



# Keeping in Touch

## Kate Young M.P.

### London West

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SPRING 2017

Dear Friends,

Canada's 150th birthday provides us all with an opportunity to reflect on Canada's past, celebrate our national achievements and chart a course for our future.

Over the generations, Canadians have worked hard with the promise of progress, and championed equal access to opportunities for others.

Our progress over the past 150 years has been rapid. Together, we have built a remarkable country from coast to coast to coast. A country that is strong, united, diverse, and yes—the envy of the world.

This year, Canadians will once again gather with family, friends and neighbours to be thankful and count the many reasons why we are proud to be Canadian. It is my hope that you will do the same. Please also share with others your own hopes, dreams and aspirations for our great country.

There are many events being planned in our community to celebrate this national milestone, and I hope to see many of you at these events as we celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial together.

As always, my staff and I welcome the opportunity to assist you with any federal issues or concerns. As your elected representative, I am your voice in Ottawa. Please do not ever hesitate to contact my office should you wish to express opinions or concerns. Whether we agree or disagree, your opinion matters and helps me make the most informed decisions possible.

I hope that you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Lets keep in touch!

Yours truly,

Kate Young M.P.  
London West



Canada's 150th Birthday is an opportunity for Canadians to gather together and proudly celebrate all we have in common. In this momentous year, celebrations will be bigger than ever. There will be major events across the country, including significant first-time events here in the Forest City.

All Londoners can look forward to SESQUIFEST—a 5 day festival being held downtown from June 29th to July 3rd. The festival will include major performers, animations, live entertainment, artisan vendors, food trucks, music and more.

The showpiece of SESQUIFEST programming will be the film HORIZON—a 360 degree cinematic journey across Canada, and a visual symphony that celebrates the people, landscapes and freedoms that make Canada home. Created and captured with advanced 360 degree technology and presented in full dome and virtual reality platforms, HORIZON is a sensory and emotional experience for audiences of all ages. You'll see Canada in ways you've never seen this great country before!

### Canada Day Events

In addition to SESQUIFEST, the organizers of London's Canada Day events have joined together this year under the guidance of *Canada 150 London* to present a city-wide collaborative Canada Day.

Historically, over 100,000 people enjoy free family-friendly festivities at one of London's many Canada Day sites. This year, Londoners are being encouraged to visit multiple sites to experience unique Canada 150 programming. Eleven community-based celebrations are working together under *London's Passport to Canada Day* initiative.

**For more information, please visit:**  
[www.canada150london.ca](http://www.canada150london.ca)

**For events across Canada, visit:**  
[www.canada150.ca](http://www.canada150.ca)

## Enjoying Canada's National Treasures

### Free Admission with a Parks Canada Discovery Pass

Our wild heritage is at its best and most beautiful in Canada's national parks. Canada's 150th birthday is a chance for all Canadian families to get out, explore and discover the rich natural heritage that Canada has to offer. Canada Agency to protect and preserve these national treasures.

To make it more affordable for more Canadian families to visit and appreciate the outdoors in 2017, admission to all national parks, national marine conservation areas and national historic sites will be free. Let's explore the national treasures of our country together! **Order your pass online at [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca).** Effective stewardship of these areas is a priority for our government, and we also recognize that Canada's system of protected areas is an important part of local economies, directly contributing about \$1.5 billion to Canada's gross domestic product while generating over 22,000 jobs.

We all know that the health and prosperity of Canadians is connected to the environment in which we live. That's why our government is protecting Canada's biodiversity, and ensuring that future generations are able to live in a clean and safe world. We are investing in Canada's national parks and marine conservation areas. Budget 2017 provides up to \$364 million to the Parks



# Investing in Science

## Kate Young appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Science



*Kate Young M.P. with the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science. Kate was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Science on January 31, 2017.*

In January of this year, I was honoured to be asked by the Prime Minister to serve as the Parliamentary Secretary for Science. As a lifelong Londoner who is immensely proud of the significant role and contributions our city has made in advancing the sciences through our hospitals, research facilities and educational institutions, I was thrilled to accept this exciting opportunity.

Scientific research and medical breakthroughs are a hallmark of London's history, and they continue to strengthen our local, regional and national economy. London's scientific and research community is second to none, and I am excited to champion its merits in Ottawa.

*Budget 2017* is welcoming news for scientists across the country; on campuses, in government laboratories and for young researchers still in the classroom. With this budget, our government is delivering on our promise to invest in Canada's talented, skilled and creative citizens to help build a more innovative economy and society.

