

# The Hon. Rob Oliphant, P.C., M.P.

## Don Valley West



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## MESSAGE FROM ROB

As I write this, I am seeing images of Israeli Defence Forces inside Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, as well as photographs of doctors at that hospital examining patients on the floor because there are no available beds. The images are terrifying and heartbreaking.

I continue to condemn the attack on Israel by the terrorist group Hamas, and the way they have used Palestinian civilians as human shields, embedding themselves in hospitals, schools and other places where Palestinians are seeking shelter. At the same time, while I recognize Israel's right to defend itself, like our Prime Minister, I call on them to exercise maximum restraint, allow for humanitarian pauses, and avoid killing innocent civilians.

In Canada, people are taking to the streets either in support of Israel or in support of Palestinians. There is anger and frustration from both groups. There is fear about what comes next in the Middle East and here, at home.

Anger and fear are said to be opposite sides of the same coin. You can feel both sides of the coin, but you cannot see both sides at the same time. As Canadians, we need to start seeing the anger and fear within the Jewish and the Muslim communities here at home.

If you can feel outrage about the more than 1400 Israeli civilians killed by Hamas on October 7, you can also feel outrage about the more than 11,000 Palestinian civilians who have been killed in this war. If you fear for the safety of Palestinians fleeing to southern Gaza, you can also fear for the safety of the the Israeli civilians taken hostage by Hamas.

We need to remind ourselves that Canada is a pluralistic society where differences of opinion can flourish, where we can engage in respectful debate, and where violence against a community on the basis of religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, ability or sexual identity is never acceptable. There is nothing wrong with participating in peaceful protests. It must, however, never descend into hate. Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic violence in cities across Canada must stop if we are to live up to the standards we, as Canadians espouse.

As a government, we are working with our allies and with our partner countries in the region to ensure that we are working towards a permanent two-state solution for the benefit of Israelis and Palestinians alike. For now, we must work towards keeping civilians in Gaza and Israel safe. We must ensure that humanitarian aid enters Gaza freely and frequently. We must work towards a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace has been described as the absence of fear. We must take steps in our communities to work towards peace by stopping the hateful acts of violence against Jews and Muslims,

by stopping the inflammatory rhetoric, and by engaging in positive dialogue with each other.

There are no winners in any war. Our government is working to encourage countries in the region to invest in Gaza, to build infrastructure, to create businesses, and to provide the Palestinian people with the promise of a better future.

It would be a cruel outcome if the best we could achieve is to imagine people living life in peace.

Stay safe and take care,

Rob

## SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDING

On **November 9, 2023** our government launched a **new funding opportunity** under the **Security Infrastructure Program (SIP)**. An additional \$5 million will be provided to **places of worship**, community centres, educational institutions that have been targeted in hate motivated incidents.

Eligibility to apply will be extended to office spaces and daycare centres that are linked to communities at risk of being targeted in hate motivated crimes. Spaces that provide refuge to people who have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV), including spaces for people who identify as 2SLGBTQI+ will also be eligible to apply for funding.

In order to find out more information or to ensure that your organization is on the distribution list, please click [here](#).

## 2024 CANADA SUMMER JOBS APPLICATIONS

The application period for **2024 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)** opens on November 21, 2023 and closes on January 10, 2024.

The CSJ program is the single largest annual investment our government makes in ensuring that young people aged 15 to 30 have opportunities for paid work during the summer months.

In 2023, over 260 jobs for youth were approved in Don Valley West, giving them good work experience and a chance to save for their next year at school.

Each year, I establish local priorities for Don Valley West applicants. For the 2024 CSJ program, the local priorities are: support for non-profit organizations, projects that support persons with disabilities, racialized youth, children, and projects in the health care and social assistance sectors.

## CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT CONSULTATIONS

I was very pleased that the **Canada Disability Benefit Act** received Royal Assent on June 22, 2023. This important benefit will support the financial security of working age people with disabilities and will reduce the rate of poverty in this group of people.

Our government is working towards the implementation of Regulations and as such, we

Interested in shaping the Canada Disability Benefit? Now is your chance.

Vous voulez contribuer à l'élaboration de la Prestation canadienne pour les personnes handicapées? Voici votre chance.

Visit the online engagement tool.



Servez-vous de notre outil de mobilisation en ligne.



From November 15, 2023 until December 21, 2023, you can participate in the consultation process in the following ways:

- by telephone at 1-833-390-4065;
- by email by clicking [here](#);
- by using the Online Engagement Tool by clicking [here](#);
- by sending a letter to:

Consultation, Canada Disability Benefit Regulations, c/o Office for Disability Issues Employment and Social Development Canada 105, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, 1st floor, Bag 62 Gatineau QC K1A 0J9

## NOMINATIONS FOR SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Building on the success of the 2023 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Awards, which were presented at the 2023 New Year's Levée, I am pleased to announce that the **nominations are open** for the **King Charles III Awards for Excellence in Sports and Community Service**.

If you know an individual in Don Valley West who excels in sports, whether as an athlete or coach, or an organization that promotes staying active, I invite you to nominate them. If you know of an individual or organization in Don Valley West dedicated to serving the community, either in the riding or more broadly, I also encourage your nominations.

To nominate a person or organization, [please complete this form](#).

**Nominations will close at 5:00 p.m. on December 15, 2023.**

## NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

*Please join me for the New Year's Levée  
with Stephanie Bowman, MPP*

*January 13, 2024 at Toronto Botanical Gardens  
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*

*Featuring the Presentation of King Charles III  
Coronation Awards for Sports  
and Community Service*

*Please R.S.V.P. to [rob.oliphant@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rob.oliphant@parl.gc.ca)*

*Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be served*

## **MORE QUESTIONS?**

**My constituency office is open and my staff are in the office from Monday to Friday during regular business hours. If you wish to make an appointment, please call or email my office.**

My staff and I are making every effort to ensure Don Valley West remains a strong and vibrant community. We will continue to respond to your letters, calls and emails.

If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [rob.oliphant@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rob.oliphant@parl.gc.ca) or call **416-467-7275**. Please also connect with me on **Facebook**, **Twitter** or **Instagram** by clicking on any of the icons below.

All the best,



**You can connect with me on social media by clicking the icons below**



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