

# NEWSLETTER

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December 2024

**Dear Constituents,**

We have finally reached the holiday season. I hope this time of year is full of joy spent with loved ones and those close to you. It is truly the best time of year to come together as friends, family, and neighbors.

Of course, it can also be a stressful time of year, which is why I'm pleased that the federal government has made a greater effort to lend a helping hand where needed. Canadian families and small business owners will receive a much needed tax break, while we continue to make the country safer and keep our children fed.

Our riding of Nipissing-Timiskaming is never short on holiday cheer or events, many of which benefit the local economy and those in need at this time of year. The comforts of the holiday season can be found across the region and I encourage you to participate where you can.

I always feel privileged to be invited to participate in events that usher in the holidays, especially when it gives me the opportunity to get up close with our community members and see how the season has brought them joy. It is especially wonderful to bring that joy directly in the form of vital federal funding to the organizations that make our riding great.

Let us look back on the past month, and year, with fond memories, and strive to leave our troubles behind in 2024. Here's to a prosperous new year in 2025. I can't wait to see what it brings!





**Starting December 14, Liberals are *pausing* GST & HST to make **groceries, kids clothing, and other essentials tax-free.****



## A TAX BREAK FOR ALL CANADIANS

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Starting December 14, GST/HST will be exempt across the country on essentials like groceries, snacks, and kids clothing. With the tax break and the Working Canadians Rebate, Canadians will get real relief at cash registers, mail boxes, and bank accounts.

[More](#)

## CANADA'S NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

- ✓ Funding **youth mentorship** to reduce school suspensions and expulsions
- ✓ Providing at-risk youth with **more support**
- ✓ Teaching **life skills to avoid recruitment** into organized crime or gangs

## SAFER STREETS. SAFER COMMUNITIES

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Minister LeBlanc has announced that our government will expand the National Crime Prevention Strategy. We are making \$35.5M available for the Youth Gang Prevention Fund (YGPF), \$84M available for the Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF); and \$4.6M available for the Northern and Indigenous Crime Prevention Fund (NICPF).

[More](#)

**Ontario strikes \$108.5M  
school food program deal  
with feds to provide  
9.8 million meals a year**

CBC News – November 22, 2024

## **HEALTHY MEALS FOR KIDS, SAVINGS FOR ONTARIO FAMILIES**

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Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau announced an agreement with the Government of Ontario to increase school food programs in the province. This agreement, under the federal government's National School Food Program, will deliver healthy meals to 160,000 more kids in Ontario this school year. With this agreement, a two-child family in the province will save \$800 in grocery bills a year.

[More](#)



## **CARBON REBATE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES WILL BE TAX-FREE**

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Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland says the Canada carbon rebate for small businesses will be tax-free. In a statement posted to X, Freeland clarified the parameters of the program after an advocacy group for small business raised concerns that the rebate would be a taxable benefit.

[More](#)

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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**Dec  
14**

### **NORTH POLE CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The North Pole Christmas Market is Saturday December 14th from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Come shop the two rooms of vendors! We will have free entry, prizes and free kids crafts. [More](#)



**Dec  
15**

### **TEMAGAMI BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Join us for Breakfast with Santa Sunday December 15th. Breakfast by the Temagami Fire Department and the Temagami Firefighters Association. Gifts for the kids generously provided by the Today's Temagami Lion's Club. [More](#)



**Dec  
21**

### **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**

The Classic Theatre in Cobalt is showing It's A Wonderful Life on Saturday, Dec 21 at 7pm. Admission is \$10 cash only at the door [More](#)



**Dec  
31**

### **FAMILIES FIRST NEW YEARS**

Join us Tuesday December 31st, 2024 at Memorial Gardens & Thomson Park for a family friendly New Years Eve celebration! [More](#)

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# AROUND THE RIDING

## FEDNOR INVESTS OVER \$130,000 IN DISCOVERY ROUTES

I joined the trails community at the trailhead of the Laurentian Escarpment trails to announce funding for a partnership between Discovery Routes and the North Bay Mountain Bike Association that will secure long-term use of the escarpment trails and develop them into a premier trails destination.

[More](#)



## SANTA CLAUS PARADE

It's always a pleasure to be a part of the North Bay Santa Claus Parade, especially when I get to ride on Santa's float!

[More](#)



## VILLAGE NOËL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

It is always a pleasure to participate in the festivities of the event. Special thanks to Rejeanne Belisle-Massie and her team of volunteers on another successful event.

[More](#)



# **NEWS AND NOTES FROM PARLIAMENT HILL**

## **The urgency is fake, but the deception is real**

We have all experienced it – the pressure to buy right away to get a great deal on a product before the sale ends or to snap it up before stock runs out.

Marketing tactics that create a sense of urgency to encourage you to buy quickly are known as urgency cues. They can be found online, in stores, and in other channels, like email and social media. During major sales events like Black Friday, Cyber Monday and Boxing Day, these tactics are used in full force.

When you shop for deals, remember that while some urgency claims can provide valuable information to a consumer if they are true, some can be deceptive or fake.

Fake urgency cues use pressure tactics and false claims to trick you into buying right away and making a purchase that you might not have otherwise made.

The Competition Bureau enforces a law against false or misleading urgency claims. If you suspect a business is using fake urgency cues to deceptively pressure consumers, report it to us using our [online complaint form](#)

[Read More](#)

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# PASSPORT INFORMATION

**A friendly reminder!**

**Here's what you need to know about passports and travelling abroad.**



- ✓ You can pick up passport applications at the office in North Bay at 375 Main Street West, or in Temiskaming Shores at 17 Wellington Street North.
- ✓ Constituents can take their filled-out applications to Service Canada in North Bay, located at 107 Shirreff Ave suite 102, P1B 7K8, and in New Liskeard at 280 Armstrong St North, POJ 1P0.
- ✓ By taking it to Service Canada, constituents are now able to get certified copies of their documents, while experienced Service Canada personnel check over the application. Service Canada will also mail out your passport to the processing centre the same day.
- ✓ The average processing time to receive your passport is approximately 20 business days plus Canada Post delivery time.
- ✓ For those wishing to renew an adult passport, you have 15 years from the original issue date to apply for a renewed passport.
- ✓ We encourage constituents to apply for their passport well in advance of their scheduled trip in case of any delays.
- ✓ How to apply for an adult passport in Canada :  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-passports/renew-adult-passport.html>