Science funding is extensive in *Budget 2017*. In total, our government is investing over **\$1 billion** in science and innovation initiatives combined - and over **\$440 million** in science investments, specifically. Our investments will empower the nation's researchers and their collaborators to continue to make discoveries and innovations that will help us ensure that Canada's best days lie ahead.

Since the beginning of the year, our government has already announced another **\$3.3 million** in funding for research projects at *Western University*, and I'm looking forward to announcing more investments in science and research here in the Forest City!

## Encouraging our Youth to Explore Careers in STEM

Science is a way of thinking – a certain way of seeing the world. It can lead to new discoveries that completely change our everyday way of life. For Canadian youth, it can lead to exciting careers that can take them to destinations they never thought possible.

In May, I helped launch *Science Odyssey*—Canada's biggest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science. For ten days, the Government of Canada and its partners, presented fun and inspiring science events in museums, labs, and classrooms all across the country. Through *Science Odyssey*, we can help our next generation to Choose Science and inspire them to become Canada's next researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Our government is especially committed to improving the representation of women in the STEM disciplines. In an increasingly competitive, globalized economy, Canada cannot afford to leave our female talent on the sidelines. We need their insight and science needs women.

This is why we have directed *Statistics Canada* to re-instate the **University and College Academic Staff Survey (ACASS)** and we have strengthened equity provisions in both the **Canada Research Chairs** and the **Canada Excellence Research Chairs** programs while ensuring a commitment to research excellence.

I was pleased to be involved in the launch of the Department of Science's social media campaign to inspire young women to choose science. In February, we also celebrated **International Day for Women and Girls in Science**. I look forward to working with the Minister further to help encourage more women and all our young people to choose a STEM career.



*Kate joins students from Oakridge Secondary School at a Science Symposium coordinated by Let's Talk Science on April 21, 2017 at Western University. Students engaged with senior scientists, ethicists and graduate students who are experts in the fields of stem cell biology, biotechnology, and ethics.*

## Science Highlights in Budget 2017

- The development of a **Federal Science Infrastructure Strategy** over the coming year.
- \$125 million to the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research to launch a **Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy**.
- \$950 million to support "**superclusters**" (dense areas of small and large companies, colleges and universities, specialized talent and infrastructure) in the **clean technology, advanced manufacturing, health/bio-sciences, digital technology and agri-food sectors**.
- \$221 million to help provide **10,000 work-integrated learning placements** for post-secondary students each year.
- \$117.6 million for a new **Canada 150 Research Chairs program** to attract top-tier international scholars and researchers.
- Renewed funding of \$10 million for the **Institute for Quantum Computing**, \$6 million for the **Stem Cell Network**, and \$35 million in enhanced funding for the **Canadian Institute for Advanced Research**.
- \$50 million to provide **coding and digital skills education** to more young Canadians.
- \$10.8 million for the **PromoScience Program**, an initiative to inspire young Canadians to select science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as major areas of study.

# Improving the Health of Canadians

Budget 2017



## Home Care

The demand for home care services in Canada continues to grow.

Approximately 15 percent of hospital beds are currently occupied by people who could, and should, receive their care at home or in more community-based settings. Meanwhile, in homes across the country – including here in London West – many families caring for loved ones are struggling with the stresses and pressures that come from not having enough support.

**The majority of Canadians who have taken the responsibility to care for their loved ones at home are women who are still in the workforce. Investing in home care will allow women who provide home care to make fewer sacrifices in their work, social and personal lives.**

*Budget 2017* proposes to invest \$6 billion over 10 years to provide Canadians with improved access to home, community, and palliative care services, as well as more support for informal caregivers. Having to care for loved ones can be enormously stressful. These investments will help support those people and those families.

This investment in home care will ensure that Canada's health care system is more responsive to the needs and expectations of all Canadians and begins to close the gaps in the availability of care in communities across the country.

## New Benefits for Caregivers

Balancing work and family caregiving responsibilities can be a real challenge. Things can be especially difficult when a family member is suffering from a serious illness.

**To help give eligible caregivers a well deserved break, we are creating a new Employment Insurance (EI) Caregiving Benefit, which will give eligible caregivers up to 15 weeks of EI benefits while they are temporarily away from work to care for a critically ill or injured family member.**

**As the current caregiver credit system is confusing and complex, the three existing credits (Caregiver Credit, Infirm Dependant Credit and Family Caregiver Tax Credit) are being replaced by a single credit to be known as the Canada Caregiver Credit.**

This new credit will provide increased support to those who need it most and will apply to caregivers whether or not they live with their family. As the income threshold for eligibility is being increased, more hard working Canadians will be able to qualify for this benefit.

