

Marit Stiles

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE
MPP/DÉPUTÉE DAVENPORT

Tuesday 5th March, 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

The violence in Israel and Palestine has been devastating to many Ontarians, particularly those with friends and family in the region. Communities are watching with horror as their loved ones suffer.

The death toll in Gaza has surpassed 30,000, with 70% of those killed being women and children. The terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7th killed nearly 1200 people and over 100 hostages remain in Hamas captivity.

Millions of residents of Gaza have been displaced and are at risk of starvation, death and disease, and Gaza is currently the most dangerous place in the world to be a child.

Here at home, Ontarians have spent the last four months pleading with all levels of government to urgently act. I recognize that issues of foreign policy fall under federal and not provincial jurisdiction. But for thousands of our neighbours and constituents who have cultural and family ties to the region, or who see themselves and their loved ones in the victims of this conflict, such a distinction is not so simple.

For many Ontarians, the violence in Israel and Palestine is the most pressing issue in their daily lives. People want to see leaders at every level step up to meet the moment, in whatever ways that we can. That's why since October 11th the NDP has called for a ceasefire and release of all hostages. On October 17th I stood to repeat that call in Ontario's provincial legislature - condemning the terrorist acts of Hamas, demanding the release of all hostages, and calling for an urgent ceasefire to protect Palestinian civilians from further loss of life. And last December, the Ontario Legislative Assembly unanimously passed our motion calling for special immigration measures to bring extended families of Palestinian-Canadians to safety in Canada.

Since then, I've heard from countless Ontarians who are frustrated with the lack of urgency from your federal government to prevent further loss of life and uphold Canada's international reputation as a force for peace.

On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice ordered six provisional measures, including for Israel to refrain from acts under the Genocide convention, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to genocide, and take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. Yet your government has still not called on Israel to comply with the ICJ recommendations.

The violence in Israel and Palestine has had a tremendous impact here in Ontario. Jewish, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Canadians have reported an increase in hate-motivated attacks and racism since October, and our communities are suffering with grief.



On March 18th, the House of Commons will be voting on a motion put forward by Canada's NDP. As Ontario's Official Opposition, we are asking you and all federal Members of Parliament to support this motion, which calls on your government to:

- Demand an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages;
- Suspend all trade in military goods and technology with Israel and increase efforts to stop the illegal trade of arms, including to Hamas;
- Immediately reinstate funding and ensure long-term continued funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and support the independent investigation;
- Support the prosecution of all crimes and violations of international law committed in the region, and support the work of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court;
- Demand unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza;
- Ensure Canadians trapped in Gaza can reach safety in Canada and lift the arbitrary cap of 1000 temporary resident visa applications;
- Ban extremist settlers from entering Canada, impose sanctions on Israeli officials who incite genocide, and maintain sanctions on Hamas leaders;
- Advocate for an end to the decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories and work toward a two-state solution;
- Officially recognize the State of Palestine and maintain Canada's recognition of Israel's right to exist and to live in peace with its neighbours.

Canada must take action for an end to this violence now, and work towards a sustainable solution where Palestinians and Israelis can live in peace and security, with full recognition of their human rights.

Sincerely,



Marit Stiles
Leader of Ontario's Official Opposition



Jill Andrew
MPP Toronto—St. Paul's



Teresa Armstrong
MPP London—Fanshawe



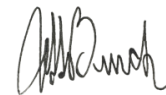
Doly Begum
MPP Scarborough Southwest



Jessica Bell
MPP University—Rosedale



Guy Bourguin
MPP Mushkegowuk—James Bay



Jeff Burch
MPP Niagara Centre

(continues)

Catherine Fife
MPP Waterloo

Jennifer French
MPP Oshawa

Wayne Gates
MPP Niagara Falls

France Gélinas
MPP Nickel Belt

Chris Glover
MPP Spadina—Fort York

Lisa Gretzky
MPP Windsor West

Joel Harden
MPP Ottawa Centre

Bhutita Karpoche
MPP Parkdale—High Park

Terence Kernaghan
MPP London North Centre

Sol Mamakwa
MPP Kiiwetinoong

Chandra Pasma
MPP Ottawa West—Nepean

Tom Rakocovic
MPP Humber River—Black Creek

Peggy Sattler
MPP London West

Sandy Shaw
MPP Hamilton West—
Ancaster—Dundas

Jennie Stevens
MPP St. Catharines

Peter Tabuns
MPP Toronto—Danforth

Monique Taylor
MPP Hamilton Mountain

John Vanthof
MPP Timiskaming—Cochrane

Lise Vaugeois
MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North

Jamie West
MPP Sudbury

Kristyn Wong-Tam
MPP Toronto Centre