



Carol Mitchell, M.P.P.

Huron Bruce

Spring 2004

Dear Neighbour:

As your member of the provincial parliament I feel that it is important that I keep you up-to-date on my activities. Health care and education remain the top priorities. The challenge is to overcome an inherited deficit of 5.6 billion dollars. While strengthening our healthcare and education programs, we must build on a sustainable financial foundation for the province of Ontario.

The people of Ontario have been asked about their priorities. The Minister of Finance has held public hearings. In Huron Bruce I have held two public meetings. Your views on these challenges are important to me. My website <http://www.carolmitchell.ca> will give you more information on these hearings.

BSE found in one Alberta cow has created a crisis for our livestock industry. As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, I am on the frontline working to resolve this crisis. We are working with the Canadian government to pressure the US to return to free trade across our border. I have met with a delegation of Japanese government officials to explain that Ontario food is safe. Our consumers must be confident in the safety and quality of our food. To reassure the public, Mr. Justice Roland J. Haines of the Superior Court of Justice is conducting an inquiry into meat regulation and inspection.

As well as my duties at the Ministry of Agriculture, I am on the Health and Social Services Cabinet Committee of the Legislature. This is a new approach to government, which gives all MPP's a more direct voice in establishing policy. I also serve on the Energy Conservation Action committee, which will come up with ways to deal with the shortage of electrical energy. Renewable energy is another concept that will be examined.

In order to serve all the people of Huron and Bruce I have opened two offices. The office in Clinton is at 49 Albert St., which is on highway 4. The Kincardine office at 322 Lambton St. is open on Tuesdays and Thursday. The hours for both offices are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. This brochure lists some of the services which my offices will provide. I would like to hear from you.

CAROL MITCHELL, MPP

Making long-term care better, safer

As part of its plan to make the long-term care system better and safer for the people of Ontario, the province is now conducting unannounced annual inspections of long-term care facilities and has introduced a new toll-free phone service for residents and the public.

Anyone in Ontario can dial the number, **1-866-434-0144**, to get information or to register a complaint about a long-term care facility. It will be available after hours and on weekends.

Unannounced annual inspections began as of January 1, 2004, to help investigators get an accurate picture of the care provided to residents of facilities.

The announcements are an important part of the government's commitment to ensuring the people in long-term care facilities live in dignity and have the highest possible quality of life.

NEED HELP?

Please contact my office if you need information on any of the following:

Family Responsibility Office (FRO)

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

Trillium Drug Plan

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)

Birth Certificates

Birth certificates are issued by the Office of the Registrar General which is located in Thunder Bay. Almost half a million certificates are processed each year. The security and safety of birth certificates is an important concern. The cost is \$25.00 for the first certificate and \$35.00 for a replacement.

Regular service for birth certificates is sixteen weeks. Due to the volume of applications it is vital that applications be free of errors and that adequate time be given for processing and delivery. When urgent circumstances warrant it, an expedited service is available. Applications are available at the Clinton and Kincardine office.

Delivering auto insurance reform

The provincial government is delivering on auto insurance reform with new measures to reduce costs and allow savings to be passed on to Ontario motorists.

In consultation with consumer and stakeholder groups, the government has developed cost-saving measures so insurance companies can pass on average 10 per cent rate reductions to consumers upon renewal of their insurance.

Under the new measures, every insurer was to file rates with the Superintendent of Financial Services by January 23, reflecting cost savings in new rates. After the rates are approved, which will take about a month, the companies can start offering the new lower rates to consumers. Some drivers will start to see average rate reductions as their policies come up for renewal, although it is important to remember, policies come up for renewal at different times.

Making food safer with new meat inspectors

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food is taking steps to help ensure the food we eat is safe by hiring 60 more full-time and 57 part-time meat inspectors.

That will increase the number of Ontario government inspectors to 128 from just 10.

You need to trust what you get on your plate. These expert personnel will help protect the health and safety of our families.

Celebrating a special occasion?

If you know of someone who will be celebrating a special anniversary, birthday, business milestone or some other special celebration, my office will be pleased to arrange for greetings from the Province of Ontario or myself.

Investment in literacy for our schools

The Ontario government took a major step to improving student literacy by canceling the tax break for private schools, and invested the \$112 million savings in literacy programs for students in public schools.

Students from low-income and single-parent families and those recently settled in Canada will receive extra help in reading and math, thanks to the investment.

The funding will flow to all school boards across Ontario and will help support these students' literacy and other learning needs right away.

