

# ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2023



**ADAM  
VAN KOEVERDEN**

Member of Parliament

Milton



## COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVICES

As a Member of Parliament, one of the most important parts of my job is to help the individuals and groups that I represent interact with the federal government.

We are here to help guide you through the process of dealing with the many different federal departments, programs, and services. We can provide information and assistance relating to any of the following areas:

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passport Canada
- Employment Insurance Benefits (EI)
- Citizenship and Immigration
- Canada Student Loans (CSL)
- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Veterans Affairs
- Federal Crown Corporations
- Federal funding for organizations
- Petitions to Parliament
- Acquiring Canadian flags & pins


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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN

**Canadians continue** to make a remarkable recovery from the COVID recession, and our community office here in Milton has been here supporting our neighbours every step of the way.

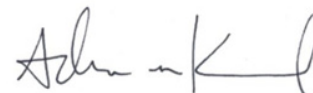
As a nation, Canada can boast the **strongest economic growth in the G7** over the last year. 900,000 more Canadians employed today than before the pandemic, reaching record low unemployment. A record **86% labour force** participation rate for Canadian women, supported by our Canada-wide system of **affordable early learning and childcare**. Inflation continues to fall steadily and while affordability continues to be a top concern, Canada is working because Canadians are working – **thank you for doing your part**.

Our government was re-elected in 2021 to **strengthen the middle class, fight climate change**, walk the road of **reconciliation**, and position **Canada for success** in an uncertain world.

We created this report to highlight some of the work my team and I are most proud of from the past 24 months following the first progress report from summer 2021. Some of it is local, some of it is national – but each achievement is **another step forward for our country**.

It would be an understatement to say that a lot has happened since 2019. The pandemic reshaped the world we know, but our government remains committed to these priorities, the ones I heard from you at your door, as well as moving forward.

It's a challenge to produce a document with updates on two years of hard work, but this is a snapshot on our progress and achievements as we continue to ensure that **Milton's voice is strong** in Ottawa.



## ENVIRONMENT

Our government will always stand up for the environment, which is one of Canada's greatest national treasures and the wellspring for future generations' prosperity. Some of our proudest accomplishments in protecting our environment include:



OVER  
**\$8.5 MILLION**

Over \$8.5 Million for  
Conservation Halton



Banning single-use plastics

OVER  
**233,000**

Planting 2 billion trees Canada-wide,  
over 233,000 in Halton Region alone

OVER  
**\$55 BILLION**

Over \$55 billion Canada-wide  
to support the growing  
green economy

**NET-ZERO**

Ensuring net-zero by 2050  
under the Environmental  
Accountability Act



Overhauling the *Canada  
Environmental Protection Act* to  
keep toxic substances out of our air  
and water

UP  
TO **\$50,000**

Committing up to \$50,000  
in Greener Homes grants and loans  
to improve your  
home's energy efficiency



Ensuring that polluting is not free  
with a price on carbon pollution



Making electric vehicles more  
affordable than ever before



Investing in a growing green industry  
including opening  
historic EV manufacturing  
facilities across Canada

## CONSERVATION HALTON

Conservation Halton is Milton's greatest partner in the fight against climate change. I'm proud that since I've been the MP, our government has invested over \$8.5 million in over 20 Conservation Halton projects.

Together, we have already:

- Planted over **111,500** trees and shrubs, with funding to plant over 122,000 more
- Enhanced over 20 hectares of natural area to restore aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, **supporting biodiversity**
- Employed **over 140 youth** with the Canada Summer Jobs program
- Made our outdoor spaces more accessible for everyone

We've also funded projects that are underway!

Conservation Halton has plans to:

- The construction of an **AODA-compliant boardwalk** at Crawford Lake Conservation Area
- Resurface **7 km of trails** and construct a new natural playground and pavilions
- Rehabilitate **19,300m<sup>2</sup>** of aquatic habitat
- **Plant over 2,000** riparian zone trees and shrubs
- Collaborate with the Royal Botanical Gardens to create ecological corridors between Cootes and the Niagara Escarpment, with **\$985,000 in funding** going to Conservation Halton



## AFFORDABILITY

Global trends of inflation have impacted many Canadians at home. This has been a challenging reality, but our Government has been quick to provide targeted solutions to benefit all Canadians. Canada boasts the **lowest inflation in the G7**, and we're working hard every day to keep life affordable.

