



David Graham

Summer 2016

Member of Parliament for Laurentides—Labelle

FROM HERE, FOR HERE



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No stamp is required to mail a letter to your Member of Parliament.

SERVICES OFFERED

We are at your service! You are welcome to come and visit us at our offices in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, Mont-Laurier, and on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Feel free to get in touch for an appointment – whether to talk politics, discuss priorities, local needs, projects in the riding, a proposed law or government initiative, or to get some help in one of the following areas:

- **Employment insurance**
- **The Canada Child Benefit**
- **Citizenship and Immigration**
- **The Canada Pension Plan**
- **The Guaranteed Income Supplement**
- **Income tax questions**
- **Any other federal issue or service**

We are also available to provide assistance for community initiatives. We can advise organisations about available government services aimed at helping them launch local projects. We can also help citizens get in touch with the government or obtain information from it, and help prepare certificates and special messages for milestones such as wedding anniversaries, noteworthy civic actions, and other occasions.

Call us to find out more about government programs and services or to get a list of the service centres in your area!

All members of the staff are bilingual and can provide you with services in the language of your choice.

A WORD FROM DAVID

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am again writing to you to share the news of all the work my team and I are doing on your behalf.

On June 17, the House of Commons rose for the summer, completing my very first parliamentary session in the service of the citizens of the Laurentians. It was good to return to the riding so that I could step back and absorb the many new things I have learned. What I most wanted to do was to be back here, to meet with you on the ground and to listen to your concerns.



Over the course of the summer many residents told me that it was the very first time that they had met their federal Member of Parliament, that they had seen their MP at public events, from one end of this vast riding to the other, outside of an election campaign. I feel that going to meet people is a matter of principle: what is an MP for if he is not present? I can't represent the constituency of Laurentides—Labelle if I don't do those things that it takes to know it well, especially listening to the concerns of the people who live here.



You can help me to be a better MP. I invite you to tell me about what is going on in your communities: events, issues, challenges, great achievements, celebrations, etc. My team and I will be present as often as possible. I am *from here, for here*. I was born and raised in Sainte-Lucie-des-Laurentides. I am involved in politics to serve you worthily, respectfully and effectively. I have thrown myself into it with all my heart. I am honoured, and grateful for your support.

Since the beginning of my mandate in October 2015, I have had the pleasure of meeting with the elected representatives on the 43 municipal councils as well as the leaders of many community organizations, the provincial MNAs, and hundreds of citizens. I've learned a lot from all of you, and I thank you. There is still so much more for me to learn. This knowledge of the region allows me to be relevant both in

Parliament and in my political functions.

In Ottawa, I have intervened multiple times to ensure that the voice of Laurentides—Labelle is heard. Since December I have stood and spoken 116 times in the House of Commons and nearly 300 times in the Parliamentary Committees on which I serve.

We have a lot of work to do for our region. Please don't hesitate to share your opinions and comments with me on any subject.

Kind regards,

David

A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNITY

Hugo Paquette

Chloée Alary

Luc Lefebvre

Cristina Lapaz

Dominic Chartrand



DAVID GRAHAM, DÉPUTÉ LAURENTIDES — LABELLE

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Happy back-to-school to all the students and parents in our region, as well as to the teachers and all other staff in the education sector!

While criss-crossing the constituency since my election as well as during the election campaign, I have met too many families having difficulty making ends meet. There are more than 4,000 children in Laurentides—Labelle whose families are living below the poverty line. We have acted.

When our first budget was tabled in Ottawa, our government decided to put more money in the pockets of our families through the introduction of the new Canada Child Benefit.

This new program replaces the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the Universal Child Care Benefit. This new measure will allow 9 out of 10 families to receive more generous benefits than under the previous program. It provides up to \$6,400 per child under the age of 6 and \$5,400 per child from 6 to 17 every year. These amounts are tax-free. Families with revenue below \$30,000 per year will receive the maximum benefit.

We are confident that with this ambitious measure we will move 60,000 Quebec children out of poverty and a total of 300,000 across the country. Canada is investing in its families.

David Graham and his daughter Ozara at the 15th anniversary celebrations of the Maison des Jeunes in Labelle



A CONSTITUENCY FULL OF INSPIRING PEOPLE!



Seniors' wellbeing

L'Action bénévole de la Rouge, which among other things promotes the wellbeing of the elderly through its dietary help, homecare and transport services, was among the 10 organizations to receive grants in April through the New Horizons program.



Solidarity with its youth

This spring, in solidarity with its youth, the community in L'Ascension answered "here" to an invitation to a breakfast to raise funds for a youth centre in the heart of the village.

Helping the less fortunate
Every year, the Knights of Columbus in Saint-Jovite provide concrete assistance to many disadvantaged families in the area. Among their activities, "Soup to End Hunger" raises funds to provide school supplies, clothes, food or field trips to students who couldn't otherwise afford them.



You know about inspiring people and projects in the community.

We'd like to know about them too!

Tell us about them!



