



Dear Neighbour,

I hope this message finds you and your family well as we get ready to welcome the arrival of fall.

Since I last wrote to you, my team and I have welcomed hundreds of you at our constituency office open house, and it was a joy to celebrate this new chapter together.

Beyond the office, over the last few weeks my team and I have been out at different corners of the riding. We joined with you at festivals and celebrations, and listened to residents, business owners, and local organizations to hear what is working and what needs to be improved. I'm committed to bringing all of this feedback to our National Caucus meeting next week, so your voices shape our government's direction.

As Parliament prepares to resume this fall, I will continue pressing on the issues that matter most to you: affordability, transit and infrastructure for Scarborough, and safety of our communities.

In this newsletter, you will find information about the following:

- Federal Updates from Ottawa
- Community Highlights
- VIA rail manufacturing coming home to Canada

As always, my team and I are here to help. Whether you need assistance navigating a federal program, have a question about a government service, or simply want to share what is on your mind, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours Truly, Serving You,

Doly Begum
Member of Parliament for Scarborough Southwest



1. The Canadian Dental Care Plan Is Now Open to Every Age Group

Breaking new ground: Canada has never done this before. The Canadian Dental Care Plan is now open to eligible residents of every age ensuring dental care access for all Canadians. Applications for the current benefit year are open now.

To qualify, you can not have access to private dental insurance or coverage and your adjusted family net income must be less than \$90,000. What you pay out of pocket depends on your income. Families with an adjusted family net income under \$70,000 have no co-payment for services covered at the CDCP-established fees.



Coverage runs on a benefit year that ends each June. To keep your coverage active, simply renew once a year. If you are already enrolled, watch for your renewal notice next spring.

What you need to do: Make sure your taxes are filed, then apply online.

Learn more and apply at: canada.ca/dental

2. Federal Fuel Excise Tax Relief Extended

The Government of Canada is extending the temporary suspension of the federal fuel excise tax to help keep fuel costs lower for Canadians and businesses.

The federal excise tax on gasoline and diesel was temporarily suspended earlier this year, providing relief of 10 cents per litre on gasoline and 4 cents per litre on diesel. The suspension has now been extended until January 31, 2027.

From February 1 to March 31, 2027, the federal excise tax will remain reduced by 50 per cent, to 5 cents per litre on gasoline and 2 cents per litre on diesel.



This measure is expected to provide an estimated \$5.3 billion in total tax relief in 2026-27, helping reduce costs for families, truckers, and businesses in sectors such as food, agriculture, construction, housing, and delivery.

What this means: You do not need to apply or take any action. The reduced federal excise tax is reflected through the fuel supply chain and is intended to help lower costs at the pump.

Learn more: [Click Here](#)

3. Passport Renewal Made Easy: Apply Online

Renewing a Canadian passport no longer requires a trip to a Service Canada Centre or a trip to the post office. As of late July, online renewal is open to all eligible adult Canadians living in Canada, with no daily limit on applications.

The process is made easy: submit your application, your photo, and payment digitally, and track the status of your application as it moves through processing. If you prefer to renew your passport in person or via mail-in, those services remain available for you.



Important note: apply only through the official Government of Canada website. Third-party websites may charge additional fees for services that you can access directly through the Government of Canada.

Learn more and renew at: canada.ca/passport

If your application is delayed or you need assistance along the way, our office is here to help you follow up.

4. Your GST Credit Is Now the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit, and it is 25 Per Cent Higher

If you have been receiving the GST/HST credit, you may have noticed a new name on your bank statement. As of July, the credit has become the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit.

The eligibility rules and the payment schedule have not changed. What has changed is the amount. Payments went up by 25 per cent in July, and that increase is locked in for five years. A single person could receive up to \$950 over the current benefit year, and a family of four could receive up to \$1,890.



What you need to do: Nothing, as long as you have filed your taxes. There is no application form. The Canada Revenue Agency determines your eligibility amount automatically from your tax return.

Learn more: [Click Here](#)

DON'T MISS OUT

Haven't Filed Your Taxes Yet? It's important that you do.

If you have not yet filed your 2025 tax return, it's not too late. Filing your taxes is an important step to access the benefits and credits you may be entitled to, including the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit, the Canada Child Benefit, and the Canadian Dental Care Plan.

If you were expecting a payment and did not receive one, our office can help you resolve the matter.



