

# RYAN TURNBULL, M.P.

## WHITBY COMMUNITY UPDATE

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Dear Neighbours,

I'm writing to you after an important week in Canada's journey down the path of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples who have lived on this land for thousands of years. On Tuesday, I had the honour of attending Pope Francis' open-air mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton with my wife, and a number of my colleagues. It is truly inspiring to be able to witness such an important moment in Canadian History. It was also an honour to be there just one day after Pope Francis offered his official apology on behalf of the Catholic Church for its role in the horrors of the residential school system. This apology has been a long time coming for many survivors and their families who continue to live with the trauma from the abuse inflicted on them. The residential schools were a shameful attempt to destroy the cultures, languages, and religions of Indigenous peoples across Canada and many faced the compounding trauma of physical, verbal, and sexual abuse. In addition to this abuse, many children who were taken from their families to residential schools never came home, leaving parents to wonder what had happened.





*MP Turnbull and colleagues participate in the Papal Mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton as part of Pope Francis' visit and apology for the Catholic Church's role in Residential Schools*

The Catholic Church bears much responsibility for these horrible actions and Pope Francis' apology shows us that for reconciliation and healing to be achieved, the truth must be confronted. As Canadians, Pope Francis' visit and apology should remind us that we too have a role to play in achieving reconciliation. We need to ensure that all Indigenous communities in Canada have access to clean and safe drinking water and we must end the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in our prison system to name just two important steps. We are working hard to do this, but the reality is that there is still much work to be done.

By acknowledging and confronting the past while taking concrete steps to make improvements in the present, we are ensuring a bright future for all who call this land home.

On Thursday, I had the chance to welcome Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson to Whitby as he announced \$44,250 in funding to support a feasibility study on a large-scale geothermal district heating project. The study will examine the economic and environmental impacts of the project and will also analyze the feasibility of future geothermal projects around Whitby. This geothermal system will be integrated into the

construction of the new Whitby Sports Complex and future buildings constructed in the surrounding areas.



*MP Turnbull makes a funding announcement supporting a feasibility study for a Geothermal district energy project in Whitby at Town Hall*

This is great news for Whitby as it continues to put us on the front lines of the fight against climate change. We are looking at new, innovative solutions to provide heating without burning fuels and creating carbon waste. This system will be nearly 90% more efficient than externally generated electricity and we could significantly reduce Whitby's carbon footprint by embracing geothermal heating across the community. I am delighted that Whitby will be the benefactor of this funding and I am excited to see us continue to harness new, clean technologies to help make our community greener and more sustainable.

For those frustrated with the long wait times for passports, I have some great news to share with you. Service Canada will be opening five new locations across the country for in-person passport pickups and Whitby has

been chosen as one of those locations. This means that nearly all specialized Service Canada passport locations have in-person pickup options. This will bring passport pickup closer to home and will help reduce backlogs and shorten wait times.

Service Canada has been experiencing an abnormally high volume of passport requests since the reopening of international travel and this has made wait times unacceptably long. Our government recognizes this and has introduced multiple measures to try to clear the backlogs leading to these wait times. By adding a pickup option in Whitby, there will be yet another option for people looking to get their hands on their passports.



*MP Turnbull announces the increased capacity at our local Service Canada office which will be offering passport pick-up services*

As always, we recommend applying for a new passport at least three months before the date of your trip, however, Service Canada has options for people with urgent passport needs. Please visit [here](#) to learn more about how and where to get your passport.

As always, please reach out to my constituency office for any concern on a federal matter you may have. My staff and I look forward to helping you.

Warmest Regards,  
David Turnbull

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## Updates from your Government

### 10% Old Age Security Increase

On July 27th, the 10% increase to Old Age Security came into effect. This is the first permanent increase to Old Age Security since 1973 and it will give seniors over the age of 75 up to \$800 in new support this year. This is part of our government's Affordability Plan which has introduced several new measures aimed at making life more affordable Canadians and especially for our most vulnerable populations.

Seniors have born the brunt of the worst parts of the COVID-19 pandemic through difficulties in long-term care and the isolation caused by the health measures put in place to protect people. However, even with the worst of the pandemic seemingly behind us, many seniors are now finding that they bear the brunt of high-inflation and are struggling to make ends meet.

This 10% increase will be vital to those having trouble keeping up with the higher prices for the things they need. After years of work, seniors should be able to enjoy retirement with their friends and family while not worrying about paying the bills and putting food on the table. This increase will allow many to have the comfortable retirement they deserve.

Learn more about the 10% increase to Old Age Security [here](#)

### \$33 Million to the STAR Program

With around 700,000 skilled tradespeople set to retire in Canada by 2028, it is crucial that we find new skilled tradespeople to fill in the gaps. That is why Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, announced over \$33M in funding will go to the Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness (STAR) program over the next five years. The STAR program encourages people from marginalized communities to give the skilled trades a try. Many communities such as women, newcomers, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples face significant barriers to entering the skilled trades.

Many in these communities simply do not have the exposure to the trades to even consider them as a career possibility and the STAR program works to change that. The STAR program will help many discover a career path some may have never considered due to the barriers preventing them from participating in the skilled trades.

To complete the green transition, we are going to need more skilled tradespeople. Our climate goals are achievable so long as we have enough skilled workers to complete our ambitious vision. The STAR program will be key in getting new faces into the skilled trades and making all of our goals a reality.

To learn more about the funding and the STAR program, visit [here](#)



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