

Hello to all NDP Members!

I am Mallory MacDonald and I am ecstatic to be running for the NDP MP of Northumberland- Peterborough South.

I came to study at the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing 15yrs ago. During school I had placements in Port Hope, and was fortunate enough to work for Extendicare Cobourg after graduation. I loved the area so much I never left! I realized early on that this is where I wanted to stay for the rest of my days.

I've dedicated my whole life to helping other people. From the time I was a child taking first aid and swimming lessons, to becoming a lifeguard saving lives on a daily basis. All the while preparing me for Nursing.

I'm a non-practicing Registered Nurse. Due to a spinal issue I've been living on disability for approximately 5 years now. When I left nursing I was working as VON community nurse. I travelled all over to provide nursing care to community members.

I have long been part of the volunteer community through community theatre in Peterborough through performing, stage managing, producing, costume making, as well as hair and makeup for more productions than I can count with the Peterborough Theatre Guild, St. James Players and Arbor Theatre.

I'm also incredibly committed to the green community as I am part of a community garden and have volunteered with Veg Fest Ptbo since its inception.

Since becoming unable to work I have been flung into poverty being forced to live on next to nothing. I've had to rely on numerous resources and support in the community to survive. This has caused my urgency for tackling income insecurity in the area.

It was through community resources I sought out and being involved in the community volunteering that I started to notice what was being said from our leaders was not being reflected in our community. Our leaders would come out with grandiose announcements and photo-ops about funding that was supposed to be bettering our community, and I wasn't seeing any of it actually benefitting the people.

When I stood in the food bank line, I listened to the people. Some of these people are homeless, their low-income, indigenous, they have precarious employment, or they're living with a disability. The most difficult part wasn't that I had to be there for food it was listening to the stories of the other people there. Listening to them having to decide between rent and food that month was heartbreaking.

Could they keep the lights and heat on for another month? Could they feed their children? Is their child being bullied because they have no lunch or wears second hand clothes?

As a person of privilege having to seek the same benefits as someone who had struggled their whole lives gave me the feeling that I needed to do something in whatever capacity I could to help them.

What I heard through their stories is completely neglected in the voices of our leaders.

I'm not a politician, I'm just a volunteer in the community that cares about people. I want to show my appreciation by fighting for them in Ottawa. I want to show that a regular, everyday person, can stand up and make change that actually benefit the people that leaders have promised to help. I only want to help and show I can represent this community and their interests, and vote for the values that they believe in. I believe we deserve leaders that gain powerful positions and don't immediately forget the people that put them there, just to continue with the party's interest.

The NDP was the only party that cares about me as a person. They want to fight for the everyday person and have no loyalties to corporations or corporate donors. They care about the workers, the Unions, the climate, indigenous rights, LGBTQI2S+, the marginalized and those in our society that have been overlooked and brushed aside.

Why do we not have universal dental or pharmacare? Why is the health of our population, because of policies enacted, being overlooked?

Why are our rural communities forgotten about? We need real rural outreach to understand the unique issues they live with. Farmers and farms are disappearing and we cannot have a country where we do not grow our own food and that is happening more and more to our farmers and their land.

Why would it take until 2021 to get clean water to indigenous nations across the country? It should have already been done. We are blessed with a plethora of clean water in this country, yet cannot get the treatment facilities built to bring this to the people who were here before us? We can't bring in resources to allow these nations to own and control their water facilities and conservation? While speaking with one indigenous youth about his community up north he stated, "We have Wi-Fi but we don't have running water." In that statement I heard all I needed to. This is a today issue not a in 2 yrs (maybe) issue.

Why after announcing funding to a strategy to end gender-based violence were there still 200 open cases with the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre? Why is that funding only made available after each agency has to create an in depth application for that funding? Why is that application process so in depth that the Liberal Government had to give these organizations \$30,000 funding just to assist in the application process before they could even think about getting funded? After this they then can still be rejected for funding. Why is it that after being accepted the agency gets the critically needed funding spread over 5yrs?

For a country that prides itself on inclusion, social justice and action we sure are leaving a lot of people behind. For a country that says its green we have yet to see federal funding investing in green economy jobs that are sustainable for future generations, just expanded projects that will harm us further. Where is the funding to train and re-train workers from fossil fuel industries, to the growing green industry?

We cannot work if there is no planet to live on!

I believe that we need to finally be represented by somebody who cares about us and our values. Someone with the capacity to see not how it can benefit them but the people that put them there. I'll fight for you, maybe because I'm stubborn, or maybe it's because every time in my life when someone told me I couldn't do something I would come back with 10 ways as to how I could.

I do not believe these are not radical ideas. I believe this is what the everyday person wants whether you're New Democrat, Conservative, Liberal, Green, etc. we just have to find a way to do it together.

I believe that through my community involvement, my passion and commitment, I can lead in this fight... and I want to **WIN!**

I hope you will join me in the fight to come, and allow me to represent you as the next MP for Northumberland-Peterborough South.