

UNITY VITAL TO OVERCOMING PANDEMIC: CHONG

LONGTIME INCUMBENT SETS FORTH PRIORITIES AFTER WINNING SEVENTH TERM

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Wellington—Halton Hills is staying true blue after re-electing Conservative MP Michael Chong in Monday's federal election.

The incumbent, who's now entering his seventh term, said his first priority will be taking the concerns he's heard from residents — on everything from the housing crisis to getting through the pandemic — back to Ottawa.

"The number one issue (in the riding) is the need for us to get through the

rest of this pandemic, and to bring Canadians together in order to do that, rather than dividing them into two camps of the vaccinated and unvaccinated," he said.

"It was clear during the last couple of months that people are exhausted, and they're frustrated, and they're yearning for things to get back to normal. We have to redouble our efforts in Ottawa to do exactly that."

Chong said he's also well aware that local residents are concerned about high levels of debt and unemployment, and the need to get the economy back on track. The seasoned politician said he's humbled to continue serving those who live in the Wellington—Halton Hills riding — a job that he considers a "sacred trust."

"It's something that you



It was smiles all around as incumbent MP Michael Chong joins wife Carrie and son Cameron during Monday's election win.

have to work hard for," he said as he joined his team of supporters at the Red Harp in downtown Acton Monday evening. "Every time the people entrust you to represent them in Ottawa,

it's a humbling experience."

As of publishing time with 99.5 per cent of polls in, Chong earned 33,918 votes, with Liberal candidate Melanie Lang coming

in second with 17,343 ballots cast in her favour. The NDP's Noor Jahangir took home 6,812 votes, followed by People's party candidate Syl Carle with 4,247 votes and Green party contender

Ran Zhu with 2,504 votes. The riding saw a voter turnout of 64 per cent.

In speaking with the Independent, Lang extended her congratulations to Chong on "an awesome campaign" and said she's grateful to have been given the opportunity to run alongside him.

The first-time candidate hinted on Twitter that she may run again, telling her followers, "I plan on sticking around, so expect to see me again soon."

Chong was first elected to the riding in 2004 and has held onto his MP seat since then. The married father of three currently serves as shadow minister for foreign affairs.

Wellington—Halton Hills continues to remain the only Conservative stronghold in Halton, with the rest of the region re-electing its Liberal MPs.

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