



Dr. Shafiq Qaadri, MPP

Member of Provincial Parliament • Etobicoke North



At the Annual Neighbours Night Out at Esther Lorrie Park. →



\$824,000 for the Rexdale Women's Centre. ↑

Volunteer Appreciation at the West Acres Seniors Recreation Centre. →



Career Day at North Kipling Junior Middle School. ↑

MPP Qaadri with Ms. Barbara Adams, Principal of John D. Parker Junior School. →



DR. QAADRI ANNOUNCES \$520,000 FOR RECREATIONAL UPGRADES IN ETOBICOKE NORTH

Funding to upgrade local parks, playgrounds and arenas

"I am proud to announce over \$520,000 in provincial funding to upgrade recreational facilities in Etobicoke North," said Dr. Shafiq Qaadri, MPP for Etobicoke North. "The funding through the Recreation Infrastructure Canada and Recreation Ontario programs will be used to upgrade playgrounds, tennis courts, pools and arenas province-wide. The provincial and federal governments will match funding with the municipalities to fund these worthwhile projects."

Projects in Etobicoke North include:

- **\$ 58,000:** North Kipling Community Centre upgrades
- **\$ 66,000:** Sunnysdale Acres and Smithfield Parks playground enhancement
- **\$ 179,000:** Albion Arena upgrades
- **\$ 95,000:** Gihon Spring and Beaumonde Heights Parks tennis court upkeep
- **\$ 45,000:** Flagstaff outdoor pool
- **\$ 77,000:** West Humber and Smithfield Parks upkeep

These projects will provide stimulus to the local economy through investments that will spur construction activity related to recreational infrastructure. Improving recreational facilities and services will also encourage higher levels of participation in physical activity and community building.

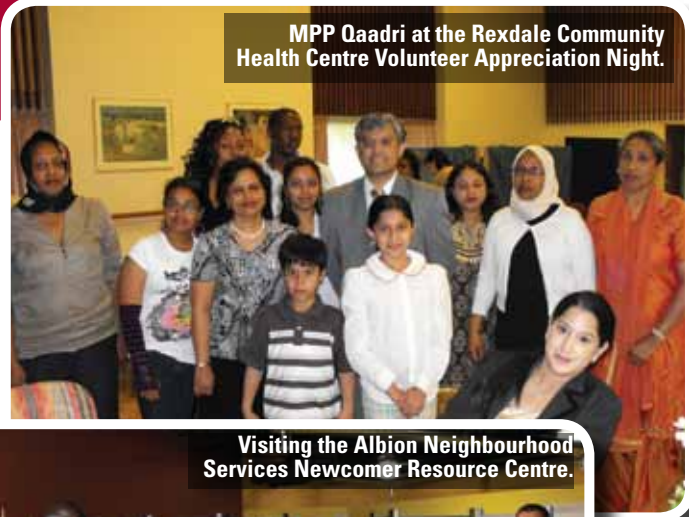
Expansion of the Community Use of Schools Program

The Ontario government has announced that, starting in September 2009, 150 Ontario schools will be funded to offer free after-hours access to not-for-profit groups.

By offering school space at no cost, not-for-profit groups will be able to, in turn, offer accessible programs to youth and seniors such as recreational sports, the arts and other social activities.

"These types of programs help bring communities together and reaffirms the notion of the local school as the hub of a neighbourhood," said Dr. Qaadri.

The 150 schools are located in areas where the need is greatest for low-cost access to public space. This investment is part of the Community Use of Schools program, a program that helps all Ontario school boards make school space more accessible for use after hours, as well as the Ontario government's strategy to reduce poverty.



Reading, Writing and Math Skills on the Rise

The Ontario government, in response to the latest literacy test results from the Education Quality and Accountability Office, is pleased to announce that over 40,000 additional Grade 3, 6 and 9 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math, compared to six years ago.

Recently released Provincial test results show that 67% of students in Grades 3 and 6 are achieving scores at or above the provincial standard — a 13% increase since 2002-2003. English-language Grade 9 math scores have increased by more than 10% over the same period.

The Ontario government's goal is to have 75% of students achieving scores at or above the provincial standard of a 'B' or higher. These assessments help teachers, principals and school board administrators identify when students and student groups need additional academic help.



At a beautiful mural made by the kids of North Kipling Junior Middle School.



Dr. Qaadri, MPP and Dr. Kirsty Duncan, MP at the Father Henry Carr graduation ceremony.

Improving Job Opportunities for Skilled Newcomers

The Ontario government has announced that professionally trained newcomers to Ontario will have greater opportunities to work in their fields as a result of expanded bridge training programs at York University.

The Ontario government is investing \$5.2 million towards the university's new bridge training programs for information technologists and business professionals, in addition to an existing nursing program.



Presenting an Ontario flag to Dr. Monica Francis, Principal of Braeburn Junior School.

Bridge training programs help newcomers who have been trained overseas get the local training they need to find a job in their field of expertise and contribute to Ontario's economy. The programs provide a variety of transitional supports such as international skills assessment, technical training, local work experience, occupation specific language training and mentorships.

Support for these programs is part of the government's plan to strengthen the economy by investing in the skills and knowledge of all Ontarians.

Ontario Government Investing in Toronto's TransitCity

The Ontario government is moving forward on major public transit projects in the Greater Toronto Area.

These projects include a new rapid transit line on Eglinton Avenue from Kennedy Station to Pearson Airport and a new rapid transit line for Finch West from the Yonge Subway Line to Highway 27 and Humber College.

These investments will create jobs, help move people and goods, and support future growth in the Greater Toronto Area. Accelerating transit projects is a key goal of the recently proposed merger of Metrolinx and GO Transit as well as the Ontario government's MoveOntario2020 plan. For further information, please visit transitcity.ca.

