

THE RETURN OF CANADA'S PARLIAMENT

ECONOMIC RECOVERY SHOULD TOP THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY LIST, WRITES MICHAEL CHONG



MICHAEL CHONG
Column

This week Parliament resumes with the Governor General's Speech from the Throne, which outlines the government's priorities for the upcoming session. It has been over six months since Parliament, with its full powers, has met.

Parliament was effectively suspended due to the pandemic on March 13. Since then it has met sporadically in the form of a special COVID-19 committee, and other committees, that had little power other than to ask questions and to make statements. After six months it is time for Parliament, with all its powers, to resume to ensure the proper functioning of our democracy.

The Prime Minister has indicated that the government will introduce new priorities in the Speech

from the Throne.

In the weeks after the Speech from the Throne, confidence will be tested in the House of Commons. This could lead to a federal election.

Our position as the Conservative opposition is clear: we do not want a federal election this autumn because Canadians do not want one.

The only person who will decide on whether Canadians go to the polls before Christmas is the prime minister. If he decides to have an election, we are prepared for one that we and Canadians do not want to have.

There has been much speculation about what will be in the Speech from the Throne. My own view is that the government should focus on the economic recovery needed to address the loss of jobs and income resulting from the lockdowns of the pandemic.

As Parliament resumes, my Conservative colleagues and I will be closely examining the government's priorities as outlined in the Speech from the Throne. We are going to work hard to ensure individuals, families and businesses are front and centre in the economic recovery from the pandemic.

Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and the shadow minister of foreign affairs for the official Opposition. He can be reached at Michael.chong.a3@parl.gc.ca.

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Tony Fortunato photo

A wood thrush visits a local backyard in a wooded area of town. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

PREPARING FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS HAS A PLAN TO INCREASE ITS RESILIENCE TO EXTREME WEATHER, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

COVID-19 sure has changed our lifestyle. We're not enjoying the fall fairs this year and we're having virtual runs/walks for Terry Fox, the Georgetown Hospital and other such events. Even though our COVID-19 numbers are low, in other surrounding areas the numbers are high.

We must remain vigilant, social distance, wash our hands and wear a mask

(unless you have a medical condition). We should all be concerned with the virus. There is also another important threat that is not going away — climate change.

At its meeting August 31, Halton Hills council adopted a climate change adaptation plan, which lays out a series of steps intended to help the town prepare for the effects of global climate change. The plan is mainly focused on actions the town and its residents can take, recommending additional policies and plans the town can implement to mitigate the effects of climate change, and providing indicators to assess the implementation process.

There are five main goals of the climate change adaptation plan: preparing the town for extreme weather events, increasing town resilience to higher temperatures and more frequent heat waves, increasing town resilience to flooding, preparing for the socio-economic impacts of climate change, and protecting town residents from the health and safety

impacts of climate change.

It also provides a series of actions the town can take to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as upgrading municipal buildings to better withstand extreme weather, protecting and enhancing the town's tree canopy, and improving the town's stormwater management capacity. For every dollar spent on adaptation planning, approximately five or six dollars are saved later in damages.

For more information please go to: <https://www.haltonhills.ca/en/your-government/climate-change.aspx#Adaptation-managing-the-effects>

I also want to acknowledge two staff member retirements. Dick Spear from Transportation & Public Works and Joanne Wilson from the Gellert Centre. I'm sure many of you in the community know Dick and Joanne, and we wish them a very healthy and happy retirement!

Rick Bonnette is the Mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter @RickBonnette1 and Instagram rick_bonnette1.

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