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Trudeau says Canadians are 'worried'

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

It was standing room only at Gordon Alcott Heritage Hall Monday afternoon for a Meet and Greet with Federal Liberal Party Leader MP Justin Trudeau.

Former Halton Liberal MP Julian Reed introduced Trudeau as the next Prime Minister of Canada to hearty applause from the crowd of more than 125 people. Trudeau made a stop in town while in the area for a fundraiser in Oakville.

Trudeau said that while Canada is an "extraordinarily fortunate country, we are also facing some very serious challenges."

He said the country seems to be doing well, but when he asks people how they and their families are doing, the answer is often, "not so great."

While the Canadian economy has done amazingly well over



Barb Brown (right) and her daughter Hannah, 15 were among those who turned out to meet and pose for a photo with Federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, as he spoke to party faithful at Mold-Masters SportsPlex Monday afternoon. Photo by Ted Brown

the past 30 years, "the average family income has increased by only 12 or 13 per cent," he said.

The average debt load, Trudeau explained, has grown to \$28,000 per household.

"People are worried our kids will not inherit through the hard work of our lives better opportunities and better quality of life than we inherited from our parents."

He said when people get anxious, they tend to turn inwards.

"We have politicians right now playing up that anxiety for political gain."

Instead of playing up politics of division, Trudeau said "we need a government that's focused on bringing us together."

"Canadians need to have governance that is as optimistic and broad minded as we are ourselves," said Trudeau to a round of applause.

See TRUDEAU, pg. 16

Chong introduces Bill to reform Parliament

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong introduced his Private Members' Bill, Reform Act, 2013 Monday.

The Reform Act puts forward three simple reforms to strengthen Parliament by proposing to restore local control over party nominations, strengthen caucus as a decision-making body and reinforce the accountability of party leaders to caucuses. The three reforms will empower MPs and give them the tools they need to represent their constituents in Ottawa.

According to Chong, decades of changes to Parliament have weakened the role of MPs in favour of party leadership structures. As a result, there is a growing divide between Canadians, who want their MPs to have a bigger say, and Parliament,



MICHAEL CHONG

where power is concentrated in the leadership structure.

"The consistent downward trend in voter engagement tells us that there is a serious disconnect between Canadians and their elected Parliament," said Chong. "I'm optimistic that these reforms will reconnect Canadians to their Parliament by strengthening the role of their local elected member."

See CHONG'S, pg. 3

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