This means that more hard working Canadians can take some time to care for their loved ones.

## Mental Health

An overwhelming number of Canadian families are affected at some point – directly or indirectly – by mental illness. While great strides have been made to improve our understanding of mental illness and its impact on people's lives, wait times to see a mental health specialist in some regions of the country can take up to 18 months.

Our government recognizes that this is not good enough, and that is why *Budget 2017* includes an investment of \$5 billion over 10 years to support mental health initiatives.

**Greater access to mental health supports will result in improved health outcomes and shorter wait times for hundreds of thousands of Canadians.**

Science has shown us that it is absolutely essential for those struggling with mental illness to have access to timely and appropriate mental health services.

**Budget 2017 provides immediate support to provinces and territories so that Canadians who need urgent assistance are looked after with great care.**



## Drugs & Substances Strategy

Canada's opioid crisis has led to devastating consequences for individuals, families and communities. The response to this crisis must be comprehensive, collaborative, compassionate and evidence-based.

**The Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy announced by our government will restore harm reduction as a key pillar alongside prevention, treatment and enforcement.**

We will provide \$100 million to build on actions the government has already taken to respond — which includes making naloxone, a life-saving medication, more accessible. We have also passed the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act which amends the Controlled Substances Act for those who seek emergency medical or law enforcement assistance for themselves or another person suffering from an overdose.

**The amendment also protects those who are at the scene when help arrives. The aim is to ensure incidents of drug overdose are reported and that people remain at the scene until appropriate assistance arrives.**

The government is also taking action on drug and substance abuse by introducing legislation to better equip law enforcement and health officials to reduce substance abuse across the country.

# More Affordable Housing for London West

I am pleased that the Federal Government is introducing a new **National Housing Strategy** to build, renew and repair affordable housing for Canadians. All Canadians need housing that is safe and affordable. Without adequate housing, it is harder for individuals and families to accomplish every other goal – from raising healthy children to pursuing education and good jobs.

## National Housing Strategy priorities:

- the construction of new affordable housing units;
- the renovation and repair of existing housing;
- rent subsidies and other measures to make housing more affordable; and
- other initiatives to support safe, independent living for Canada's seniors, persons with disabilities and those requiring home accessibility modifications.



*Kate cuts the ribbon, with local dignitaries, at a new affordable housing complex in London West located at 77 Tecumseh Road West.*

This new strategy will build upon several investments we have already announced as a government. In November, I had the great pleasure of announcing 281 new affordable housing units for London and area at 17 different projects—including 89 affordable housing units in London West at 6 locations (77 Tecumseh Avenue West, 1166 Sandbar Street, 2514 Tokala Trail, 115 Craig Street, 205 Commissioners Road West and 339 Commissioners Road West).

## Helping Veterans and their Families

**Canada's veterans have dedicated their lives to the defence of our country. They deserve our unwavering support and gratitude.**

In *Budget 2017* our government announced that we will move forward with a plan to re-establish **lifelong pensions as an option for injured veterans**. The Budget also proposes to amend legislation to create a new **Education and Training Benefit** that will provide more money to veterans so they can go to college, university or a technical school after they complete their service. This new program will begin in April 2018 for veterans honourably released on or after April 1, 2006. Veterans with 6 years of eligible service will be entitled to up to **\$40,000 of benefits**, while veterans with 12 years of eligible service will be entitled to up to **\$80,000 of benefits**.

When a soldier serves in the Canadian Armed Forces, their family serves with them. Informal caregivers—who are often family members—play an integral and irreplaceable role in supporting ill and injured veterans after they leave service, yet the sacrifices informal caregivers make for their loved ones are not being properly recognized. Therefore, we will also invest \$187.3 million over six years, to create the **Caregiver Recognition Benefit** for modern-day veterans. This benefit will replace the existing Family Caregiver Relief Benefit and will provide a more generous **non-taxable \$1,000 monthly benefit** payable directly to caregivers to better recognize and honour the vital role they play.

## Are you a Veteran?



### Did you receive the Disability Award for a service related illness or injury?

The Government recently increased this Award and **all recipients** are eligible for an increase. Please make sure Veterans Affairs Canada has your current address and banking information.

**Call 1-866-522-2122**