



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

FALL 2021



Michael Chong

Member of Parliament
Wellington-Halton Hills

A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

Dear Constituents,

The 2021 election has come and gone. I'd like to thank the people of Halton Hills and Wellington County for again entrusting me to represent them in Ottawa. My commitment is to do my best to uphold that trust. I will work hard to represent your views, and continue to advocate for the area.

My main priorities are to raise the issues that are important to Wellington-Halton Hills. This includes rural broadband, housing affordability, protecting the environment and Indigenous reconciliation. I will also work to ensure that the government has a strong COVID-19 economic recovery plan for the years ahead.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be our greatest challenge. The federal government must do its part to provide a clear plan to exit the pandemic and return to normal.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael Chong

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THE 2021 FEDERAL ELECTION

Elections Canada's preliminary estimates indicate that 17,209,000 Canadians cast a ballot. This places the voter turnout rate at about 62.5%, a lower turnout rate than the 2019 election (67%).

The Prime Minister called an early election at the beginning of a fourth wave of the pandemic. He also failed to heed the advice of Elections Canada, which had requested a longer election period than five weeks in order to deal with the unique requirements of the pandemic.

The Prime Minister ignored the advice, and as a result, Elections Canada has indicated that the most recent

election will be the most expensive in Canadian history, costing more than \$600 million.

The Prime Minister called an early mid-summer election hoping to secure a majority. Canadians decided otherwise. They returned an elected House of Commons with almost the same composition as before the election: 159 Liberals, 119 Conservatives, 32 Bloc Québécois, 25 NDP, 2 Greens and 1 independent.

Canadians have sent a clear message: They want all MPs and parties to work together to end the pandemic and get the country back to normal.

MICHAEL'S THOUGHTS GOING INTO THE 44TH PARLAMENT

The Prime Minister has decided Parliament will begin on Monday, November 22nd – nine weeks after the election, and far too long a wait. Parliament should be back much earlier, particularly with a returning minority government. In the UK, Parliament begins 10 days after an election in order to ensure greater accountability.

When Parliament begins, my priority will be the concerns raised by people in Wellington-Halton Hills during the election.

Reliable, affordable high-speed internet remains unavailable for many in rural Halton Hills and Wellington County. The pandemic has made clear that high-speed internet is essential – for those working from home and for students.

The cost of living continues to rise. Food, energy, and other daily expenses continue to increase. The cost to buy a home or rent an apartment has reached crisis levels.

Protecting the environment was frequently raised during the election, as was the increasing levels of household and government indebtedness. And the struggles of small businesses, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sectors. These issues will also be at the forefront of my work in Ottawa.

Finally, many of you raised the need to continue the work on Indigenous reconciliation. All Canadians agree that more needs to be done. The government needs to do better and implement more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Parliament will resume with the government's Speech from the Throne, delivered by Queen Elizabeth's representative, Governor General Mary Simon. The Speech will outline the government's priorities, which hopefully will address the concerns heard during the election.



Fergus Office: A-190 St. David Street South



Georgetown Office: 205-16 Mountainview Road South

CONGRATULATORY CERTIFICATES

As the Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, Michael appreciates the opportunity to recognize special personal milestones, such as anniversaries and birthdays with a special commemorative certificate.

Constituents of Wellington-Halton Hills may request a certificate by filling out the form on our website at: michaelchong.ca/action/certificates/

Congratulatory Certificates from the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister recognizes anniversaries from 25 years and up (at 5-year intervals thereafter) and birthdays from 65 years and up (at 5-year intervals thereafter and 1-year intervals thereafter for birthdays over 100 years).

To apply for greetings from the Prime Minister of Canada, visit: pm.gc.ca/en/connect/greetings

Congratulatory Certificates from the Governor General of Canada & Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

You may also request a congratulatory message from the Governor General or the Queen. The Governor General recognizes wedding anniversaries of 50 years and up (at 5-year intervals thereafter) and birthdays at 90 years and up (at 5-year intervals thereafter).

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sends messages to Canadians who are 100 years of age or older (at 1-year intervals thereafter) and couples who have been married for 60 years and up (at 5-year intervals thereafter). It is no longer necessary to provide proof of birth or marriage to receive greetings from the Queen.

Details and application information can be obtained at: gg.ca/en/contact-us/birthday-anniversary-greetings

SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR OFFICE

Our constituency offices in Fergus and Georgetown provide assistance with a variety of federal programs and agencies, including:

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passport Applications
- Certificates of recognition or achievement for special occasions

Our regular office hours are 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-4:30pm, Monday-Friday.

Our offices remain open and staffed to assist constituents during the COVID-19 pandemic by appointment. To obtain assistance, please contact us toll free at 1-866-878-5556 or by email at michael.chong@parl.gc.ca.

We are here to help!

