

The Latest Buzz on the Hill ...



Our monthly report
Staying in touch with
"News you can Use"

Ken Hardie
Member of Parliament
Fleetwood-Port Kells

kenhardie.ca
 ken.hardie@parl.gc.ca



Important announcements ...

January 2024

Our past three years have been loaded with many challenges, and the best way through them has and will always be 'hope and hard work'. This and every issue of The Buzz offers ways to tap into federal government programs that can make a difference to communities and businesses; the 'hard work' aimed at making 2024 a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR** for you and all of Canada!

Ken

Pre-Budget Consultations

OPEN NOW

The Government has begun pre-budget consultations to hear from Canadians about what matters most as we prepare Budget 2024 - the next steps in our economic plan. Currently our economic plan is building more homes, faster while making life affordable and creating good jobs for Canadians from coast to coast.

Your input will help tailor our economic plan to ensure it addresses the challenges that matter most to Canadians and build an economy that works for everyone.

Pre-budget consultations will be open until February 9th, 2024 at:

www.letstalkbudget24.ca/let-s-talk-budget-2024.

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program

The fallout from multiple conflicts around the globe underscores the importance of Canada's values of multiculturalism and acceptance. That is why the Government is unveiling the new **Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Program (MARF)** with funding to help organizations working to counter racial and cultural based discrimination. Applications are now open for Calls for Proposals for the Organizational Capacity Building (OCB) component of MARF.

The OCB Call for Proposals will focus on:

- Initiatives that strengthen connections between interfaith and intercultural communities
- Initiatives led by, or serving Indigenous, Black, racialized and religious minority communities, and communities with lived experiences of racism;
- Community-based organizations working to drive positive change; and
- Initiatives that reach rural and remote areas across Canada

Please share this with any organizations you know are working towards these ends. Deadline for application is February 22 2024.

For more info visit: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/community-multiculturalism-anti-racism/community-capacity-building.html

Special Immigration Measures for Extended Family Members in Gaza

The current conflict in Gaza has and continues to inflict tremendous damage and suffering to innocents who are trapped by the conflict, and some of them are family members of fellow Canadians.

That's why in December of last year we announced special measures to apply for a temporary resident visa (TRV) for Palestinians who:

- live in Gaza
- are related to a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who lives or intends to live in Canada

- will be supported in Canada by the Canadian citizen or permanent resident for a period of 1 year

If you're eligible, your family members can also apply for a TRV under these measures.

These temporary measures came into effect on January 9th, 2024 and while an initial number of 1000 TRP's was mentioned, there will be flexibility on the actual number accepted. Minister Miller is quoted in the media as saying there is no hard cap on the number of TRP's.

For more information, or to apply, go to: www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/israel-west-bank-gaza-2023/gaza-tr-measures.html

Business Tax Changes 2024

This year there have been many announcements that will affect business taxes in 2024.

The government has put together a list of them for quick reference along with resources to help you manage these changes and your tax affairs in the new year.

Here are a few important items that might be of interest to you:

- Canada Pension Plan – What's new in 2024
- Changes to mandatory electronic filing thresholds
- Changes to electronic filing for GST/HST registrants
- Reporting requirements for the Canadian Dental Care Plan
- New reporting requirements for trusts
- Other changes to reporting requirements
- Province of employment policy
- Note on electronic filing of Special Elections and Returns
- Is there an error on your tax return that needs to be fixed?

To access this full list of changes and resources go to: www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/newsroom/tax-tips/tax-tips-2023/businesses-here-are-top-changes-this-year-will-affect-business-taxes

Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

Every city has its own housing needs. There's no one solution to creating more housing supply. But by finding ways to work together – with respect, collaboration, and strong leadership – we can give local governments the support they need to get more homes built.

On January 10th, Surrey MP's along side with Surrey's Mayor and CMHC announced that Surrey will receive over \$95,641,500 through HAF to implement the proposed initiatives.

These new units will make sure Surrey **remains** a great place to come together. Today is a celebration for the people of Surrey. But it's also a testament to what's possible when we work together. This is the kind of partnership that Canadians want from their governments – partnership that delivers real results.

Together we can fix Canada's housing crisis. Together we can support Canadians struggling in these challenging times. And together we can build a better future.

To learn more about all we're doing to address housing in Canada, go to: www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2023/11/canadas-housing-action-plan.html



Government of Canada Career Opportunities

The Government of Canada is seeking qualified individuals to fill positions across many different **government organizations and departments.**

For the full list of positions, requirements and how to apply, visit: <https://pcogic.njoyn.com/cl3/xweb/xweb.asp?CLID=52106&page=joblisting&lang=1>

Democracy in ACTION

FREQUENTLY asked QUESTIONS this month.....

These are some of the most frequent questions received this month from constituents :

“Open-net salmon farming poses a concerning threat to the health of our wild pacific salmon populations, what is the government doing to address this issue?”

“The oil and gas industry is Canada's largest and fastest-growing source of emissions and there are currently no limits on the amount of climate pollution it can emit. **Will the federal government regulate to meet our climate targets and to ensure Canada's legacy is one of real climate action?**”

“Now that the government has implemented a dental care program, what will you do this year to implement a pharmacare program?”

“With the number of innocents trapped by the conflict in Gaza who have family here in Canada, **shouldn't we be providing more than just 1,000 temporary resident visas?**”

To see the answers, click on the FAQ tab on our website: www.kenhardie.libparl.ca/2024/01/11/frequently-asked-questions-january-2024/

CURIOS About The Online News Act Help for Canada's News Media?

To find out more visit: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/online-news.html

Athlete Advisory Committee

Athlete Advisory Committee Building a Safe Sport System for Canada

Sports build better communities, strengthen our economy, promote wellbeing and serve as a source of national pride.

This is why our government is supporting an independent, forward-looking review of Canada's sport

system to ensure all participants experience a safe, inclusive and rewarding environment.

This means hearing the voices of athletes, which is why we are strengthening the capacity of AthletesCAN and elevating the sport Canada Athlete Advisory Committee to a Ministerial Committee.

On January 10, 2024 we will re-open the call for national team

athletes interested in participating on this Advisory Committee.

This call for applications will run for four weeks.

To learn more go to: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2023/12/building-a-safe-sport-system-for-canada.html

To access info about federal government services and benefits available to you, use your cell phone's camera to scan the code.

