



Kyle Peterson

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
NEWMARKET-AURORA

Parliament has resumed for the year and we have been hard at work in Ottawa with a busy legislative agenda for the fall session. As we reach the two year mark of our mandate, there are real signs that our plan to grow the middle class and help those working hard to join it is working for all Canadians.

Our government is on the right track. The September 2017 Labour Force Survey from Statistics Canada shows that our economy has created 437,000 net new jobs, the majority of which represent full-time employment, since our government came into office in October 2015. Our economy is growing faster than it has in more than a decade – we are on track for growth of 3.0% in 2017, the highest among G7 nations. We have, and will continue to, make smart investments in our economy that will spur growth and provide good, stable, well-paying middle class jobs.

CETA IN EFFECT

On September 21st 2017, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union came into effect. This is the start of a remarkable new chapter in the relationship between Europe and Canada. CETA is the new gold-standard in trade agreements – it is one of the most progressive and ambitious free trade agreements in history, one that puts middle class Canadians front and centre. With CETA, now 98% of tariff lines between Canada

and the EU will be duty free; Canadians will now have preferential market access through 12 trade agreements to 44 countries with almost 1.2 billion consumers; and benefit from more choices at lower prices and generate billions of dollars in trade investment.

CETA places Canada at the centre of free trade agreements connecting the Americas, Asia and Europe and we are proud to be a beacon of stability and predictability that is open to trade and investment in a world marked by growing uncertainty and protectionism.

NAFTA UPDATE

Recently, the third round of NAFTA re-negotiations was held in Ottawa. We welcome the opportunity to modernize NAFTA and to protect the agreement's record as an engine of job creation and economic growth. We will seek to cut the red tape to make life easier for small businesses, and make NAFTA more progressive by strengthening labor and environmental protections, and integrating gender and Indigenous rights to bring NAFTA into the 21st century.

While our trade negotiators have been hard at work with their counterparts from the United States and Mexico, we have been hard at work in Ottawa studying the priorities of Canadian stakeholders in trilateral trade in North America on the Committee on International Trade; where we have heard from a variety of witnesses across industries. I have been sure to speak to the importance of NAFTA and the manufacturing industry in Newmarket-Aurora, as many of our residents have jobs that depend on a robust manufacturing centre, as well as have been interested in steps we can take to ensure Canada's cultural industries are able to thrive in a new agreement. I look forward to continuing our study, and consulting with businesses in our community to understand their priorities for a modernized NAFTA.

INNOVATION & SUPERCLUSTERS

Our government is building an innovative economy that will create more good jobs for the middle class, today and in the future. As part of our Innovation and Skills Plan, we have committed to investing nearly one billion dollars over five years to create jobs and accelerate innovation through Superclusters. Superclusters are innovation hotbeds, areas of high growth

that will bring together the most talented people, the newest technologies, and the fastest-growing companies. These superclusters will group together companies, universities, and industry together to advance research and accelerate growth.

We are excited that the Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, has kicked off his cross-country tour to announce the nine business-led consortia that have made the shortlist in competition for the five innovation superclusters committed to in our Budget. These consortia are new partnerships that will create jobs, attract investment, and in time, transform Canada's economy. Our government will always be a meaningful partner bringing together the private sector, knowledge institutions and civil society to keep Canada globally competitive – the key to our innovative future.

TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

I heard from many of you on the proposed tax reforms. I appreciate the input, and all concerns have been raised with the Finance Ministry. I look forward to seeing what changes come forward, and look forward to continuing this important dialogue.

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