Our **tax-free Canada Child Benefit** and \$10-a-day childcare supports millions, including **40,000 kids in Milton**, ensuring that no parent needs to choose between making ends meet and raising a family.

While Canadians feel the rising cost of food, the July grocery rebate brought inflation relief to those hit hardest by higher prices — **over 30,000 in Milton alone**.

Over 6,000 working people in Milton, essential to our economy, are getting the support they need through increased Canada Workers' Benefit advances.

Lastly, we're working to roll out the new **Canadian Dental Care Plan**, which will cover costs for over 9 million low- and modest-income Canadians. This plan has **already helped 1000 children in Milton** receive the dental care they need.

I am committed to being a strong voice for poverty reduction – and while we've seen Canadian poverty rates cut almost in half since 2015, **from 14.5% down to 7.4% in 2021** with over 650,000 children pulled out of poverty, considerable work remains.

## HOUSING ANNOUNCEMENTS & PLANS

The issue of housing supply and affordability has been a long-standing problem in Canada and has exacerbated existing social inequalities and the hardships faced by Canadians who experience housing insecurity or homelessness.

Adequate housing is a **fundamental human right** as it influences the livelihood and well-being of all Canadians. It is crucial that our government continues to invest in speeding up the construction of non-market housing projects, as well as the repair and support of affordable housing units.

Recently in Milton, our government has **invested \$1.6 million** towards the construction of 34 affordable housing units at 70 Ontario Street, to continue to combat the rising cost of housing.

I have also spoken with many young Canadians who have voiced their concerns around being unable to enter the housing market due to the current market demands for homes. Due to this, our government has implemented the **First Home Savings Account (FHSA)** - an account where Canadians can invest **up to \$40,000 - tax free** - to use towards the purchase of their very first home.

**Every Canadian deserves to have a safe place to call home** - and it is our government's mission to continue making that a reality.





**39,000+**

CHILDREN IN MILTON  
RECEIVE CCB



## CHILDCARE/CCB

Right now, families across the country are seeing hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars back in their pockets as a result of our child care plan. Many Canadian families are already benefiting from **\$10-a-day child care** – three years ahead of schedule, and fees have been cut by at least 50 per cent in all other regions with work on track to achieve \$10-a-day child care in the coming years.

The Prime Minister recently launched the Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund, providing **\$625 million** to provinces and territories to help public and not-for-profit child care providers create more spaces and improve access for parents in underserved communities. Together, governments have committed to create an additional **250,000 child care spaces**. Our plan is key to supporting Canadians and their families, putting kids on the path to success, creating jobs, and building a strong economy.

From historic investments in early learning and child care, to helping with the costs of raising children through the **CCB**, our government is working to ensure that all children have the tools and resources they need to succeed. Every July, the **Canada Child Benefit** is recalculated based on the net income of the family for the previous year and it is also indexed to inflation, so families should have received their adjustment in July.

## DENTAL CARE

No Canadian should be deprived quality dental care because of its cost. Our Government has made historic strides towards covering those who could not otherwise afford dental care.

Our new Canada Dental Benefit has helped more than 300,000 children — **1,000 in Milton** — get brighter smiles and healthier teeth in just one year. A whole new generation of children in Canada will enjoy the health benefits for years to come.

This is only the first step in the rollout of the new **Canadian Dental Care Plan**. By the end of this year, the new plan will cover **all uninsured Canadians under 18, seniors and persons with disabilities who meet the income criteria**.

The Plan will further **expand by 2025 to include all uninsured Canadians with family income under \$90,000.00** — currently 9 million Canadians who otherwise have no access to dental care.



## SENIORS

I believe a just and generous society will always repay their elders, those who have given a life of work to build up this country.

