, he attended the International Cargo Bike Festival in Amsterdam.

Natural Resources Canada is beginning to help fund these modes of sustainable transportation through the Alternative and Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative grant program. More needs to be done to help business and industry recognize the benefits of small tech responses to service delivery challenges that have typically been very carbon intensive. Sam Starr and folks like him are shedding new light on these kinds of systems.

Small businesses and non-profits: the core of our community

In October, Canada celebrated **Small Business Week**, highlighting the importance of small businesses to our communities and our economy. It feels appropriate this season to draw attention to entrepreneurs and organizations that are at the heart of North Vancouver. Whether by shopping locally or donating time or money, the opportunities to support local community efforts this season are numerous.



One thing we all recognize is how important a role food can play when connecting with others.

Food and drink make great gifts – something we all need and love.

There are lots of bakeries, butcher shops, specialty food stores and manufactures of all sorts of libations across the North Shore.

While shopping locally is a great way to mindfully spend your money, there is a plethora of other ways you can help your community thrive throughout the year:

- Donating money to a local charity or organization focused on helping people within the community has major impacts almost immediately. Organizations like the North Shore Women’s Centre, the North Shore Neighbourhood House, Hollyburn Community Services, Family Services of the North Shore and North Shore Impact all rely on donations from the public to provide resources to those who need them most. Earlier this year I visited the Food Bank to witness the kind of work they are doing in supporting the community.
- The gift of time is not to be underestimated; consider volunteering at one of the many community-oriented organizations this season or in the New Year. Giving back to your community is one of the greatest ways to give, and there is no shortage of organizations ready to accept your assistance. A group like North Shore Community Resources might be a great place to start, or perhaps your own neighbourhood association.

The idea of shopping locally appeals to many as we often find ourselves wanting to help our communities thrive by supporting local businesses. It was exciting to see the great businesses and organizations featured at the North Vancouver Chamber’s Business Excellence Awards.

Kudos to all the nominees and winners this year.



Stay safe this holiday season. While we fill our social calendars with celebrations and opportunities to connect, consider getting your flu shot and your COVID-19 booster to keep yourself and loved ones safe during this busy time. Or help someone on your block to get to their appointment.

The businesses organizations that call North Vancouver home are invaluable components of our community, and we want to hear about them.

If you know of any small businesses or entrepreneurs in North Vancouver who would like to share their story, please email:

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