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Dear friends,

I am pleased to send you this update after having spent a busy summer season here in the riding of Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne. These past months have given me the chance to touch base with many of you at events or in meetings and to hear about the issues that matter most to you and how you feel we are doing as a government in addressing them. I want to thank you for your invaluable feedback, which I can assure you will be instrumental in guiding me going forward.

The summer break also gave me the opportunity to join with you in celebrating some of the signature events of the season in our riding, including the Fête nationale festivities in Saint-Hubert and Vieux-Longueuil, Canada Day in Greenfield Park, and my annual MP Corn Roast.

Now that Parliament has resumed its work in Ottawa for the fall session, I will be back to dividing my time between the capital and the constituency in representing the interests of the citizens of Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne.

I would like to take a moment to fill you in on the new responsibilities I was recently assigned within our government.

On August 31st, the Prime Minister of Canada appointed me Parliamentary Secretary to our new Minister of Seniors, the Honourable Filomena Tassi. On top of my role as MP, I am now tasked with supporting Minister Tassi in seeing to it that Canadian seniors receive the care and services they need in order to guarantee them greater security and better quality of life.

Since taking office, I have had the good fortune of meeting seniors from all across Canada; these builders of our country are extraordinary and inspiring people. It is truly an honour for me to

be serving as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Seniors, and I am committed to ensuring that this segment of the population is able to grow old with dignity, in the best health and under the best conditions possible, free of social and economic hardship.

My appointment is part of a series of changes to government made by Prime Minister Trudeau this summer in the goal of better ensuring the prosperity and well-being of all Canadians. One of those changes was to create our government's first ever Ministry of Seniors and to name the Honourable Filomena Tassi to that portfolio.

I know that I will be able to count on you to assist me in carrying out these new duties, just as you did during my term as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence. I can assure you that the interests of our Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members and their families will always remain a top priority for me, and I salute them all for their courage and dedication.

In this edition of your parliamentary newsletter, you can read about *Opportunity for All - Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy*, the new operational stress injury satellite service centre recently opened in Longueuil, and more. Please take a moment as well to fill out the reply coupon

with your comments and suggestions on how to best improve the quality of life of Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne seniors.

I look forward to seeing you this fall!



What is a parliamentary secretary?

A parliamentary secretary is an elected Member of Parliament appointed by the Prime Minister to support the minister concerned in performing his or her parliamentary and ministerial duties.

Examples of roles and responsibilities:

- Speaking in the House on behalf of the government when the minister is away;
- Liaising with members of Caucus and other parliamentarians on behalf of the minister;
- Attending sittings of the standing committee associated with the minister's portfolio, and providing guidance to committee members regarding the government's concerns;
- Representing the minister at national and international events.

Source: Privy Council Office, "Guide for Parliamentary Secretaries", December 2015

Opportunity for All - Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy

Canada is a prosperous country. Yet in 2015, nearly one in eight Canadians lived in poverty. When our fellow citizens are left behind, our whole society suffers.

Launched this summer, *Opportunity for All - Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy*, is a bold vision of a Canada in which every person has a fair and real chance to succeed.

Opportunity for All is a long-term, multidimensional strategy whose goal is to reduce poverty by 20% by 2020 and 50% by 2030. It is based on the substantial investments put in place by our government, including:

- the Canada Child Benefit
- the Canada Workers Benefit
- the National Housing Strategy
- the increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement

Since 2015, the government has invested \$22 billion in these measures, which are expected to help lift 650,000 more Canadians out of poverty by 2019.

The Strategy is ground-breaking in that it establishes, for the first time in Canada's history, an official measure of poverty in the country: **Canada's Official Poverty Line**. The Poverty Line will be based on the cost of a basket of goods and services required to meet basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living.

The Strategy also includes the formation of a National Advisory Committee on Poverty to advise the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and carry on the conversation with Canadians.

This fall, our government plans to introduce a poverty reduction bill that will include Canada's Official Poverty Line, reduction targets and the establishment of the National Advisory Committee on Poverty.