Community Highlights: SSW and more

Summer in the neighborhood means our calendars fill up quickly, and I would not have it any other way. Since our last newsletter, I have had the privilege of joining you at celebrations, milestones, and community projects across the riding and across the city.

Wheels on the Danforth

It was wonderful to be back out on Danforth Avenue for Wheels on the Danforth, one of my favourite events of the year.

This free annual street festival takes over Danforth Avenue between Byng and Warden, filling the street with hundreds of classic cars, hot rods, and exotics, alongside live music, food, local vendors, and a Kids' Zone in Oakridge Park. It is always incredible to see so many neighbours out enjoying everything Danforth Avenue has to offer, and to see our local businesses busy.

Thank you to the Crossroads of the Danforth BIA, the entire board, the small businesses, and every single volunteer who brings this event to life year after year.



Highway Gospel Church for Kids Camp 2026: Rainforest Falls

Walking into Highway Gospel Church for Kids Camp 2026: Rainforest Falls and seeing the young campers gathered for their morning session, rotating through fun activities, and running around outside with the counsellors reminded me of my own days at summer camp.

Some of my best summer days were spent at camp, first as a camper and later as a counsellor. It was wonderful to see that same energy alive right here in Scarborough Southwest.

Thank you to the incredible Highway Gospel team and their volunteers who put together such a fun and welcoming week for kids across our community.

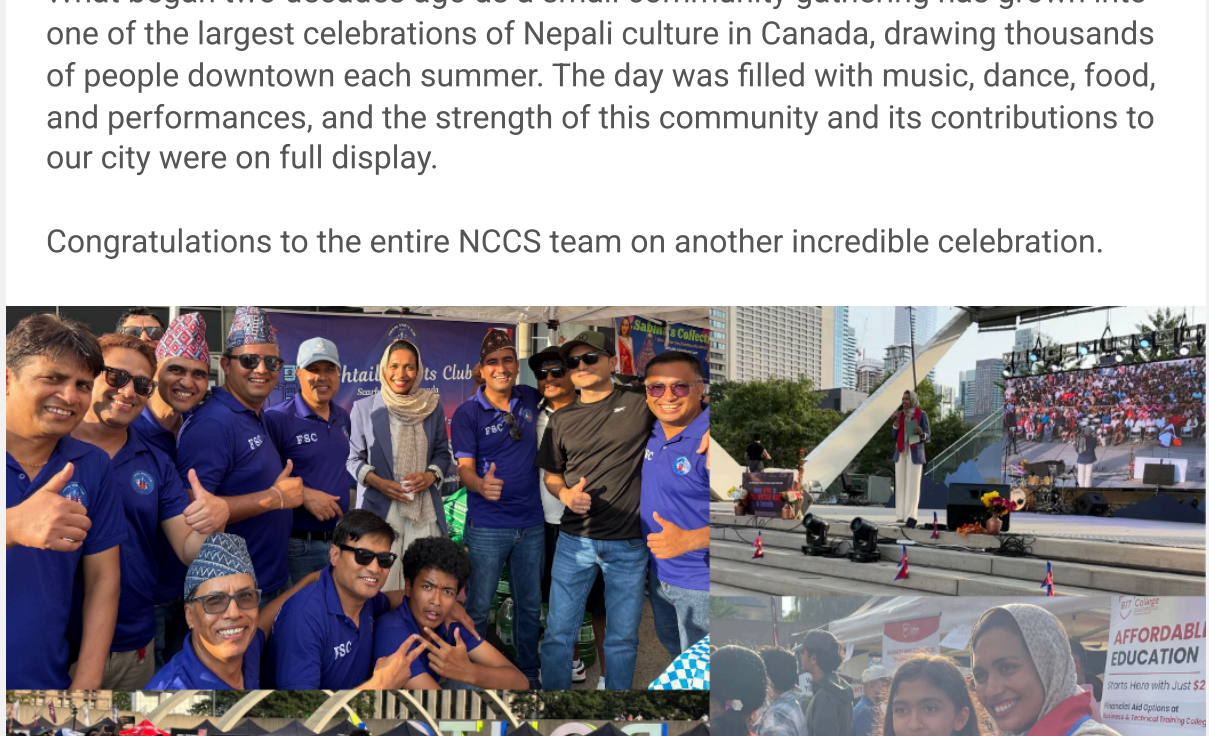


18th Himalayan Mela

I joined the Nepalese Canadian community at Nathan Phillips Square for the 18th Himalayan Mela, hosted by Nepalese Canadian Community Services.