PHOTOS IN THE RIDING



Michael and Senator Rob Black (right) with the late Bill Adsett (centre) in 2018. Photo credit: The Wellington Advertiser.



Michael, Carrie and Cameron in Acton celebrating his re-election. Photo credit: The Wellington Advertiser.



Michael with his entry for the 2021 Metz Giant Pumpkin Contest.



Michael speaking with local chicken farmers from Wellington County.

REMEMBERING BILL ADSETT

On October 5th, constituent and former Warden of Wellington County, William “Bill” Adsett passed away. Below Michael shares his thoughts on Bill.

On the passing of Bill Adsett, my thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Trudy, and his three children, David, Kirk, and Marie. Wellington County has lost a native son.

Bill was born and raised in Eramosa Township in Wellington County, and lived in the same farm house he was born in. First elected to Eramosa Township council in 1968, he later became Reeve, and subsequently Warden of Wellington County.

In 1968, Bill and Trudy founded the Wellington Advertiser – the single biggest source of news in Wellington County and one of the largest family-owned independent

newspapers in Canada. Through his hard work and dedication, Bill created a voice for the people of Wellington County. That the paper remains a success in a very competitive media landscape is a testament to his foresight and acumen. His son Dave at the Advertiser and his daughter Marie at CTV News Atlantic carry on Bill’s journalistic legacy.

I am forever grateful for the advice that Bill provided me over the years. He always conveyed his wisdom – accumulated over decades of experience – in a quiet, unassuming way. His advice and perspective has been invaluable to me as I’ve navigated federal politics over the years.

Bill Adsett was a great Canadian.

He will be greatly missed.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH MICHAEL

Return survey, postage free, by folding, taping shut, and returning.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / TOWN

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

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COMMENTS

COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

- For general information on COVID-19, visit: canada.ca/coronavirus
- To reach the Government of Canada's coronavirus information line call: **1-833-784-4397**
- For Telehealth Ontario, call: **1-866-797-0000**
- For the local public health unit in Wellington County, call: **1-800-265-7293**
- For the local public health unit in Halton Region, call: **311**

ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

- To receive regular email updates about COVID-19 from the Government of Canada, sign up with your email at: canada.ca/coronavirus
- For the Assaulted Women's Helpline, call: **1-866-863-0511**
- For the Seniors Safety Line, call: **1-866-299-1011**
- If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, connect with professionals for a confidential chat session: text **WELLNESS** to **686868** (for youth) or **741741** (for adults)

TRAVELLING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The federal government recommends that Canadians should be fully vaccinated at least 14 days before travelling and unvaccinated Canadians should avoid non-essential travel to all destinations.

Travel.gc.ca

If you plan on travelling, visit travel.gc.ca. There you can learn about current domestic protocols in place and examine the rules for the country you plan on visiting. Entry requirements will vary with each country, including whether mixed doses of COVID-19 vaccines are accepted.

Pre-entry and arrival test requirements in Canada

All travellers 5 years of age or older, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, must provide pre-entry proof of a COVID-19 negative molecular test result to enter Canada. Rapid antigen tests will not be accepted. If you qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption, you may be exempt from arrival testing. However, you may be selected for mandatory randomized arrival testing.

Unvaccinated Canadians or those who do not meet quarantine exemption criteria are required to quarantine for at least 14 days.

ArriveCAN

All travellers, whether returning to, or leaving from, Canada must provide their mandatory travel information using [ArriveCAN](https://arrivecan.gc.ca). You will need to submit your information within 72 hours before your arrival to Canada. Visit travel.gc.ca for more information.

Registration of Canadians Abroad

Whether you are currently abroad or will be travelling in the future, remember to always register on the [Registration of Canadians Abroad](https://registerabroad.gc.ca) service. This allows for government officials to contact you for emergencies abroad and to provide necessary information and assistance.

If you are abroad and need emergency consular assistance, email: sos@international.gc.ca. To contact the Canada Border Services Agency, call: 1-800-461-9999. To contact Global Affairs Canada, call: 1-800-267-8376.

The Canada-U.S. Border

The Canada-U.S. border will be re-opened for fully vaccinated Canadians for non-essential land and sea travel on November 8th.

Domestic Travel

Beginning October 30th, 2021, travellers on VIA Rail and Rocky Mountaineer trains or who are departing from Canadian airports must be fully vaccinated.

Provinces and territories may choose to put in place local public health measures that are based on a person's COVID-19 vaccination status. You may be asked to provide the documentation you received after your vaccination. This may be in the form of a vaccination receipt (either physical or digital) or a verifiable vaccination credential. [Travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca) contains links to all provincial and territorial COVID-19 rules.

Please continue to consult travel.gc.ca as rules and procedures continue to be updated and changed.

TAPE

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
MICHAEL CHONG



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