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# **Special Bulletin: Happy New Year**

Dear friends and neighbours,

I hope you had a delightful holiday season and a happy New Year!

In Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam, we are sharing beautiful cultural traditions, witnessing important collaborations between community leaders, and celebrating new community champions who take charge and make change! I have no doubt the community will continue to exemplify excellence! While 2023 was a year filled with many successes, I look forward to all of the great new opportunities and celebrations as we enter 2024.

In 2024, the Government of Canada will continue lowering the cost of living, increasing accessible housing, supporting the middle class, and maintaining policies to protect the environment. We will continue to work hard and build a stronger future for all Canadians from coast to coast, to coast.

As your Member of Parliament, I look forward to engaging with you and to continue to support you in Ottawa and here at home.





## THE CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN

Our Liberal government announced the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) – a transformative investment for Canadians across the country. Applications are now open to seniors aged 72 and older. Applications for other age groups will then be phased in with a staggered approach, with the process opening up to all eligible applicants aged 18 and above by the end of 2025.

The CDCP will reduce the financial barrier to access oral health care services for up to 9 million uninsured Canadians with a family net income less than \$90,000, with no copay for those with a family net income under \$70,000.

#### To be eligible for the CDCP, Canadian residents must:

- -not have access to any private dental benefits, including through employers, pensions or privately purchased plans;
- -have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000; and
- -be a Canadian resident for tax purposes; and have filed their tax return in the previous year.

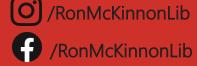
For more information visit Canada.ca/dental



CANADA.CA/DENTAL

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### **MENTAL HEALTH**

Canadians can call or text 9-8-8 to access bilingual, traumainformed, and culturally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention support.

The service is free and can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Trained crisis responders will listen to you and provide support with compassion, providing a safe space for you to talk.

If you are thinking about suicide, or worried about someone else thinking about suicide, **call or text 9-8-8 for suicide prevention support at any time of day or night.** 

<u>Calls or texts to 9-8-8 are confidential.</u> No personally identifiable information will be disclosed or shared outside of the 9-8-8 network, except as required or permitted by law, or in cases where emergency intervention is required to support the safety and well-being of the caller or texter, and the safety of others.

You are not alone. There's help available.

Call the Suicide Crisis Helpline at 9-8-8

### **ROUNDTABLE**

In January, we had the privilege to speak and collaborate with the **Honourable Minister of Diversity**, **Inclusion**, and **Persons with Disabilities**, **Kamal Khera**.

In our roundtable discussion, we were able to discuss innovative ideas, explore pressing issues, and create solutions for the future of our community.





### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Federal investments are already jumpstarting housing construction across the country. Both Toronto and Vancouver have seen record numbers of housing starts in 2023, supported by accelerated rental construction.

This year, federal investment in housing is \$9 billion higher than it was in 2013-14. Since 2015, the average annual federal housing investment has more than doubled compared to the previous government.

To build more affordable housing for the most vulnerable Canadians, the 2023 Fall Economic Statement announces an additional \$1 billion over three years, starting in 2025-26, for the Affordable Housing Fund.

This investment will support non-profit, co-op, and public housing providers to build more than 7,000 new homes by 2028.

I'm proud to share that our Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam Youth Council demonstrated leadership by creating a toy drive to spread kindness and cheer during the 2023 holiday season!



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