What began two decades ago as a small community gathering has grown into one of the largest celebrations of Nepali culture in Canada, drawing thousands of people downtown each summer. The day was filled with music, dance, food, and performances, and the strength of this community and its contributions to our city were on full display.

Congratulations to the entire NCCS team on another incredible celebration.

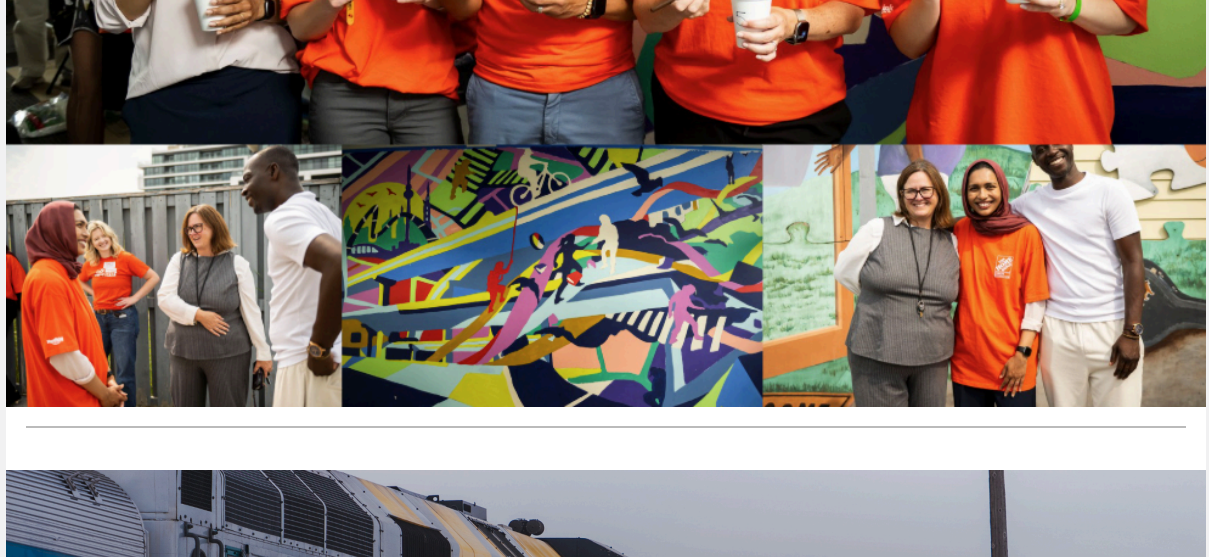


Revitalizing the YouthLink Shelter

I joined YouthLink and The Home Depot Canada Foundation, with the support of Team Depot volunteers, to revitalize YouthLink's shelter site right here in Scarborough Southwest.

YouthLink has served young people in our community since 1914, and their Warden Avenue site provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for youth aged 16 to 24. It remains the only shelter of its kind serving youth in this part of the city. Work like this matters because a safe, welcoming space is often the first step toward stability for a young person with nowhere else to turn.

Thank you to everyone supporting efforts to end youth homelessness and to create spaces where young people in our community feel they belong.



Did you know: VIA Rail manufacturing is coming back to Canada?

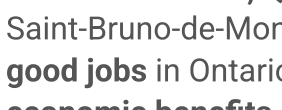
For the first time in four decades, VIA Rail passenger cars will once again be built in Canada. The Government of Canada is investing more than \$4.7 billion in 313 new passenger rail cars for VIA Rail's long-distance, regional, and remote routes.

The new cars will be manufactured and assembled in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and La Pocatière, Québec, with design and engineering work taking place in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Québec. This investment will support nearly 700 good jobs in Ontario and Québec and generate more than \$1.6 billion in economic benefits.

The new fleet will also mean more reliable, accessible, and comfortable passenger rail, including modern dining, sleeper, and panorama cars. These trains will serve communities across eight provinces, including rural, remote, and Indigenous communities that rely on VIA Rail for essential transportation.

This is about more than building new trains—it is about bringing manufacturing home, strengthening Canadian industry, supporting good jobs, and keeping communities connected.

Learn more at: [Transport Canada – VIA Rail Investment](#)



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