



August 2022

PAUL CHIANG
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A Message from your MP

Dear Neighbours,

As we welcome the fall weather, I'd like to wish all the schools, daycares, and education centres in Markham-Unionville the best of luck for the 2022-2023 academic year!

Our office kicked off the month of July with our Platinum Jubilee event, commemorating the changemakers of our community. I would also like to wish those who celebrate a hearty Eid al-Adha Mubarak!

I appreciated meeting many of our community members at various Canada Day celebrations. The definition of "Canadian" is ever-changing and cannot be generalized. As residents of Markham-Unionville, you all continue to re-define what it is to be Canadian and contribute to our diversity and growth. On Canada Day, it is wonderful to celebrate our diverse heritage but also recognize the historic treatment of Indigenous peoples and continue to work on reconciliation.

Thank you to those who joined us at our Summer Picnic at Wismer Park! I had a great time speaking with you all and

enjoying the amazing sunny weather. In partnership with York Regional Police, I hosted a Crime Prevention Town Hall at Bruce's Mill Conservation Park for a presentation and Q&A on personal, home and car safety.

As Parliamentary Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion, I welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to our riding to discuss community safety and how we can work together to support our local business owners as they grow our economy.

Please feel free to reach out via phone or e-mail for any assistance and follow us on social media to stay updated on our office news and activity!

Sincerely,

Paul Chiang
Member of Parliament Markham-Unionville



Canada Day

This summer kicked off with some amazing Canada Day Celebrations in Markham! I thoroughly enjoyed being out in the warm summer weather meeting community members and celebrating the 155th anniversary of this great country we call home! I was honoured to join the Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada on June 30th for a dinner that ran until 12:00 midnight, so we could ring in

Canada's birthday in New-Year's-Eve-style! I also attended a Canada Day Punjabi Mela, as well as an event hosted by the Armadale Older Adults Club. I feel blessed to have spent valuable time with friends and family while enjoying the wonderful fireworks display put on by the City of Markham. I hope everyone enjoyed this year's Canada Day as much as I did!



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Visits Markham-Unionville



York Region was fortunate to receive a visit from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in July. I joined my colleagues from neighbouring ridings for a quick lunch in Newmarket before the Prime Minister came to Markham-Unionville to meet and speak with local constituents. During his visit, the Prime Minister and I attended a round-table discussion focused

on reducing violence in our communities by taking a multi-pronged approach to address the root causes of violence. The various perspectives shared at the round table will help us continue to build a society that is safe and welcoming to everyone by supporting law enforcement, targeting criminal activity and encouraging local community organizations dedicated to crime prevention. As a former York Regional Police officer, this is a topic dear to my heart and therefore a top priority of mine. I am proud of our government's actions so far, such as banning military style weapons and introducing Bill C-21 that would implement a national freeze on the sale, transfer and ownership of handguns anywhere in Canada. We appreciated the Prime Minister visiting our riding and we hope to have him back soon!

Celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 70-Year Reign

To honour the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign, I was proud to award several community members with Platinum Jubilee pins. Markham-Unionville is home to many Canadians who have dedicated their time and energy to support our community and make it a better place to live and work. This presentation was to honour such changemakers and acknowledge their efforts. From checking in on neighbours, to starting community organizations focused on supporting newcomers in Canada, their acts of kindness are a true testament to the fabric of our community. Congratulations to all the recipients of the Platinum Jubilee Pin and thank you for your invaluable service and contribution to Markham-Unionville. We are grateful for all of the outstanding work you do here in Markham. You make us proud!



Report from Ottawa



We understand that even as jobs are being recovered and businesses are growing again, it has become harder for many Canadians to pay their bills at the end of the month. Many of the rising costs we have seen recently have been caused by inflation, which is occurring around the world due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While these are global challenges, Canadians expect and deserve support from the federal government to help keep life affordable in Canada. Below, are some of the steps that the federal government is taking to help Canadians cope with rising costs:

1. *Enhancing the Canada Workers Benefit*: Increasing financial support for workers.
2. *Housing Affordability Payment*: A one-time \$500 payment to those who are struggling with the cost of housing.
3. *Dental Care for Canadians*: Making dental care available to families with an income of less than \$90,000 annually.
4. *Benefits Indexed to Inflation*: Ensuring that important benefits that millions of Canadians count on, such as the Canada Child Benefit and Old Age Security, are indexed to inflation to help keep up with the cost of living.

