

Joel Harden

MPP for Ottawa Centre



Friends,

It is an honour to serve as your MPP for Ottawa Centre. Our community is a special place, full of people who devote themselves to helping their neighbours. Since the election, we've seen this spirit of generosity displayed over and over.

We saw it in the aftermath of the September 2018 tornadoes, when so many people helped those who experienced property damage or power outages. We saw it in those who donated blood to help victims of the Westboro bus crash. And we saw it in the outpouring of grief after the passing of Paul Dewar.

In fact, in one of his last public addresses, Paul offered these words that captured what we need in politics:

My mom was a strong feminist, and she said something very important that I learned at an early age: don't be afraid of power, know how to use and share it, and give it to those who don't have it.

Like Paul, I want these values reflected in the work we do at Queen's Park, and as a community office. This means monthly events where we bring people together to make their voices heard on important issues. It means going door-to-door to hear directly from you about your concerns. It means using the resources of our MPP office to support community builders who are making a real difference.

If you need help, or have thoughts to share, don't hesitate to contact our office. As we like to say: it's about us, and building the strength of us.

My very best,

Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa Centre

Visit our website
joelharden.ca
for more updates!

Community Builders Forum

As your MPP, I want to build a strong, supportive community here in Ottawa Centre, and to do that we need to build up people doing compassionate work. We need people who volunteer for their community and give back to our city by empowering local folks. People who are community builders.

Without community builders, Ottawa would not be the special place it is. And I want to encourage a culture of community organizing by sharing organizer skills with you.

Join us April 26 to 28 at The Mauril-Bélanger Social Innovation Centre (95 Clegg St.) to learn new skills, meet local organizers and help strengthen our collective ability to make change. Register now at: joelharden.ca/forum

Spring 2019 Newsletter

In our community



Hearing from attendees at the March of Dimes reception at Queen's Park



Our community coming together to support the family of Abdirahman Abdi

Save the Date!

April 26 - 28: Community Builders Forum

May: "Take your MPP to work" Month (visit our website for more details!)

June 1: Town Hall on The Future of Public Education

August 16: Town Hall on Seniors' Issues

September 21: Town Hall on Protecting the Ottawa River

Ongoing: Every Friday we are out hosting a meet and greet with Ottawa Centre residents. Check out our website to find out where we are going!



Reading from everyone's feedback at our November town hall



Supporting Ontario students as they demand increased public funding for public education



At our emergency roundtable discussion to hear from the autism community and their concerns around the OAP changes

Seniors & Accessibility

One of my top priorities is working with people with disabilities and seniors towards an accessible, age-friendly city and province. Since the election I've met with dozens of seniors' and disability rights organizations, service providers, and advocates to learn about the issues and how I can support their crucial work.

On the International Day of People with Disabilities (December 3), I announced in the legislature that **our first private member's bill will focus on requiring new private residences to be built to a universal design standard.** There is a huge shortage of accessible housing, and I look forward to tabling a bill this fall that addresses this issue.

Housing

We have a housing crisis in our city and province, and many people I speak to on the doors are asking us to take action. After an extremely cold winter, where many in our city had no warm place to go, we have to make sure that we are advocating for emergency and long-term solutions to our housing crisis.

We convened a meeting before the holidays to bring together front-line staff and housing providers to discuss what we can do as a community. We

identified a variety of solutions for both the short term and the long term, and we will continue to push for more funding from the city and province to ensure proper housing for all.

Environment

This fall's landmark report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) draws a line in the sand for governments of the world. We have 12 years to take drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—otherwise it will be impossible to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, with catastrophic consequences for global ecosystems.

When the repeal of the Green Energy Act was before the Social Policy Committee this fall, **I introduced an amendment to allow virtual net metering in Ontario, a measure that would make it easier to grow renewable energy infrastructure at the local level.** At my urging, the committee heard from members of the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op, who are engaged in that work right now in Eastern Ontario.

Cuts to French Services

In December, the government announced that it would withdraw all funding from the Franco-Ontarian University, and eliminated the French-

language Services Commissioner as an independent office. Communities rose up on an unprecedented scale across Ontario, including here in Ottawa. I was proud to join thousands of people in the demonstration at City Hall on December 1, and to **speak in the legislature in defence of French language rights.** As the struggle continues, Franco-Ontarians continue to show us what real organizing looks like!

Monthly Town Halls

I've been proud to host monthly events on many issues that matter to you and hear from local experts. Our first town hall in September was on Ontario's cannabis policy, where participants gathered to hear from local drug policy and legal experts on what legalization means for them. In October, we hosted a town hall on Responsible Development with speakers from the housing sector, in November we held a 100-day review of the Government and in December we held a community feast.

In February, we held a film screening and town hall on eating disorders, and we were proud to be joined by Toronto MPP Jill Andrew to speak from her expertise on the issue.

Visit our website to read reports and notes from past town halls to see what was discussed.

Contact us

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