

## Note from Nate

It means a lot to be given another opportunity to stand up for our community in Ottawa.

Amy and I welcomed Crawford in December, so it's been busy and rewarding both at home and at work with the new Parliamentary session now underway.

I will continue to represent our community with the belief that our politics should be focused on ideas, and that our elected representatives should be less partisan and more independent.

In my first speech in the new Parliament, I called for stronger climate ambition and action, a non-partisan approach to poverty reduction, renewed fiscal responsibility with an inter-generational lens, a more serious public health response to the opioid crisis, and follow through on our promise of reconciliation by implementing UNDRIP, compensating First Nations kids who have suffered discrimination, and funding a health facility for Grassy Narrows.

Since then, I've introduced legislation to treat drug use as a health issue, questioned how big oilsands projects are consistent with our net zero commitments, engaged with Ministers Miller and Bennett to encourage a peaceful resolution to the blockades, and raised some concerns in the House with our proposed changes to the assisted dying laws. I also continue to raise specific issues with Ministers on behalf of constituents, from a rare disease strategy to fairness in our international adoption rules.

I'm a member of the Industry committee this session, which will allow me to continue my privacy work as we expect legislation to be tabled later this year.

And I will continue to chair a number of parliamentary groups, including our all-party anti-poverty caucus, the Canada-Bangladesh friendship group, and our animal welfare caucus.

If you have ideas for me to take to Ottawa or ideas we can make happen here in our east end, don't hesitate to reach out.



Nate helping Mack put on skates for the first time at our annual Family Day skate at Ted Reeve



**NOW**  
Toronto's  
Best MP -  
three years  
in a row

We'll keep working hard regardless of recognition, but it's sometimes nice to see our hard work recognized. Our office was recently recognized with the Best MP Award in NOW (for the third year in a row) and with the Humane Canada Leadership and Innovation Award for our work to end the captivity of whales and dolphins.



## HOW WE CAN HELP

We are here to be your advocate, whether it is a specific federal case file or a bigger picture policy you want realized

### Ways we've helped:

#### \$30 million for pediatric cancer research

I have a 13-year-old constituent, Helena Kirk, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of three and went through 841 days of chemotherapy. In our platform was a \$30 million commitment to pediatric cancer research, largely because of Helena's advocacy. I want to thank Helena for her hard work and let her know that we will do as much as we can to save the lives of her friends.

- Nate in the House of Commons, Dec. 12, 2019

#### Helped a young brother and sister in East York avoid deportation

Toronto teens facing deportation get last minute reprieve with help from MP - National Post

### Is there an important local person or moment we should recognize?



#### Celebrating Ella's 110th Birthday

Nate joined Ella Chandler and her weekly euchre club at Harmony Hall to celebrate her 110th birthday.



#### Racism in Wake of Coronavirus

As COVID-19 cases increase we need to fight back against racist incidents. Our community rallied to support The Flower Centre, a local business targeted by an individual in an anti-Asian rant.

## Have a Question or an Idea? Invite Nate for a Q&A

In addition to the local events that our office hosts - from issue-focused film discussions, to skate days and levees, to our non-partisan BEY youth council, Nate will also attend and answer questions for local community groups. In the interest of public safety, we'll resume these Q&As when COVID-19 is no longer a concern.



#### Ethiopian community

Minister Hussen and Nate engaging with our local Ethiopian community



#### International Mother Language Day

We joined with our Bangladeshi community on the Danforth to celebrate International Mother Language Day once again.



#### East York Collegiate Institute

Climate action, Indigenous reconciliation and the opioid crisis remain top priorities for students at East York Collegiate.



**NATHANIEL  
ERSKINE-SMITH**  
MP Beaches-East York  
**YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA**

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## MAKING THE MOST OF THIS MINORITY PARLIAMENT

It is up to us, and how we conduct ourselves in this place, whether we seize the opportunity or whether we succumb to partisan politics."

If I heard anything from my constituents in this last election, it is that they want me and the people in this place to work together as much as possible to accomplish big ideas for our country. They also want us to be less partisan and to carve out more of that principled independence and to carry that with us." - Nate's first speech in the House - watch it online at: [beynate.ca/thronespeech](https://beynate.ca/thronespeech)

In this 43rd Parliament, we should be ambitious in our ideas, humble and co-operative in our approach, and squarely focused on the hard work ahead." - Nate's op-ed in Beach Metro News

### 1 MILLION PEOPLE Out of Poverty Since 2015 - Stats Can

We helped to lift hundreds of thousands of Canadians out of poverty by increasing the Canada Child Benefit and GIS for seniors.

As chair of the all-party anti-poverty caucus, Nate has called for the same level of ambition going forward.

### Canadians finding hundreds of dollars in unclaimed cheques on CRA website- CBC News

It's worth checking your CRA account. Once you've logged in, the link is at the bottom of the "related services" section on the right side. If you have any issues, contact our office.

### \$1 BILLION COVID-19 FEDERAL RESPONSE FUND

Our federal government has announced a \$1 BILLION response fund to assist provincial health efforts, further research and vaccine development, and support affected workers. For the most up-to-date information on this rapidly evolving situation, go to: [canada.ca/coronavirus](https://canada.ca/coronavirus)

Our message to Canadians is clear: to every worker and business, in every province and territory, we have your back and we will get through this together." - The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada



Nate, Amy and Mack at the swearing-in ceremony in the 43rd Parliament.



## LOCAL: IN OUR COMMUNITY

### FEDERAL FUNDING IN BEACHES-EAST YORK

#### \$2.2 Million for The Neighbourhood Group

The Neighbourhood Group is a community agency improving the lives of east enders. The new funding will support the YouthWorks project to assist 130 at-risk youth with employment and related services.