That's why our government has increased **Old Age Security** payments after age **75 by 10%**. These payments will continue to increase with the cost-of-living. We're proud to have spent more on Seniors than any government in history, **\$20 billion more** in this year's budget and more to come in the next.

New Horizons for Seniors is another Federal program that supports community projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors. Since I took office 2019, **\$400,000** has gone to Milton seniors' organizations, including:

- Milton Public Library
- Ontario Seniors' Forum
- Centre canadien pour l'unité de la famille (CCF)
- Masjid Khadijah
- Milton Lawn Bowling Club
- Shaanxi Association of Canada
- Italian Cultural Centre of Milton
- Omagh Seniors' Centre
- Milton Seniors' Activity Centre
- Hum-WE Women's Hub

Applications period for senior-serving organizations to apply for the New Horizons for Seniors Fund is September 14th, 2023.



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, I've worked diligently on the House of Commons Health Committee which has seen a highly productive session, hearing over **285 witnesses in 75 meetings** and publishing **15 final reports**.

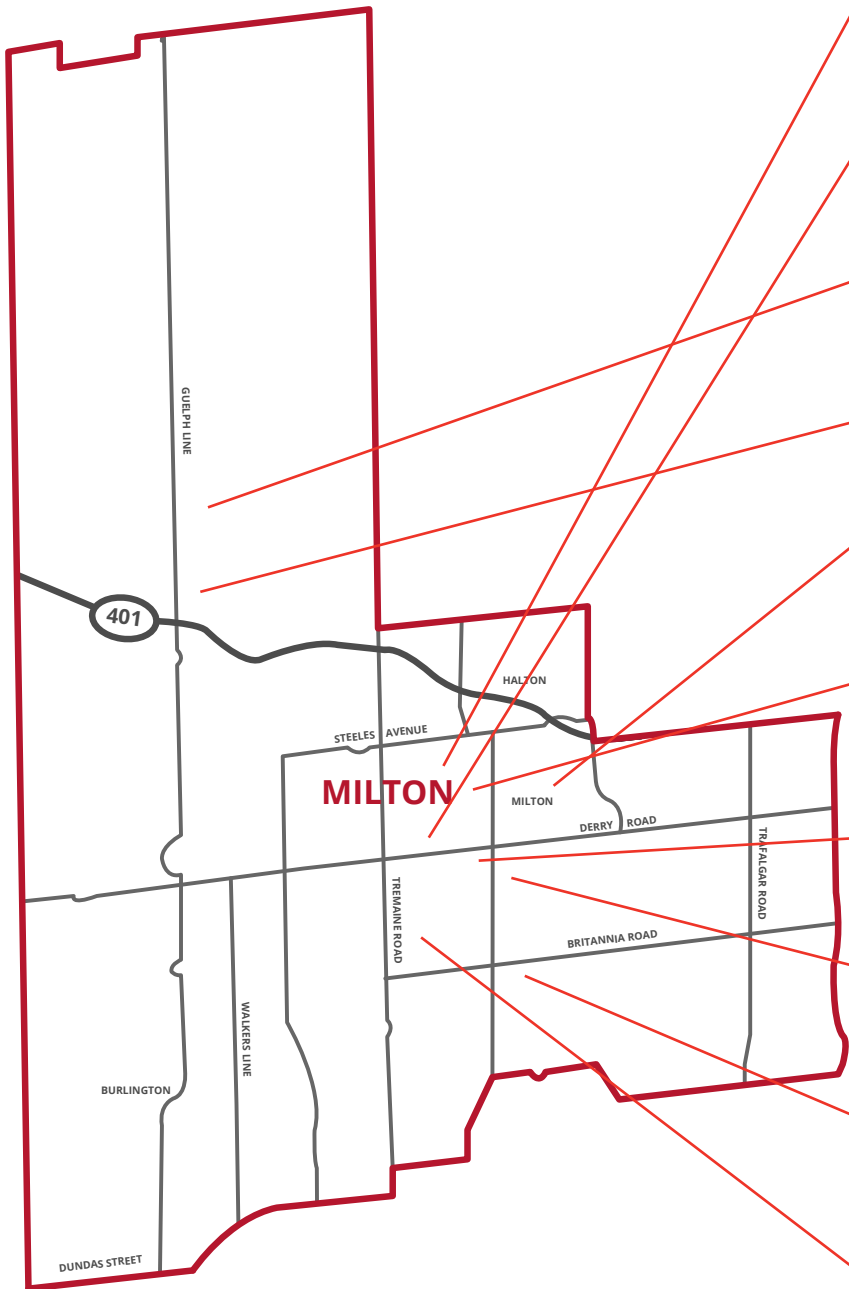
Our committee pushes for effective and educated solutions for public health. One of our most recent studies was on **Children's Health**. Hearing testimony from over two dozen experts, I wholeheartedly supported **Bill C-252** in Committee, which will prohibit the advertisement of unhealthy foods to children.