Cultivating to provide food

What an inspiring model! A group of people in Mont-Laurier are cultivating gardens to provide fresh food to the less fortunate members of the community. The project is supported by the Antoine-Labelle food security roundtable. Impressively, in 2015 they produced 6.8 tonnes of fresh vegetables that were distributed by local organizations!

Soup kitchen
Soupe et compagnie des Pays-d'en-Haut contributes to dietary support in the MRC and reduces the loneliness of isolated individuals. A friendly ear and social support are also provided through the wholehearted devotion of volunteers. Every year, the group provides some 6,000 meals in the basement of the Saint-Sauveur presbytery including the popular "Day before Christmas."

Sainte-Anne-du-Lac is 100 years old



In the photo are Denys Bélec (designer of the huge logo affixed to the church), President of the Centennial Committee Jocelyne Lafond, and Mayor Annick Brault. To honour the memory of the founders, Mr. Bélec also designed a giant 49-foot canoe.

Sainte-Anne-du-Lac celebrated the centennial of its founding this summer. For the past year, volunteers with a deep sense of community have been proudly organizing first class celebrations.

La Guignolée

Dedicated firefighters and Knights of Columbus in Lac-des-Écorces joined forces in December to collect donations from passers-by at the traffic lights on the 117. As a result, many families received Christmas baskets.



Humanitarian aid

Francine S. Mailloux and Noël-Yves Mailloux of Piedmont celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 2nd. They are best known for their involvement in the humanitarian mission of the Haïti Laurentians committee, helping a people in great need.

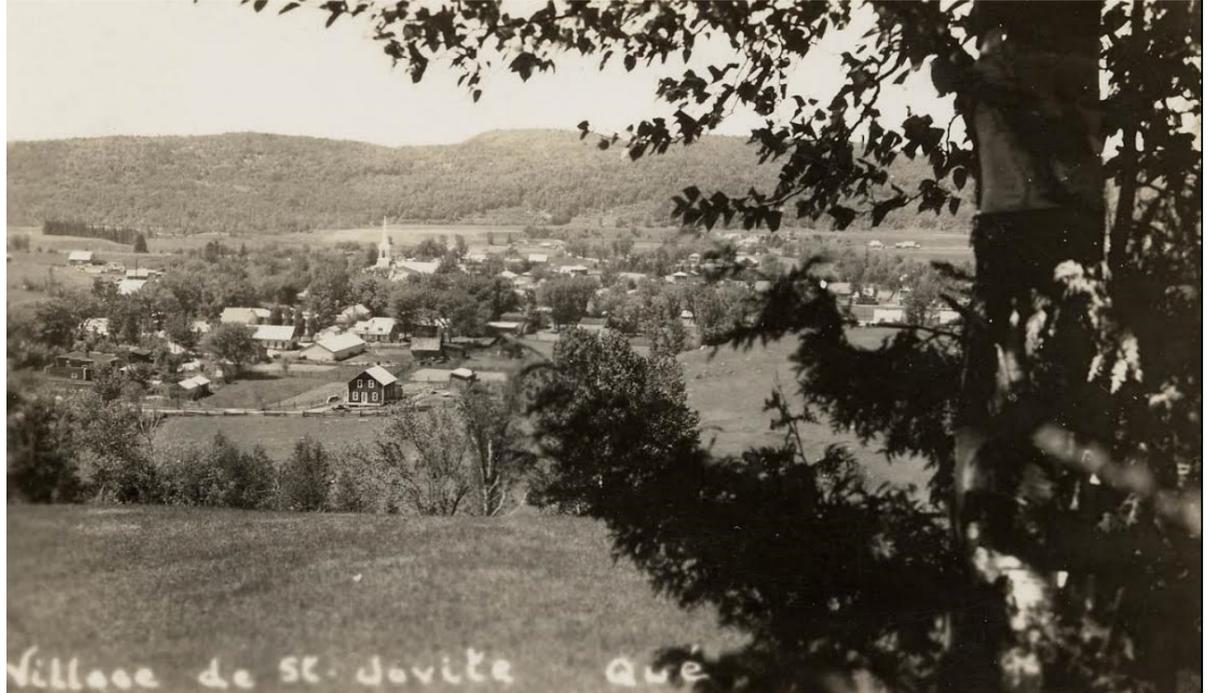
KNOWING OUR REGION: HOW *THE LAURENTIANS* GOT ITS NAME

There is an old adage that goes: *we need to know where we come from to know where we are going*. I love my country and am passionate about discovering the origins of places and the people who made them. So I invited my father, local historian **Joseph Graham**, to tell us a bit about the history of our region. Over the next few years you will receive many more of this type of communications and as often as possible I will include a section on our history. If you have any historical subjects that you would like to learn more about, let us know! Enjoy the read!