#### Fashion takes Action Receives \$80,000

Fashion Takes Action is an industry non-profit focused on sustainability. Their new funding will support a project to reduce plastic synthetic textiles in landfills through a recycling roadmap and feasibility study.

#### \$65 Million Every Month in the Canada Child Benefit

We should continue to build on basic income supports like the CCB, GIS for seniors and the Canada Workers Benefit for the working poor. Contact the office for more information and payment schedule.



### A serious discussion about death with dignity

A sold-out crowd attended our free screening of the Canadian assisted-dying documentary Road to Mercy at the Fox Theatre. We covered a range of topics in conversation with experts Maureen Taylor and Kevin Reel.



### Representing Beaches-East York

Many in our community have worked hard to raise funds to #CureSPG50, an ultra-rare neurodegenerative disease affecting two-year-old Michael, and Nate raised the campaign with Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa. Nate then sat down with the Health Minister's team to discuss next steps in a rare disease strategy. From SPG50, to cystic fibrosis, to Duchenne, to ME/CFS, it's an important issue for many here in Beaches-East York.

Nate brought the #CureSPG50 campaign to Ottawa



### Working together for the City of Toronto

Our 416 caucus met with Mayor John Tory, and discussed important shared priorities, including tackling gun violence and stronger climate action. We will continue to work with the City to make historic investments in transit and housing.

## NATIONAL: IN OTTAWA

### WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE TO SAVE LIVES Nate tables two bills to address the opioid crisis



Since 2016, there have been more than 13,000 apparent opioid-related deaths in Canada. For the first time in 40 years, our country's life expectancy has stalled, attributed by Stats Can to the opioid crisis. It is a national public health crisis.

We should treat problematic substance use as a health issue, not a criminal justice one. We should remove barriers to seeking treatment, not reinforce them. We should follow the evidence to save lives.

Nate tabled two bills to follow the evidence. The first bill deletes the criminal sanction for drug possession for personal use in order to treat it as a health issue. When Portugal did the same, the number of people seeking treatment increased by 60%.

The second bill creates an evidence-based diversion framework to encourage police and prosecutors to refer individuals in need to health care services.



Introducing Bills 235 and 236

### Nate calls for an assisted dying law that respects the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Carter



I opposed the assisted dying laws in the last Parliament because they were too restrictive. They were not in keeping with the Supreme Court's decision in Carter and I believed them to be unconstitutional, and here we are. A Quebec court found the law to be unconstitutional and we agreed, rightly, to abide by that decision. We have another chance to get it right.

In the end, this law needs to ensure that anyone eligible for MAID, pursuant to the Carter criteria, continues to be eligible for MAID through this law. It is a matter of fundamental freedoms and dignity." - Nate's speech in the House, you can watch the full speech at [beynate.ca/](http://beynate.ca/)



## CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Climate change at the heart of Trudeau government's new mandate letters - National Observer



Our principal challenge is to set Canada on a credible path to net zero while we ensure a just transition for affected workers and regions." - Nate's reply to the throne speech

#### Nate's net-zero legislation is a key government priority

Lead government-wide efforts to develop a plan to set Canada on a path to achieve a prosperous net-zero emissions future by 2050." - Mandate letter for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

#### Our government is tackling plastic pollution

A national ban on many single-use plastics is on track for next year, Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson says, after a government report concluded Thursday that there is more than enough evidence proving plastic pollution is harmful." - CTV News

#### Erskine-Smith on stronger climate action

The legacy that we leave in this place will be on climate action." - interview with the Huffington Post

We have obligations to the world, to future generations, and we have to do our part in tackling climate change." - interview with CBC's The House

## INTERNATIONAL: AROUND THE WORLD

### CANADA-US-MEXICO TRADE DEAL



Our government has moved forward quickly to ratify the new NAFTA, an agreement with strong support from both the business community and the labour sector.



The Chamber congratulates Minister Freeland and Canada's negotiating team for delivering an agreement that remains trilateral and that will continue to deliver prosperity for Canada, and for doing so under extraordinarily challenging conditions." - Canadian Chamber of Commerce



While there are areas of legitimate concern, the USMCA is an improvement over the original NAFTA with quantifiable gains for workers." - Jerry Dias, UNIFOR National President



Nate with a delegation from Mexico

### Meeting Mexico's cannabis legalization delegation in Ottawa

With Mexico legalizing cannabis later this year, we had a productive meeting in Ottawa with a delegation led by Mexican Speaker Laura Rojas to discuss the Canadian experience.



Nate with former Liberal Minister Irwin Cotler

### Defending Human Rights at the International Court of Justice

In the last Parliament, Nate called attention to the genocide of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. Our government has provided support for Rohingya refugees, and supported Gambia's application to the International Court of Justice to hold Myanmar accountable for genocide. Recently, the ICJ ordered Myanmar to prevent genocidal violence and to preserve evidence of past crimes, an important step towards accountability.



## Coronavirus COVID-19

"This really does need to be a whole-of-country response."

- Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Chair of the new COVID-19 Committee

One of the comforting things about Canada's response to COVID-19 is that public health officials are the main spokespeople & appear to be the prime decision makers. Politicians at all levels & all stripes are either riding shotgun or in the back seat. A non political response."

- David Cochrane, CBC Senior Reporter



Trudeau's leadership stands out in a week of national pain and loss. - The Globe & Mail.

### "We will not rest until there is justice and accountability"

- PM Justin Trudeau on Ukraine Airlines Flight 752, shot down by an Iranian missile.

Our government has provided interim funding for families of the Canadian victims, and pledged \$1.5 million in matching funds to the Canada Strong fundraising initiative.