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A Message from Jennifer McKelvie

Dear Neighbours,

I hope your summer has been wonderful so far! During the past few months the government has strengthened the Child Care Benefit to give families even more support, announced new trade opportunities, and continued our work to support skilled trades in Canada.

With the House of Commons rising in June, I've been thrilled to be able to spend even more time with you in Ajax. I've been able to visit many of the organizations providing meaningful opportunities to our young people through Canada Summer Jobs, shared Canada Day with you at the Ajax fairgrounds (which was great, until the storm came), and seen you at events and markets throughout the Town.

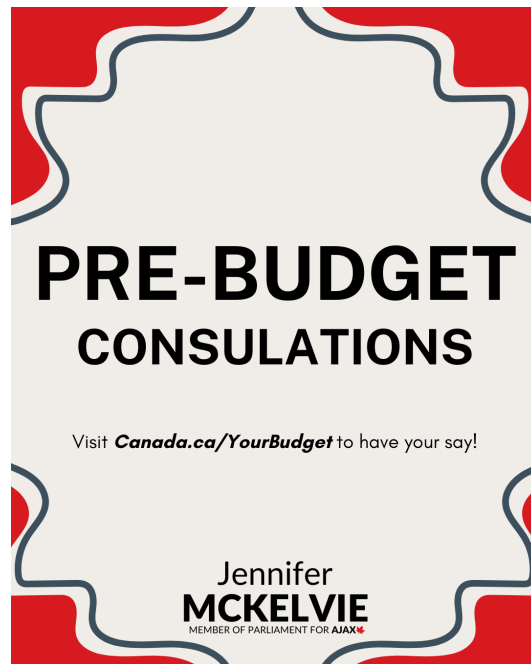
I hope you'll consider joining me and my colleague M.P.P. Rob Cerjanec for an Ice Cream Social! We're inviting residents to join us for **free** ice cream at Audley Recreation Centre! Let's celebrate summer in Ajax the best way we can...with Ice Cream!

When: Saturday, August 8 from 1 pm – 3 pm

Where: Audley Recreation Centre, 1955 Audley Road North

Lastly, I wanted to make sure you knew that the government has officially launched the 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations. [Open until Sept 8, you can share your ideas and priorities by visiting canada.ca/yourbudget or by clicking this link.](#)

Jenn



Important News

Expanding the Skilled Trades

The Government has announced an additional \$2 billion investment to help expand training centres and pathways to Red Seal Trades, which **adds** to the \$6 billion we've already announced.

The new investment will:

- Increase access to pre-apprenticeship and technical training.
- Address barriers that slow down training and certification.
- Help eliminate waitlists for apprenticeship and Red Seal training programs.
- Improve access to training aligned with in-demand trades and support higher completion rates.

These investments support our broader Team Canada Strong goal, which aims to recruit, train, and hire 80,000-100,000 new Red Seal trades workers over the next five years.

[You can learn more about Team Canada Strong by clicking this link.](#)



Strengthening the Canada Child Benefit

The Government of Canada is working hard to lower costs for Canadian families – and has just announced it is strengthening the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), a monthly tax-free payment to help with the costs of raising kids.

Starting this month, eligible families can now receive up to \$8,157 per child under the age of 6 and up to \$6,883 per child aged 6 through 17.

The CCB has helped lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty and continues to put money back into the pockets of the parents who need it the most.

[Click here to learn more about the enhancements to the Canada Childcare Benefit.](#)



Trade partnership with Pakistan

Last month, our Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand visited Pakistan, the first such visit in nearly 20 years, marking a new chapter in the Canada-Pakistan relationship. Together, the two governments made progress on a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection agreement, signed a new protocol providing predictable import conditions for our canola, and committed to encouraging investment in solar, wind, and battery storage technologies.

The agreements reached will help make trade and investment easier, support agriculture and clean-energy development, strengthen cooperation on public safety, and deliver assistance for Pakistani communities affected by floods, poverty and climate change.

[Click here to learn more about Minister Anand's visit to Pakistan.](#)



Billy Bishop Airport

An incredible 87,000 people responded to our public consultation, sharing their thoughts on transportation, economics, the environment, noise, housing, and quality of life. Thank you to all the residents of Ajax who contributed their opinions.