REDUCING POVERTY

A strategy built on three pillars

1

Dignity

Lifting Canadians out of poverty by ensuring basic needs are met

2

Opportunity and Inclusion

Helping Canadians join the middle class by promoting full participation in society and equality of opportunity

3

Resilience and Security

Supporting the middle class by protecting Canadians from falling into poverty and by supporting income security and resilience

Source: *Employment and Social Development Canada, "Opportunity for All - Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy", August 2018*

Treatment for operational stress injuries (OSI): New service centre opens doors in Longueuil

Our government is determined to see to it that Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police members, Veterans and their families have access to quality mental health services whenever and wherever they need them.

I was therefore extremely proud to be able to announce this summer that Veterans Affairs Canada has chosen Longueuil as the site for its new satellite service centre for the treatment of

operational stress injuries (OSIs), located across from the Longueuil-Université-de-Shebrooke Metro station.

Funded by Veterans Affairs Canada, operated by the *Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal*, and affiliated with the Ste. Anne Operational Stress Injury Clinic, this satellite centre will help meet the growing demand for services in the greater Montréal area, and more

specifically on the South Shore.

At the satellite service centre's official opening in Longueuil on August 6th, I underscored the importance for our government of ensuring access to services for veterans and their families because—and this can never be overstated—the effort to combat post-traumatic stress disorder is very real, and the key to recovery lies in high-quality clinical treatment administered on a timely basis.

Canada Summer Jobs: Providing rewarding work experience to students in Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne

This summer, the Canada Summer Jobs program helped create some 300 rewarding summer jobs in Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne for local students by funding 69 employment projects in our riding.

Our Harbour was one of the organizations that benefited from funding under this year’s program. A not-for-profit organization that provides supervised housing in the LeMoyne district for Montérégie residents living with mental health problems and promotes community assistance and support, Our Harbour was able to hire two summer students to help carry out its mission, including one, Geneviève, who was tasked with updating and modernizing the organization’s website.

“Our Harbour really needed to revamp and refresh its website to make it easier to access information about the services we offer in the community,” said Director General Dolly Shinhat. “Without funding from Canada Summer Jobs, we would not have been able to hire a qualified webmaster. We’re very happy to have been able to finally complete this project, with Geneviève’s leadership.”

The Canada Summer Jobs program gives students the opportunity to acquire on-the-job work experience and valuable skills that will serve them when they transition from school to the job market.

“This experience helped me develop my skills in web page design, email marketing and social media. I also had

the opportunity to develop my teamwork, communications, time management, problem-solving and administrative abilities,” explained Geneviève.

“Working with the Our Harbour team in the mental health field was very rewarding and enjoyable,” she added.

This year, our government invested a total of \$877,266 to allow Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne employers to offer quality summer job opportunities to local students. Since 2015, the Canada Summer Jobs program has helped create more than 800 jobs in the riding by providing nearly \$3 million in funding.



Canada Service Corps is a program that helps young Canadians access rewarding volunteer work opportunities so that they can contribute to their communities while acquiring valuable skills and experience.

Young residents of Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne are invited to visit the Canada Service Corps website and

- share their views on volunteering;
- find volunteer opportunities;
- apply for a grant to carry out a volunteer project.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/canada-service-corps.html>

What are the top 3 things YOU think our government could do to improve the lives of seniors in Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne?

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Email address: _____

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Would you like to be contacted to attend a discussion forum on seniors’ issues?

Corn roast: A great success!



Thank you to all the citizens who came out to beautiful Parc Laflamme in Vieux-Longueuil on August 25th to enjoy an afternoon of fun in the sun for the whole family at my annual MP Corn Roast. I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet, talk to and share some of the best corn of the season with so many residents from the sector. My thanks to everyone for making it such an unforgettable day! Since being elected, I have made this end-of-summer event an annual tradition, holding it in a different sector of the riding every year. Stay tuned for next year's edition in Greenfield Park!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

THE CANNABIS ACT BECOMES LAW ON OCTOBER 17, 2018

On **October 17, 2018**, cannabis becomes legal and **strictly** regulated in Canada.

Each province and territory will have the right to make its own rules on cannabis possession and use. You are required to obey the laws of the province or municipality where you live, and it is important to find out what those laws are when you travel within Canada and abroad.

For more information:

Regulation of cannabis in Quebec:

www.encadrementcannabis.gouv.qc.ca/en/

Cannabis in Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/cannabis.html>

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