



ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN

Member of Parliament

Milton

COMMUNITY UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE: Victory on the Greenbelt | Grocery Costs | Benefits for Seniors | Bail Reform

VICTORY ON THE GREENBELT: A BIG WIN FOR ONTARIO

Back in March, Canada's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault announced that our government would be investigating the **real and potential environmental, economic, social and health impacts** related to developing parts of the Greenbelt.

Due to the **Premier's recent cancelling** of his **provincial government's plan** to develop parcels of the Greenbelt – we subsequently announced that we are **suspending the urban park study indefinitely** as it's no longer necessary. This is great news.

This reversal reflects the **collective efforts of citizen advocates, independent journalism, researchers, environmentalists, conservation authorities, and municipalities** who tirelessly voiced their objections. Their commitment has reaffirmed the significance of maintaining the Greenbelt's integrity – **this is a big win for our province**, and I want to express my personal gratitude to these stakeholders and everyone who used their voice to safeguard this most vital natural resource.

The plan develop luxury homes and create brand new neighborhoods in Ontario's hinterland, as proposed by Premier Ford's government, was **never a sustainable approach** for addressing our housing affordability concerns.

The **federal government will remain steadfast** in our mission to **protect** the natural environment, including **Ontario's Greenbelt**, toward a greener, more sustainable future for all Canadians. I will continue to call for **responsible urban planning, sustainable development**, and the **preservation of green spaces** to ensure the well-being of current and future generations, and I look forward to more details of how Premier Ford will strengthen the protections of all Greenbelt and ecologically vulnerable land in our region.

OUR GROCERIES COST TOO MUCH

High grocery prices have made it more difficult for Canadians to make ends meet. **We delivered up to \$467 per family** to help offset some of those costs, but our work continues. Ministers met with CEOs of five major grocers to discuss **the need to stabilize food prices** and address the root causes of rising costs. Chief among those causes are droughts, floods and other climate change related events, labour shortages and supply chain issues. Food waste is another huge concern, as are excessive profits and the enormous disparity between working wages and corporate bonuses – **our government is committed to finding real solutions to these challenges**.

We have also introduced **reforms to the Competition Act** that will foster competition, with a particular focus on the grocery sector. We are cracking down the unfair practices that drive up prices and make it hard for local grocers to compete.





BETTER SUPPORTS FOR SENIORS

I am pleased to share some of the latest measures the government has taken which benefits seniors across Canada. We are:

Strengthening Pensions: Providing \$75.9 billion to over 7 million seniors through programs like Guaranteed Income Supplement and Old Age Security, adjusted for inflation, resulting in an annual spending increase of \$20 billion by 2027-28. We expanded access to automatic tax filing for low-income seniors and allocating funds for Old Age Security IT modernization.

Retirement Security: We're enhancing retirement savings for Personal Support Workers, improving pension benefits standards, and requiring pension funds to disclose crypto-asset exposures.

Affordability: Introducing the Canadian Dental Care Plan, a grocery rebate, and a Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit for seniors. We're also cracking down on junk fees.

Healthcare: Investing \$198.6 billion in health transfers, funding mental health services, bilingual nursing training, and more.

These measures build on our track record, including lowering the retirement age to 65, enhancing the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and increasing OAS by 10%. Together, these initiatives are reducing senior poverty rates and ensuring a brighter future for our older Canadians.

SAFER STREETS SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS A SAFER CANADA FOR ALL

BAIL REFORM: BILL C-48

Over the past year my office has hosted two public safety townhalls and I attended an additional one hosted by local councilors Sameera Ali and Adil Khalqi. One of the concerns I heard at those meetings was the **high rates of recidivism** – the tendency of a criminal to re-offend. I'm glad that my Liberal colleagues and I were able to raise those voices, and swiftly produce a **Bail Reform Bill** which responds directly to those very valid concerns. We are employing expert advice and an evidence-based approach to put Canadians first and **address public safety** concerns in our bail system.

Bill C-48 responds directly to calls for reform from stakeholders across Canada. Since the introduction of this Bill, Premiers and Justice Ministers from British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and others have explicitly expressed their support, in addition to support from police associations and other key stakeholders.

It's important to emphasize that the existing law is clear: **if a person poses a significant threat to public safety, they should not be released on bail.** Bill C-48 will bolster the law by targeting repeat violent offenders who use weapons when committing crimes and those who have a history of violent offending and firearms-related crime. This Bill sends a strong message that judges must seriously consider the public safety risk posed by repeat violent offenders at the bail stage, while ensuring that the fundamental Charter right to bail remains intact. Bill C-48 also **strengthens** the government response against domestic abuse and intimate partner violence by expanding the reverse onus on these offences that was initially created in former Bill C-75. Thank you to everyone who advocated for this. **Halton continues to be the safest region in Canada** and together, we are building a safer Canada.



Download a copy our accountability report.
www.adamvankoeverdenmp.ca

GET IN TOUCH:

COMMUNITY OFFICE

16 Hugh Lane
Milton ON L9T 2C6
Tel. 905-693-0166

OTTAWA OFFICE

830 Valour Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
Tel. 613-996-7046

/AdamvanKoeverden

@vankayak

@avankoeverden

adam.vankoeverden@parl.gc.ca

www.adamvankoeverdenmp.ca