



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

It was a busy month back in the House of Commons debating key legislation put forward to fight inflation. Our government introduced Bill C-30, which will double the GST tax credit for six months. This means an extra \$234 in the pockets of single Canadians without children and up to \$467 for couples with two children. Seniors will receive an extra \$225 on average.

We've also put forward Bill C-31 which, once enacted, will provide up to \$1,300 over two years through the Canada Dental Benefit to children under 12. Bill C-31 also delivers \$500 to nearly two million low-income renters across the country who are struggling with the cost of housing, an issue

that hits home for many citizens living in Cloverdale-Langley City.

Bill S-5, the Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act, was also introduced to the House of Commons. This Bill seeks to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), and recognizes that everyone has a right to a healthy environment. Bill S-5 places special focus on strengthening Canada's chemical management regime and modernizing our environmental protections to the standards of the 21st century. I am happy I had the chance to speak in support of this Bill during its Second Reading in October.

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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

On September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I attended a candlelight vigil at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum. Thank you to the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society and the United Churches of Langley for organizing this moving event.

I would also like to recognize and thank

Cecelia Reekie of the Haisla Nation. A former Langley school trustee and an inter-generational warrior, Cecelia works hard to make sure the children who never returned home are remembered. Náxw̓tq̓w̓l'as.

Also known as Orange Shirt Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was established in 2021 to

address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 80th Call to Action. This day is an important step in Canada's reconciliation story. In honour of this day, the remainder of this newsletter shares important updates on our government's work to advance reconciliation.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was created with a mandate to inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools.

In 2015, the TRC presented the executive summary of the findings contained in its final report, including 94 "calls to action" (or recommendations), to further reconciliation between Canadians and

Indigenous Peoples. To read more on the Calls to Action, please visit: [Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RECONCILIATION

In June 2022, the government put forward Bill C-29, the National Council for Reconciliation Act. Bill C-29 will establish the National Council for Reconciliation in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action #53-56.

The Council will be a permanent, Indigenous-led body that will monitor and support the progress of reconciliation in Canada, including the full implementation of the Calls to Action. The Board will be made up of

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and will include individuals from various demographics from all across Canada.

In addition to this, I would like to see Bill C-23, Historic Places of Canada Act, become law. This Bill is also significant because it would fulfill Call to Action #79, which calls upon the federal government to amend the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites

and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat. I introduced Private Member's Bill C-374 in 2018 to fulfill this Call to Action but it unfortunately did not pass the Senate process before the election in 2019.

Currently, there are 71 Calls to Action involving the federal government, 45 of which are the sole responsibility of the federal government. Of the 71 Calls to Action, 16 have not been started, 10 have been completed, and the remaining Actions are in progress.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL MISSING CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUNDING



In June 2021, the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Funding was launched to support Indigenous communities in locating children who went missing at Indian Residential Schools. Murray Sinclair, former head of the TRC, estimates that over 10,000 students died or went missing during the residential school era. Since then, our government

has invested \$238.8 million in this program to implement Calls to Action #72-76 and help families uncover the truth of what happened to their loved ones at Residential Schools.

This funding is going toward research and knowledge gathering, field investigation work, commemoration, and memorialization. From June 2021 to June 30, 2022,

there have been a total of 84 funding arrangements nationally, with 18 First Nation communities and organizations in BC receiving these funds.

A national Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for those affected. People can access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line at: 1-866-925-4419.

136 LONG-TERM DRINKING WATER ADVISORIES LIFTED

When we first took office in 2015, there were 133 boil-water advisories in place across Canada. Since then, our government has lifted 136 long-term drinking water advisories on First Nations reserves, and 227 short-term advisories have also been prevented from becoming long-term concerns. The

reason why our government has not yet caught up is the fact that new advisories arose while addressing the original 133.

Unfortunately, the Official Opposition Party and the NDP keep repeating the misconception that our government has done

nothing on this very important policy file.

Please visit [Ending long-term drinking water advisories \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca) for more information on the government's progress.

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136
long-term drinking
water advisories
lifted since
November 2015

31 long-term drinking
water advisories
in effect in
27 communities

