

MP's REPORT: York Region in Ottawa

By Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Members of the York Region Council visited Ottawa in February to meet with MPs, Ministers, and the Prime Minister. York Region presented their main priorities and it was wonderful to see a unified voice for the region from mayors and councillors. Representing Aurora we had Mayor Geoff Dawe and representing Richmond Hill we had Councillor Brenda Hogg.

I attended a meeting with the York Region representatives, fellow MPs and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau where he seemed engaged in the Region's priorities. We discussed new infrastructure for the region, specifically the extension of the Yonge Subway line, among other initiatives like affordable housing, water infrastructure, and broadband/communications infrastructure. I think the federal government's priorities align with the region's priorities and I will continue to ensure that the voice of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill is heard in Ottawa.

Look Out for the Budget on March 22nd!

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to our pre-budget consultation in January. After listening to the ideas and concerns of constituents in our community I presented a report to the Finance Minister in February. I am happy to announce that our government will be tabling the Federal Budget for 2016 on March 22. I encourage everyone to stay tuned for that announcement and contact me with any questions you may have about it.

What's a Government Committee?

Members of Parliament have a responsibility to participate in committee meetings. Each MP is appointed to a committee (or sometimes more than one committee) and there are standing committees, legislative committees, joint committees, special committees, and even subcommittees. However, the purpose of all of these committees is to have a portion of elected representatives to carry out functions that are better performed in smaller groups, including the examination of witnesses and detailed consideration of legislation, estimates and technical matters.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, I represent the Minister at the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Estimates. This committee focuses on the effectiveness and proper functioning of government operations as well as on the estimates process. As Parliamentary Secretary, I am not a voting member of the committee (a new rule introduced by this government to achieve fairness on all committees), but I do attend each meeting to ensure that pertinent information from committee is relayed to the Minister.

Canada Summer Jobs Application Deadline

On February 29, my office held an information session on the Canada Summer Jobs Program for local businesses and non-profit organizations. The deadline to apply for funding as an employer is March 11th. For any questions, please contact my office. We will be announcing information for students to apply in the weeks to come so stay tuned!

Have your Tax Return Completed for Free

If you have a simple tax situation and meet the suggested family income level you may be eligible for this service. Our office is hosting community volunteers from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) from March 14 until April 25th to help eligible families complete their tax returns. For more information on this program, please visit: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/volunteer or contact my office to make an appointment.

March Break Skating Event!

Please bring your family and join me on the rink! On March 18th from 3.30 ? 5.00 p.m. I'll be hosting a free skating event at the Bond Lake Arena (70 Old Colony Rd, Richmond Hill). I hope to see you there!

Come Meet Leona Alleslev at the MP Open House

As your Member of Parliament, I want to meet you and listen to what your priorities are for our community and for our country. I welcome everyone to visit my office on April 9 from 12 ? 3 p.m. Bring your family and your neighbors; everyone is welcome to

attend this community gathering. If you are unable to attend this event, you can visit my office during office hours from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact Me!

Come visit my office at 12820 Yonge St. Suite 202, in Richmond Hill. Call (905) 773-8358 and reach me by email: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca. I hope to hear from you soon!