For more details on the Affordability Plan, feel free to visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/affordability-plan.html>

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Community Events



The best part about spending the summer in Markham-Unionville is to be able to spend quality time with you and to hear from my constituents. From Markham's yummy Taste of Asia Festival, to the 44th Annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Convention, I have had the privilege to interact with a diverse group of members and communities within Markham and celebrate their identity. On August 4, 2022, I attended a flag raising ceremony to recognize the 60th anniversary of Jamaica's independence. The Jamaican community has played an integral role in the growth of both Markham and Canada and I would like to wish all Canadians of Jamaican descent a very happy Jamaica Independence



Day! See below for a few more of the events I attended this summer. These events give me the opportunity to meet with my community on a more personal basis and it has been an honour to meet so many friendly faces this summer. Make sure to stay up to date on my website and social media for upcoming community events. I look forward to meeting you all at future celebrations and community gatherings throughout the year!

Night It Up!

Power Unit Youth Organization and TD Canada presented the 20th Night It Up! in Markham. This event features one of the largest Asian night markets in the GTA. The festival showcased multicultural street foods, local talent stage performances and family activities. Night It Up! was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers and youth. I was honoured to present a greeting certificate from the Prime Minister and mingle with attendees.



Honouring A Legend

I had the pleasure of attending the live concert event "Gaata Rahe Mera Dil" hosted by Bollywood Ki Dhun and the Vedic Cultural Centre in honour of the late singer, Kishore Kumar. The musical performances of the night touched so many of our hearts as we sang and reminisced the legacy of Bollywood legend, Kishore Kumar.



Seniors We've Got Your Back!

Over the summer, I met up with Markham-Unionville seniors and hosted a Meet and Greet with the seniors of the Unionville Home Society. These events gave me the opportunity to listen to the opinions of our elders and provide constructive feedback to their queries and concerns. I was also pleased to share the latest Federal Old Age Security changes that have increased benefits for seniors in keeping with the cost of living. Our government is committed to providing seniors with the financial security they deserve after a lifetime of hard work. We are here for you!



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Crime Prevention Town Hall

On August 10, 2022, I had the pleasure of collaborating with York Regional Police to host a Crime Prevention Town Hall. Community members in Markham-Unionville had the opportunity to learn from experts in the field and ask relevant questions regarding carjacking, personal safety and home safety. Deputy Chief Paulo Da Silva and P.C. Brian Hinds of the Crime Prevention Unit provided insightful and educational safety tips. Markham is one of the safest cities in Canada and these tips will help keep it that way. Stay tuned to our social media channels for future event like this. And please feel free to e-mail our office with your ideas for our next Crime Prevention Town Hall.



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are an integral part of our team. High school students as well as seasoned volunteers help us with events and other outreach initiatives. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, our team will be organizing many events. We welcome high school students, or anyone interested in participating in public office to come volunteer. Volunteering with us is a good way to get exposure to how your government works as well as earn volunteer hours. If interested, please call our office at (905) 470-2509.



Constituency Youth Council

Markham-Unionville's own Constituency Youth Council (CYC) is up and running and looking for YOU! If you are between the ages of 14-24 years, then CYC is the place for you! CYC is a great way to learn about the Federal government, have your voice heard, make some friends, meet your Member of Parliament, and get volunteer hours for high school.



For university students, there are leadership roles available that will help you gain experience and a good reference for future employers. As the future leaders of Canada, this is a great chance to get active in your community and have a good time doing it! Check out our social media for more info or give us a call at (905) 470-2509 and we will help you get involved!

Natural Magic

The Milne Dam Conservation Park is located on the Rouge River and is one of Markham's natural treasure parks. It is home to diverse plants and wildlife, and offers 2.3 kilometres of trails perfect for walking, jogging and biking. The expansive natural wetlands, forests and open space provide a sanctuary for migratory birds such as blue jays, woodpeckers, blue herons, and a particular nesting pair of Baltimore orioles, making this park one of the best places for birdwatching. Park entry is free with the park open daily from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, from 8:00 a.m. to dusk.



Constituency Office Services

My team and I are here to support you. We can help provide you with information on a number of federal government programs and policies, such as:

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passport Canada
- Employment Insurance Benefits (EI)
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Canada Student Loans (CSL)
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- Veterans Affairs
- Federal Crown Corporations
- Federal funding for Organizations
- Petitions to Parliament
- Acquiring Canadian flags and pins

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