Following the consultation, the government has confirmed that our focus lies exclusively on the approved safety enhancements that are currently taking place, which are required to maintain safe operations at the airport. and that there are no expansion plans at this time.

Opportunities & Consultations

Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund

Following engaging and productive caucus discussions on Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) funding priorities supported through Budget 2025 investments, we are excited to share that the government has launched a new \$100 million call for proposals through the Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund (WELOF) for projects that remove barriers and expand economic and leadership opportunities for women and girls.

The application deadline is **September 15, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Pacific Time**. Visit the [Women and Gender Equality website](#) for more information, eligibility criteria, and application details.

Fighting Forced Labour

Canada was one of the first countries in the world to require large companies to publicly report on efforts to address forced labour and child labour in their supply chains, and we've recently announced public consultations to strengthen our leadership in this fight. These consultations are the next step toward a stronger, more effective framework for Canada. The government is seeking Canadians' views on two distinct measures:

1. The methodology to [support the List of Goods detailed in Bill C-35](#); and,
2. Due diligence measures to [fight labour exploitation in supply chains](#).

Canadians are invited to submit their feedback online at [Consulting with Canadians](#) from now until **August 21st**. Any questions can be sent directly to:

- GAC: forcedlabour-travailforce@international.gc.ca
 - ESDC: EDSC.AIIT.CA-SC.IILA.ESDC@labour-travail.gc.ca
-

Benefits Calendar

This month be on the lookout for...

Canada Disability payments/Child Benefit payments on August 20

Canada Pension Plan/Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement payments on August 27

Veteran Disability Pension on August 28



Community Celebrations



On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 **Emancipation Day**. It marks the actual day in 1834 that the *Slavery Abolition Act* of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.

Emancipation Day is an opportunity to reflect on the cruel legacy of the slave trade and its enduring impacts on Black communities. It underscores the need to acknowledge our history, and strive for freedom, justice, and equality.

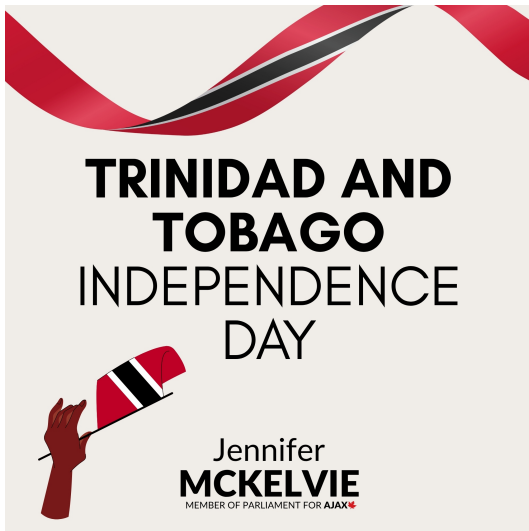
On August 6th, we join Jamaican Canadians, and Jamaicans from around the world in celebrating their Independence Day! Individuals of Jamaican origin represent the largest Caribbean diaspora in Canada, and many live right here in the GTA! I'm wishing everyone in Ajax who is celebrating, a happy **Jamaican Independence Day!**



More than 300,000 Canadians of Pakistani origin live in Canada, and on August 14, they celebrate their national holiday of Independence! It is a vibrant event, marked by flag raisings, festivities, and joy. I wish all the best to everyone celebrating **Pakistan Independence Day!**

Indian Independence Day is observed annually on August 15 and recognizes India's independence from the British Empire in 1947. It is a day of great pride amongst our Indo-Canadian diaspora here in Ajax, and across the country. I hope our local Indian communities can celebrate this meaningful occasion together, surrounded by family and friends.





Trinidad and Tobago officially gained its independence on August 31st, 1962, and its commemoration is recognized annually on this day. Canada was one of the first countries to recognize its independence, and the friendship between our nations has only grown stronger. Happy **Trinidad and Tobago Independence Day** to everyone celebrating!

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Our mailing address is:

100 Old Kingston Road, Ajax, Ontario, L1T 2Z5

Our phone number is:

905-426-8099

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