

July 2023



# PAUL CHIANG

Member of Parliament  
Markham-Unionville



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Paul Chiang



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## A Message from your MP

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits as we enter the vibrant summer months!

I am thrilled to share with you the exciting progress we have made as your government and the numerous cultural celebrations that have taken place since we last connected.

I have been honoured to attend many community Iftar dinners during the holy month of Ramadan, both here in Markham and in Ottawa. I have always enjoyed mingling with the community and celebrating the diverse cultural traditions that connect us with our roots and make us who we are.

In May, we celebrated Asian Heritage Month, and I was fortunate enough to rise in the House of Commons to discuss the importance of this month to Canadians of Asian heritage across the country.

As a former police officer, keeping Canadians safe is paramount. In Ottawa, I am proud to have supported Bill C-21, crucial legislation that reinforces public safety measures while upholding the rights and freedoms of all citizens. Rest assured, we are steadfast in our commitment to creating safe and secure communities for everyone.

Furthermore, I recognize the importance of affordability and healthcare support for all Canadians. I am actively advocating for policies that promote accessible healthcare and address the rising costs of living. I look forward to sharing the steps we are taking as a government to support you.

As always, my dedicated team and I are here to serve you. Please feel free to contact my office via phone or email for assistance related to federal government services, or information about federal government policies.

Yours truly,

Paul Chiang  
Member of Parliament  
Markham-Unionville



## Canada Day



Happy Canada Day!

I hope you all had a truly wonderful weekend celebrating Canada's 156th birthday.

This time of year, I'm always grateful for the opportunity to reflect on Canadian history, and

the sacrifices and progress that have shaped our nation to be the incredibly welcoming country it is today. Whether you attended vibrant parades, watched dazzling fireworks, or simply spent quality time with loved ones, I trust the celebrations served as a

meaningful reminder of your contributions to the rich cultural tapestry that defines Canada. That is why this Canada Day, I salute all of you, my Markham-Unionville family. May the maple leaf forever fly high, and your Canadian spirit shine bright!

## Seniors' Got Talent

I was proud to invite 19 seniors' groups to Xinflix Media to take the stage showcasing their talents, creativity, and passion. In honour of Asian Heritage Month, I was especially thrilled to celebrate seniors, who have made significant contributions to our community. I enjoyed connecting with so many Markham residents and was truly awed by each performance!

I can't wait to see you all next year at Seniors' Got Talent 2024!



Did you know the conservative party increased the eligibility age for OAS and GIS from 65 to 67... luckily our government was able to reverse it back to age 65!

Our government expects to provide \$75.9 billion investment through the Old Age Security for our seniors.

Since 2016, we have ↑ the OAS pension by 10% for seniors 75+

## Asian Heritage Month

May was certainly a busy month as I celebrated Asian Heritage Month, both here in Markham and in Ottawa. I was honoured to attend so many great events in our community that showcased the diversity, culture, and contributions of Asian Canadians. I also enjoyed welcoming my family to Ottawa for my statement in the House of Commons on the importance of Asian Heritage Month to our nation.

Ultimately, the history of Canadians of Asian heritage is a story of triumph over adversity. It is the story of people who have made and continue to make tremendous contributions to our country.

It is the story of...



**Kew Dock Yip**  
The first lawyer of Chinese heritage in Canada, who played a key role in repealing the Chinese Immigration Act, 1923.



**Keiko Mary Kitagawa**  
An internment camp survivor who works to raise awareness about the internment of Japanese Canadians from 1942-1949.



**Baltej Singh Dhillon**  
Advocated to have RCMP uniform policy allow turbans and beards as required by Sikh faith—sparking a national debate about religious freedom.

## Sound of Pakistan Music Night and Dinner

Last month I was honoured to host my first major event in Ottawa in collaboration with Senator Salma Ataullahjan, Mr. Amir Shamsi, and Pakistan's High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua. I was delighted to welcome Ustad Fareed Ayaz and Ustad Abu Muhammad all the way from Pakistan for their enchanting and moving musical performance.

This event, "Sound of Pakistan: Mystical Sufi Music Night and Dinner," celebrated the art, culture, and cuisine from South Asian communities. It was a memorable night of song and dance as well as an opportunity for all to pay homage to the significant contributions South Asian Canadians have made to the very fabric of our nation.

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to join us this year, and I look forward to welcoming you all back to Ottawa for next year's celebration!



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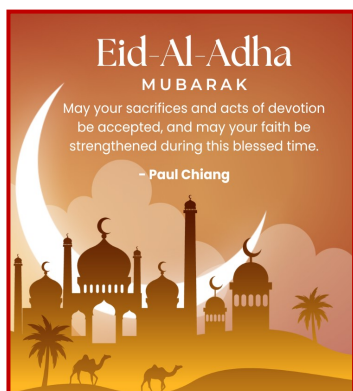
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## Celebrating with the Muslim Community

As the Parliamentary Secretary for Diversity and Inclusion, I am committed to fostering inclusivity and understanding within our Muslim community. I extend my warmest wishes to all those who have observed Ramadan and hope everyone had a joyful and peaceful Eid al-Fitr.



