



Summer thanks, congrats and a tour

This has been a devastating fire season as the blazes threaten homes, ranches, livestock and entire communities.

Scant rain in June followed by nearly two weeks of 45 C temperatures and continued hot days have led to extremely dry conditions with lots of wildfires and smoke.

Many in our riding are on evacuation alert or have been ordered to leave, and many others remain hyper-alert to the potential of fires turning their way.

I can't express enough appreciation for the efforts of all the firefighters and first responders who are working so hard to try to keep us safe, as well as their families who play such a huge support role.

And we must not forget all those who are volunteering or donating to help out. It's a stressful time and every contribution counts.

Thank you all!

It was a historic moment for Canada this month when our first Indigenous Governor General was appointed.



Queen Elizabeth II approved the choice of Mary Simon to be her representative on Crown matters, and there are hopes this decision will help with Canada's reconciliation efforts.

Simon, a day-school survivor and advocate for Inuit rights, has a history as a proven negotiator, having taken part in many important agreements like Meech Lake and Charlottetown.

Speaking in Inuktitut and English (she intends to learn French, too), Simon described her appointment as an "inspirational moment for Canada and an important step forward

on the long path towards reconciliation."

I wish her much success in this important role.

While pandemic restrictions are being eased on many fronts in Canada, precautions are still being taken at the House of Commons.

This includes the suspension of public tours of West Block, where MPs meet when Parliament is in session.

Until in-person tours can be safely conducted, the Speaker of the House is offering a guided tour that requires no advance booking . . . via a high-quality online video: [https://player.vimeo.com/](https://player.vimeo.com/video/560467260)

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Built in 1865, the heritage building was redesigned between 2010-2015 to offer a temporary place for MPs to meet and conduct business while Centre Block undergoes renovations until 2030.

The renovated West Block is a modern wonder, retaining the beautiful brick and stone exterior, yet completely transformed inside. It even includes a glass ceiling with shutters to allow in natural light while MPs meet and conduct business in the House of Commons chamber.

I encourage you to view the five-minute video, it really is something to see.