We shouldn't leave kids behind just because they have extra challenges. This is going to help them reach success.



Carol Mitchell MPP and Paul Steckle, MP, Chair of the House Agriculture Committee work together for the benefit of agriculture in Huron and Bruce. ▲

Protecting the water we drink

The Ontario government is boosting the number of water inspectors by 25 per cent, protecting the environment and the water we drink.

The O'Connor Report into the Walkerton disaster told us to invest in improving water safety, and that's what the government has done.

The 33 new full-time water inspectors, investigators and other compliance staff will allow the Ministry of Environment to investigate 5,000 more incidents of poor water quality each year, conduct more inspections of the labs that test water samples, and improve the ability to inspect municipal water distribution systems.

Change that's working

Here are some of the government's many initiatives taken in its first few months of office:

- Increased the minimum wage to \$7.15/hr for February 1 2004, with an increase on every February 1st hereafter until February 1, 2007 for a total of a minimum wage of \$8.00.
- Banned self-promotional government advertising, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.
- Ending the reckless giveaway of our water by placing a one-year moratorium on new water-taking permits and start charging royalties.
- Giving the Provincial Auditor new powers to examine the broader public sector, so Ontarians have more

information about how their tax dollars are spent.

- Signaled a new era of federal-provincial co-operation with a \$336 million in highway improvement funding in a 50/50 partnership with the federal government.
- Negotiated \$330-million in federal compensation for SARS relief.
- Created a Ministry for Children's Services to improve vital services to children.
- Eliminated the private school tax credit to improve public education for all Ontarians.
- Increased investment in northern infrastructure - allocated \$150 million for road improvements in northern Ontario.

- Appointed a Northerner as the Minister for Northern Development and Mines.
- Stopped creeping privatization of health care by bringing the William Osler and Royal Ottawa Hospitals back into public hands.



Carol Mitchell and Stuart Reavie of Lucknow. ▲

Office Locations

Clinton office

49 Albert Street,
Box 1794
Clinton, Ontario
N0M 1L0
Phone: 519-482-5630
Toll Free: 1-800-668-9320
Fax: 519-482-3149
cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Kincardine Office

322 Lambton Street,
Kincardine, Ontario
N2Z 1Y9
Phone: 519-396-3007
Toll Free: 1-866-396-3007
Fax: 519-396-3011
cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Queen's Park office

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5S 1B3
Phone: 416-326-3057
Fax: 416-326-3119
cmitchell.mpp@liberal.ola.org

website: www.carolmitchell.ca

As your elected M.P.P., I am your voice in the Ontario Legislature. To more effectively represent you, I want to hear your views on issues facing this province. Please fill out this comment card, including your name, address and contact information and either cut out and mail this card back to the address on the reverse, fax it to my office at (519-482-3149), or email your comments to me at cmitchell.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Comments: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Town/City _____ Postal Code _____

Email: _____

Important Phone Numbers

Fire,Police,Ambulance 911
Poison Information 1-800 268-9017
Kid's Help Phone 1-800 668-6868

Government

Carol Mitchell, MPP
Clinton 482-5630
Kincardine 396-3007
Queen's Park 416 326-3057

Paul Steckle, MP

Goderich 524-6938
Ottawa 613 992-8234
Bruce County 881-1291
Huron County 524-8394



Avon-Maitland District Board of Education 527-0111
Bluewater District Board of Education 396-2014
Bruce-Grey Catholic School Board 396-5882
Huron-Bruce Catholic school Board 345-2440

Police-non emergency

Crime Stoppers 1 800-222-8477
Ontario Provincial Police 905-278-6131

Services

Birth Certificates Inquiries 1-800-461-2156
Health Card Inquiries 1-800-268-1154
Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) 1-800-513-3842
Ontario Drug Benefit Program 1-800-575-5386
Ontario Student Assistant Program(OSAP) 1-800-343-7260
Ministry of Agriculture, Clinton 482-3333
Bruce County Children's Aid 881-1822
Huron-Perth Children's Aid 524-7356
Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000
WSIB 1-800-387-0750

Bruce County Library 832-6935
Huron County Library 482-5457



Carol Mitchell and Lyle Van Cleef, former federal Minister of Agriculture. When Carol was elected Lyle briefed her on Canada's work on the BSE situation.

Place
Stamp
Here

Carol Mitchell, M.P.P.

49 Albert St.

Box 1794

Clinton, Ontario

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