

Speaking Notes

for

Marc Serré,
Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt on
Friday June 9, 2017 – 8:30am
Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre,
700 Lakeshore Drive,
North Bay, Ontario, P1A 2G4

NOSDA AGM

Thank you for your kind introduction...

Good morning everyone and thank you to the NOSDA organizers for the invitation and asking me to address you all this morning.

I was an honoured to offer the Keynote address at last year's AGM and I am equally honoured to be here with you here today. I also want to thank NOSDA for the wonderful work you do for all communities in Northern Ontario. You might feel at times it may go unrecognized but I am here to assure you it is not, Ottawa is in the know!

It's always a pleasure for me to visit North Bay, home of my colleague and friend Mr. Anthony Rota MP for Nipissing-Temiskaming. I know how much he wanted to stand with me here today and share his personal perspectives on this year's theme "Northern Ontario: Better Communities, Better Outcomes".

We're in a really progressive time right now and I'm here to echo and add-on to what was discussed here over the last couple of days about housing and how I know the Government of Canada, is moving toward a positive place to support this platform on a large scale. As Chair of the Northern Ontario Liberal Caucus, with my work with the Indigenous Caucus and Status of Women Committee, I have heard loud and clear how affordable housing is a priority to the people of Nickel Belt and Northern Ontario on many levels, for social housing, for seniors and for our indigenous

communities.

A large part of the 2017 Budget is investing over \$11 billion dollars spread out over 11 years for a national housing strategy that seeks to repair and add affordable housing in an effort to eliminate poverty within our communities. We are investing in affordable housing to help those who need it most.

There are currently over a million families who cannot afford rent or are living in unacceptable conditions. As a Canadian and parent that saddens me. We all woke up in our own beds, in our homes with electricity and running water and just had

the pleasure of enjoying a wonderful breakfast together in this beautiful venue. These are small things that we all take for granted but for some these are luxuries. This is unacceptable.

As a Northern Ontarian, I'm all in on helping everyone have the basic needs of life.... sleeping in a comfortable home that has running water and electricity. I feel I can confidently say that everyone here today feels the same and I know NOSDA and its member organizations will continue to work together to achieve this common goal.

The National Housing Strategy provides the most ambitious long term federal housing

investment in a generation.

Our strategy will ensure Canadians have adequate and affordable housing, which will reduce the financial stress of Canadians, help communities renovate their housing stock, and give more stable housing to the homeless. These major investments are aimed to cut homelessness in half, and take 500,000 families out of housing need.

Those numbers are drastic but realistic if we collectively work together as a community and a country.

These measures will improve the lives of Canadians and build more inclusive communities, a healthier environment, and

a stronger economy.

As you may know, my motion M-106 passed in the House of Commons on May 17. This Motion calls on the Federal Government to develop a “National Seniors Strategy”. I am very humbled on having had full caucus support and am excited for what this means for all seniors across Canada. The implementation of a National Seniors Strategy will bring real, positive change to the quality of life and well-being of seniors. This directly works in correlation with our housing strategy as it will recognize the need for more secure housing and housing options for seniors which will give much

peace of mind to the seniors themselves, their families and caregivers.

In closing, the Government is taking the next step in its long-term economic plan to support the middle class and those working hard to join it by creating a culture of lifelong learning; helping people develop the skills they need at every stage of their life to succeed in a changing economy, building healthier, more livable communities, with cleaner air and water, and better care for our kids and grandkids and ensuring everyone has a real and fair chance at success by investing in health care, child care, housing, and support for

Veterans and Indigenous peoples.

It has been an honour to speak to you all today. Thank you to everyone involved and everyone for attending this event. Together we will make a stronger tomorrow.

Merci, Miggwetch & enjoy the rest of the day.

