

BACK TO THE BOOKS AT CENTENNIAL P.S.



Eamonn Maher/Metroland

Centennial Public School principal Joyce Jermyn welcomed students back to classes Tuesday morning from grades 6 to 8. From left are Grade 8 students Jade Webster, Morgan Douglas, Avery Cryer and Grade 7 student Nathan Conroy. Photo day is slated for Sept. 13.

New job for Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong

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Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong has a new gig.

Chong, who has represented the riding in Ottawa since 2004, has been named as the official Opposition's new shadow minister for infrastructure, communities and urban affairs.

He previously served as deputy environment critic under interim leader Rona Ambrose.

Shadow minister is more or less synonymous with the term "Opposition critic" in the Canadian parliamentary system.

Chong's duties will include providing opposition oversight for the sitting Liberals government's infrastructure plans and policy.

"I'm excited to take on this new role, and I'm proud to be working alongside an experienced team that will continue to hold the government to account on behalf of all Canadians," said Chong in a release. "I look forward to

building a stronger Conservative party, as well as building a stronger Canada for everyone."

The announcement was made on Wednesday (Aug. 30) by newly-minted Conservative party and Opposition leader, Andrew Scheer.

Chong was one of 14 candidates to replace Stephen Harper as leader of the Conservative party. Scheer ended up winning the race, narrowly beating out Maxime Bernier for the party's top job at the end of May at the Conservative Leadership Convention in Toronto. Chong ended up fifth in the contest.

Many of Scheer's sitting opponents in the race also found a home on his shadow cabinet and front bench. Bernier, an MP in Quebec, has been named senior critic on the innovation, science and economic development file, while Ottawa MP Pierre Poilievre was named finance critic.

Erin O'Toole, MP for Durham, has been given the foreign affairs portfolio, with

Steven Blaney taking over as shadow minister for veterans affairs.

Scheer had already appointed Lisa Raitt, MP for neighbouring Milton, as deputy leader of the party earlier this month.

Of note, sometimes controversial Simcoe-Grey MP Kellie Leitch did not receive a shadow cabinet position. Leitch made headlines and caused some controversy during the race for her position on immigration and "Canadian values."

Sitting Conservative MPs Brad Trost and Deepak Obhrai, who also challenged Scheer for the leadership, will also remain backbenchers. "What Canadians will see are principled, hard-working and dedicated Conservative leaders. Our shadow ministers bring a wealth of experience from every walk of life, and ours is the only party that understands the challenges Canadian families face every day under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," said Scheer in a Facebook announcement.

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