When François-Xavier Garneau wrote *Historie du Canada* in 1845, our country was still a series of colonies. Garneau was a notary and a passionate historian. His book, likely the first history of the country, has been republished nine times and is still available today. Describing the hills that run through the Outaouais, Laurentides, Lanaudière, and Mauricie regions, he named them after the mighty Saint Lawrence River, calling them the Laurentides, or Laurentians. The words Laurentide and Laurentian were soon used to describe the Laurentian Shield and the Laurentide Ice Sheet. When Curé François-Xavier-Antoine Labelle succeeded in getting a train line built through the townships north of Saint Jérôme, English Montrealers rapidly became fans of our area, calling it the “Laurentians.” Today the terms Laurentians and Laurentides are both used to describe a good part of our riding.

Local use of the name Saint Lawrence dates back to the first visit made by Jacques Cartier, who named many landmarks after entering the Gulf. Cartier arrived there in 1534 on the saint’s day, August 10th, and attributed the name Baye Saint Laurens to a small bay north of Anticosti Island. Today it is called Havre Sainte Geneviève. His map shows the river as Fleuve Hochelaga, but the Montagnais, or Innu, called it Wepistukujaw Sipo, and each First Nation had its own name for it.

The river was not called the Saint Lawrence until Cartier’s record was translated into Spanish in 1552. The Spanish were very possessive of the New World and the translator must have looked hard for a way of finding a Spanish connection to Cartier’s work, which he found in the obscure Baye Saint Laurens – the saint was born in Huesca, Spain. The book was subsequently translated into Italian, but probably from the Spanish, since that translation also indicated the river as the Saint Lawrence. Even Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the English founder of Newfoundland, was probably working from the Spanish translation. In 1583, he also called the river the Saint Lawrence. The French still called it by other names. Samuel de Champlain, the official founder of New France, called it Rivière de Canadas in 1603, officially changing it to Grande Rivière de Saint Laurens a year later. That is how Garneau’s naming of the Laurentians came from the Spanish translation of Cartier’s map of the Wepistukujaw Sipo, or, it could be argued, from the British borrowing of the Spanish term.



Village of Saint-Jovite early in the 20th century—photo from the collection of Patty Brown

Exchange among languages is as old as languages themselves and we still trade terms between English and French today. The word “Laurentians,” coming from the historian Garneau, was first used by English-speaking vacationers to describe the area that the French called les Cantons du Nord. The English took the train to “vacation” in the mountains with their pristine spring-fed lakes. To the French, who had come much earlier, someone who moved to les Cantons du Nord was a pioneer, a settler, obliged to take on an undeveloped wilderness. The French term could be translated as “up north,” but the spirit of it is closer to the English term “out west.” The English of Montreal, who also call it “up north,” could well have borrowed the expression from the French name. Later, Claude-Henri Grignon, writing from Sainte Adèle, rescued the term Pays d’en Haut from the history books. Pays d’en Haut was the French term for the highlands of New France, the headwaters of the Mississippi. Since that area was no longer associated with French settlements, Grignon gave it new life in *Un Homme et son Pêché, Les Belles Histoires des Pays d’en Haut*.

Like so many others whose names identify parishes throughout Quebec, Saint Lawrence was an early Christian martyr who was the treasurer of the Church in Rome. In 258, Emperor Valerian beheaded the top Church leaders, leaving Lawrence as the senior Church official. Entrusting the Church archives to capable, low profile members of the Church, Lawrence distributed the contents of the treasury among the needy. Called upon to present the emperor with the Church’s wealth, he presented the blind, the crippled and the sick, saying that these were indeed the treasures of the Church. For his temerity, he achieved sainthood by being grilled over an open fire.

The Laurentians is a plural form and fits nicely with the many images that reflect our home, a multifaceted region of mountains, lakes and small villages. Early publicity described the region as the Laurentian Mountains, but over time this was shortened to the current form with the southern area given responsibility for protecting the old term Pays d’en Haut and the north honouring Curé Labelle. While the region has been popularly called the Laurentians and les Laurentides from when the train began to run, it was not until 1987 that the French form Laurentides was officially adopted.

- Joseph Graham

CONSULTATIONS

The state of digital infrastructure at my home:

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

- Affordable : yes no
 Reliable : yes no
 Fast enough : yes no
 Not available
 I don’t want high speed internet

MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

- Completely available
 Not reliably available
 Voice service available but no data
 Not available
 I don’t want mobile phone service

The government wants your opinion on how you see electoral reform. Select multiple choices where appropriate for a mixed system:

- The current system** (*the candidate with the most votes wins*)
 A preferential ballot (*2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. choices are counted until one candidate has obtained a majority of the votes*)
 Proportional representation (*votes apply to political parties directly, not to local candidates*)
 Voting should be **mandatory**
 It is up to our MPs in **parliament** to do the research and choose the best options
 I don’t know and I want to learn more

Your opinion is also sought on many matters of government policy. Call us for more information on these topics or comment on the overleaf:

- ⇒ Our infrastructure
 ⇒ Public transit
 ⇒ Public safety
 ⇒ The future of the military
 ⇒ The role of Canada Post
 ⇒ Climate change
 ⇒ The Trans-Pacific Partnership
 ⇒ Employment Insurance
 ⇒ Agricultural policy and strategy
 ⇒ Access to information
 ⇒ Other topics of concern