Throughout the month of May, I had the privilege of joining numerous Iftar gatherings and Eid al-Fitr celebrations, making some unforgettable memories and reflecting on the importance of extending a helping hand to those in need.

Eid al-Adha dawned upon us shortly after and I was given another opportunity to celebrate this auspicious occasion, which holds deep spiritual and cultural importance for our Muslim community. I hope this Eid al-Adha brought you and your family plenty of moments of peace, reflection, and renewed faith.



## Bill C-21

Since becoming a Member of Parliament in 2021, my biggest priority has been keeping communities safe. Last month, our



We know that assault style firearms have no place in our communities. Bill C-21 will introduce a new definition to clearly outline what constitutes an assault-style firearm to ensure such weapons that meet this definition stay off our streets.

These measures follow consultation with Canadians across the country, including hunters and trappers. They also respect and reflect the rights of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis hunters, with specific provisions.

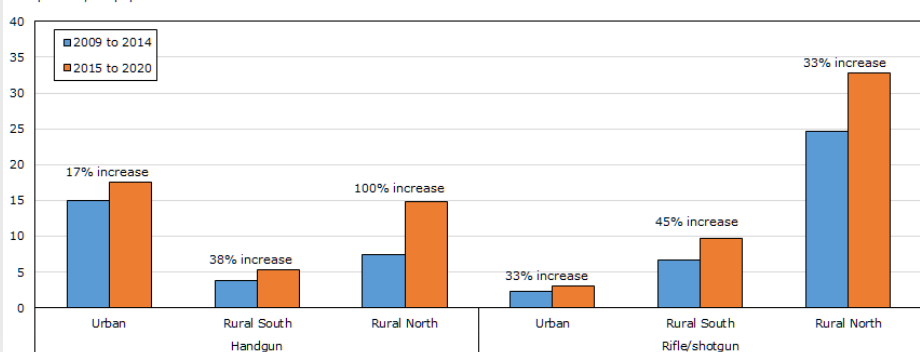
To protect you from gun violence, our government has committed to strengthening legislation and border security, as well as increasing prevention strategies.

The first Friday of every June will mark the National Day Against Gun Violence. On this day, we will honour those who have lost their lives through gun violence and the families they left behind, and renew our commitment to the elimination of gun violence in Canada.

government passed Bill C-21 in the House of Commons, and the bill is now being reviewed by the Senate.

Bill C-21 is the strongest gun control legislation introduced into Canadian Parliament to date. This Bill will crack down on untraceable ghost guns, provide additional tools to law enforcement, and increase penalties for the criminals who smuggle and traffic firearms across our border.

**Chart 9**  
Increases in gun crime by gun type, urban and rural regions, 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020  
rate per 100,000 population



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## BBQ

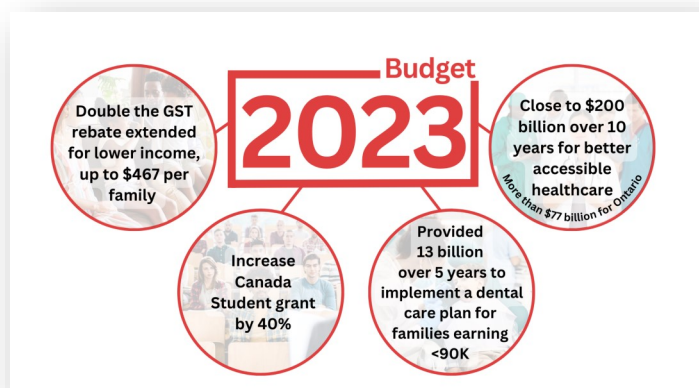
I am thrilled to announce that this summer I will be firing up the grill for a fantastic afternoon of fun, food, music and entertainment at my **Grill & Chill Community BBQ**.

Please bring your family, friends, neighbours and a hearty appetite, as this event is a great opportunity to build relationships with friends in the community over some mouth watering food and vibrant musical entertainment.

The BBQ will be held on **Saturday, August 12, 2023** from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the parking lot of **King Square Shopping Centre** located at **9390 Woodbine Ave, Markham, ON L6C 0M5**.

I look forward to seeing many familiar faces and hopefully some new ones as well!

## Budget 2023



## Investments in Markham-Unionville

Our government recognizes that communities flourish when they have the infrastructure to promote social interaction and physical activity. Community infrastructure makes our lives better and our communities stronger.

That's why the Government of Canada created the Canada Community Revitalization Fund to help communities across the country build new infrastructure and revitalize existing spaces.

The City of Markham received \$2,939,700 from this fund, and I was so excited to attend the grand opening of Markham Centre Trails, just one of six projects the funding has been committed to that will improve the lives of Markham residents.

As you're getting outside and enjoying the nice weather, make sure to stop by the new Markham Centre Trails this summer!



## Constituency Youth Council (CYC)

Are you between the ages of 14-24 years, eager to learn more about the federal government and politics, connect with your peers and make a real difference in our community?

If so, I strongly encourage you to apply for a general or executive position on my Constituency Youth Council! As a member of my CYC,

you will have the opportunity to learn about politics, engage with members of our community, and plan exciting events. Scan the QR Code to register or call us at 905-470-2509. My team and I look forward to meeting you!



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