THE NEW TANNER



CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTES: Children of all ages gathered with honoured veterans at the Acton Cenotaph last Thursday for the annual Candlelight Tribute to mark the sacrifices of those who fought for peace and freedom. Left: Thirteen-year-old Coral Meredith thanked veteran Wes Kutasienski. Right: Toddler Morgan Horne, with her grandmother Anne Horne, thanked veteran Tom Grant at the Candlelight Tribute following a Silent Walk to the Cenotaph. - Denise Paulsen photos

## hong wants Parliament cleaned up

in Wellington-Halton

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Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, has placed a motion on the Order Paper to reform Question Period in the House of Commons. If the motion is adopted, the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs will be ordered to consider a number of reforms to Question Period and report back recommended changes to the House within six months.

"Canadians want Parliament reformed. They want their democratic institutions fixed and they want the level of debate elevated," Chong said, adding, "This motion is a first, but important step, toward Parliamentary reform.'

The motion proposes a number of areas of reform which would:

• elevate decorum and fortify the use of discipline by the Speaker,

• lengthen the amount of time given for each question and answer,

"I'm optimistic that Parliamentary reform can re-connect **Canadians** who feel disengaged by behaviour that would not be tolerated around the kitchen table." - Michael Chong

• require that Ministers respond to questions directed at them, • allocate half the

backbench Members, dedicate Wednesday

exclusively for questions to the Prime Minister, and • dedicate the rest of

the week for questions to Ministers other than the Prime Minister.

The key to democratic accountability is Parliament, and the key to accountability in Parliament is Question Period in the Canadian House of Commons. For 45 minutes each day, Question Period provides Members of Parliament an opportunity to hold the government to account by asking questions. Through the national media, millions of Canadians follow **Ouestion Period each and** every day.

"If there is one thing

questions each day for I've heard from people be tolerated around the this divide by reforming kitchen table."

"There is a growing divide in this country between an electorate that is more and more apolitical and a party system that is increasingly partisan," Chong said. "That is why we need to bridge

Parliament and strengthening its legitimacy for Canadians."

Twenty Members of Parliament, the maximum allowable, representing three political parties, have seconded this motion.





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