Some of the other reports and studies I am pleased to have passed through the Committee include:

- A National Strategy for **Eye Care**
- A Federal Framework for **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
- Addressing the **Health Workforce Crisis**
- Prevention of **Cancers Related to Firefighting**
- **Children's Health** and **Healthcare** in Canada
- Creating a **National Three-Digit Suicide Prevention Hotline (988)**



# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING MAP



## TWO-WAY, ALL-DAY GO SERVICE

The Federal government has committed up to half of an estimated **\$1 Billion** investment into expanded GO Train service on the Milton line.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Jointly invested **\$4.8 Million** with the Province to build over 30 affordable homes on Ontario Street. Our Government further sent over **\$705 000** to low-income renters in Milton as part of the Canada Housing Benefit top-up.

## RURAL BROADBAND

Since 2019, we have invested over **\$8 Million** to bring high-speed internet to over **2500 rural households**.

## AGRICULTURE

We've made over **\$1.5 Million** in direct investments to organizations in the agriculture sector since 2019.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

A **\$4 million investment** is coming to **prevent gun violence** and keep Halton the safest community in Canada.

## INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMY

Through FedDev Ontario, over **\$16.5 million** has been invested in organizations like Cyclone Manufacturing, the Green Cities Foundation, Conservation Halton, and the Downtown Milton BIA, keeping good jobs in Milton.

## SPORT FOR ALL

Over **\$300,000** to organizations in Milton and Halton to promote and improve access to community sport.

## SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Through the New Horizons for Seniors program, we have invested over **\$350,000** to projects improving Seniors' quality of life.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

With our partners, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, we have built **\$27.5 million** worth of roads, bridges, and public infrastructure with the Canada Community-Building Fund.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES RECOVERY FUND

The Federal Government is providing over **\$765,069** to help local charities and non-profits. These social organizations play a crucial role and do vital work that helps to make our communities better, safer and stronger places to live.



## MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

I have had the opportunity to **rise over 50 times** in the House of Commons to highlight issues, businesses and individuals in Milton.

Here are a few:

- **Fighting Misinformation** in politics
- Standing up for our Environment and **fighting the Climate Crisis**
- **Supporting** Education workers
- **Solidarity** with Iranian women
- Mental Health **awareness**
- **Upholding** 2SLGBTQ+ Rights
- **Crowdfunding** for Bradi McCoy
- **Remembering** Andrew Hong, Shakeel Ashraf, and Satwinder Singh
- **Ending** shootings and hate-motivated crime
- Disability **Inclusion and Access**

## PUBLIC STATEMENTS

### MY FIRST SPEECH IN THE 44TH PARLIAMENT

“I thank the great people of Milton for entrusting me again to be their voice in Ottawa. I would not be here without their continued support, and I will spend every day on this job standing up for them and their priorities, making sure their insights and perspectives are heard in this House and that their needs are met.”

### ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN

“Pakistanis alone should be the masters of their own destiny through free and fair elections governed by a robust respect for the rule of law, the constitution, and human rights. We stand unwavering in our advocacy for democracy to prevail in Pakistan.”

### SEPTEMBER 12TH VIOLENT SHOOTINGS IN MILTON

“It is normal to be afraid, but we must not let fear control our lives. Milton is strong, resilient, and we will rally around each other as we help one another grieve and work through this tragedy, and remember those amazing community leaders.

### \$10-A-DAY CHILD CARE

“Affordable, high-quality childcare will grow our economy, allow more parents to enter the workforce, and help give every Canadian child the best start in life”

### URGING THE HCDSB TO FLY THE PRIDE FLAG

“Act to show the 37,000 students that you teach that the HCDSB embraces diversity, celebrates love, and recognizes the community’s desire to embrace the 2SLGBTQ+ community.”



## LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Here are a few of the Bills I was most proud to support and see pass through the House this legislative Session.

### **BILL S-5 (ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION)**

This Senate Bill overhauls environmental regulations to affirm that every Canadian has a right to a healthy environment, and requires that the Government protects that right. The Bill also toughens the management and exposure of toxic substances.

### **BILL C-4 (BANNING CONVERSION THERAPY)**

This Bill criminalizes the practice of inducing Canadians of all ages to adopt a specific sexual orientation or gender identity. This unscientific practice has been discredited internationally as paramount to torture.

### **BILL C-21**

A comprehensive strategy to address gun violence and strengthen gun laws in Canada. This includes a national freeze on handguns, new “red and yellow flag” laws and expanded licence revocation, combatting firearms smuggling and trafficking. This Bill is in addition to the \$4M local investment from the federal government to local regional organizations to fight crime, and Bill C-48 which will amend aspects of Canadian Bail laws which are not meeting expectations.

### **BILL C-22 (CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT)**

Reduces poverty and supports the financial security of working-age people with disabilities with the establishment of a new Canada Disability Benefit.

### **BILL C-35**

Sets out the Government’s vision for a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system and commits the Government to maintaining long-term funding for that system.

### **BILL C-46 AND C-47**

Implements Budget 2023, including an advance for the Canada Workers Benefit, bigger RESP withdrawals, targeted inflation relief to Canadians who need it most with the Grocery Rebate, and strengthens public health care with a \$200 billion over ten years.



## BUDGET 2023

Budget 2023 is the latest achievement our Government has made in the journey to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more **secure Canadian economy** for all.

Under our economic recovery programs, we have **recovered over 126% of the jobs lost** due to the pandemic. Labour force participation is at record highs among parent-age women thanks to the Canada Child Benefit and plummeting childcare costs.

The achievements of this Budget are far reaching:

- **Automatic advances** of the Canada Workers Benefit
- **Permanently eliminating interest** on Canada Student and Apprenticeship Loans
- **Doubling tax credits** for tradespeople
- A **10% increase** to Old Age Security
- **Protecting** air passengers’ rights
- **Cracking down** on predatory lending, payday loans, and hidden fees
- Keeping **housing affordable** by curbing house flipping and a new First Home Savings Account
- A historic **\$200 billion investment** in good public healthcare
- Implementing a **new Canadian Dental Care Plan** to cover nearly nine million Canadians
- **Increasing RESP** withdrawals, eliminating student loan interest, and increasing grants



## CANADA SUMMER JOBS

**60**  
MILTON  
ORGANIZATIONS

**229**  
MILTON YOUTH  
EMPLOYED

Our government's **Canada Summer Jobs** program helps students in Milton gain fruitful summer employment and develop useful skills, by providing payroll subsidies to not-for-profits, local government, and small businesses.

Through the years of its existence, I've seen this program deliver big results for Milton. CSJ has been critical in **assisting local businesses** to create positions they could not fund alone, and it has seen hundreds, if not thousands, of youth in Milton employed in **enriching summer jobs** across the riding. Youth employment has **recovered beyond pre-pandemic** levels, and CSJ deserves a great credit.

This year, we have been able to help **60 organizations** employ **229 youth**, by investing over **\$765,000** in Milton. More organizations are being granted more funding every day. This investment helps our businesses, our youth, and our whole community.



## RURAL

The many rural communities in our riding, from Campbellville to Moffat, to Lowville and Kilbride, help make Milton such a vibrant community.

I will continue to **support rural interests** and advocate for rural constituents' needs. From day one, access to quality, **high-speed broadband internet** in rural Milton has been a priority for me as it is for thousands of rural residents.

Since I've taken office, our Government has been proud to invest over **\$8 million** to ensure that rural residents in over **2500 households** here in our region can access the same high-speed internet as urban constituents — high-speed internet that has become invaluable for communication and employment in our modern world.

I am also proud to support rural industry. **The Federal Agriculture department** has supplied over **\$4.7 million** since 2020 in funding to support farmers and food producers in Milton. Further, the Canada Summer Jobs program has helped **rural not-for-profits** and **small businesses hire** hundreds of youth with **over \$1.4 million** in funds since 2020.

## OFFICE STATS SINCE 2019-PRESENT



**159**  
Committee Meetings



**433**  
Remarks in Committee



**457**  
Speeches in the House of Commons



**562**  
Votes in the House of Commons



**555**  
Bills reviewed and studied by me and my office



**\$7.25 MILLION+**  
Total Canada Worker Benefit payments to Milton workers per year



**\$70 MILLION+**  
Direct investments for infrastructure and community-building initiatives in Milton



**\$106 MILLION+**  
Total Canada Child Benefit payments to Milton parents per year



**8600+**  
Constituents helped with Federal casework



**25000+**  
Emails sent by me and my team



## IN THE WORKS

In the four years I've served as your MP, we've achieved many of our goals, and announced many more. But the promises we make aren't empty, and they aren't transient — they're long-term commitments with long-term impacts. Our Government is committed to building up new projects that will impact generations to come.

Here's some of the work I'm proud to have started and prouder still that we grow closer every day:

- Committing **\$500 million** for two-way, **all-day GO trains to Milton**
- A path in legislation for **net zero carbon emissions** by 2050
- Planting **2 billion trees** by 2030 (260 million so far)
- Helping to **grow our green economy** with investments in our communities
- Expanding **rural broadband** to all rural residents
- Cutting childcare costs in half, soon to reach **\$10-a-day**
- Introducing **public dental-care** for all kids and seniors by the end of the year, 9 million lower-income Canadians within two years
- Investing **\$200 billion** over 10 years to preserve quality public healthcare



## TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 87-91 are all about sport, physical activity and health. Sport is a powerful tool for social development and empowerment, and a proven vehicle for **Truth and Reconciliation**. Canada's new Sport Policy will harness sport's ability to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples by improving access, opportunity and relevance. It was a huge honour to attend the **North American Indigenous Games**, and cheer on all the athletes but especially the **3 local Miltonians** who swam and played soccer for team Ontario.

## VICTORIA FORUM

The Commonwealth Games Association joined with the University of Victoria, the Canadian Senate, Indigenous leadership from across Turtle Island and sport organizations for a summit in British Columbia. It was a privilege to participate and meet with legendary figures like **Chiefs Wilton Littlechild** and **Ava Hill**.

## SPIRIT NORTH

I've had the chance to attend the launch and delivery of dozens of sporting events since the implementation of our **Community Sport For All initiative** - my visit to Canmore was one of the most remarkable and memorable. **Spirit North works** with First Nations communities to connect Indigenous youth to sport, play, the outdoors and the land. Through these connections, we **empower children to learn, grow, thrive** and eventually contribute to the health, strength and vibrancy of their communities.



## COMMUNITY SPORT FOR ALL INITIATIVE

I'm proud to have played a strong leadership role in the federal government's delivery of ultra-low cost, accessible, inclusive sport for **over 400,000** additional children from coast to coast to coast through the Community Sport For All program. By partnering up with National Sport organizations, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and charities like **KidSport** and **Jumpstart** – we are actively lowering barriers to access for sports and physical activity right across this country, creating happier, healthier, better connected communities. Sport and Physical Activity are preventative healthcare – more children with great physical literacy skills, a love and affinity for movement and better access to coaching, mentorship and facilities means lower healthcare costs and a healthier society tomorrow. **When Canadian kids play, our whole country wins.** A gold medal is as simple as a smile, a new skill, some new friends and healthy activities more often in our communities – and our government is delivering these opportunities and outcomes to Canadians.



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Member of Parliament

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Milton

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