



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Filomena Tassi

Member of Parliament / Députée
Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas

October 17, 2024

After 9 great years of serving the people of Hamilton, I have decided that I will not be running in the next federal election. My reason for making this decision is deeply personal – it's time for me to be closer to home with my family.

This is a bittersweet decision. I have truly, deeply loved serving the people of my riding, Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas, my beloved hometown Hamilton, and Canada. I have met the most amazing people and been inspired by incredible conversations where people shared with me their acts of courage and achievements. Sometimes they shared their heartbreak, struggles, fears, and their resilience. I was moved by these thousands of conversations – they will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am grateful to Hamiltonians for having afforded me the opportunity of a lifetime to serve them.

I have also been blessed to have so many wonderful colleagues, many of whom have become great friends. I won't name them – they know who they are. I joined federal politics because I felt a call to serve. I was happy to discover a community of like-minded people who thought politics could be positive, constructive, and oriented toward problem-solving instead of the negative alternative.

On that note, I am happy to have co-founded a Team Hamilton strategy with my MP colleagues representing Hamilton ridings: Chad Collins, Matthew Green, Lisa Hepfner and Dan Muys – you have been great, willing to put partisan differences aside to put the issues important to Hamiltonians first. I hope you all continue with the Team Hamilton approach and that others will follow. The constituents of Hamilton appreciate and value this collaborative spirit.

My volunteers and donors have been a bright part of my life for the last 9 years. Many of them have been with me from the very beginning, others have joined me as I walked this path of service. All of them have touched my life in special and important ways. I hope that I have touched them in some small, positive way.

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My staff – in the constituency and in Ottawa – have been dedicated to me and our mission of serving Hamiltonians and all Canadians. Their professionalism and hard work made coming to the office a pleasure. We have worked hard together to create conditions where we could do our best to serve. I thank each of them for their service, dedication, and positivity.

My mother inspired me with her loyalty and dedication to the Liberal Party and specifically, John Munro, a Hamilton Liberal powerhouse. She taught me that politics is a strategic practice, but also a practice in which you must never lose your moral compass. My father inspired me with his non-judgemental approach accompanied by his strong desire to help others. I hope I have lived up to their example and that they are watching me from above, satisfied by my work.

My family has been a fundamental part of my political journey. My children, Maria and Matthew, as well as my stepchildren, Ben and Nicole, have been a source of constant strength and love for me. My beloved husband Jim has been my most trusted friend, supporter and advisor, in addition to being the love of my life.

Many friends, mentors, and former colleagues have supported me through this journey. Words cannot express the deep gratitude I have for their generosity, friendship, and unfailing support. I could not have walked this journey without them by my side.

I am so proud of what our government has achieved since 2015 for Hamilton, our beautiful, ambitious city. We have committed over \$5 billion into many projects that will benefit Hamiltonians now and into the future. I wish to highlight a few among the many: Housing funds of over \$500 million, infrastructure funding over \$2.5 billion; research, development and skills training for our postsecondary institutions of over \$1.1 billion; over \$46 million into the Randall Reef Remediation Project and the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark; and \$13 million into Bindigen, an Indigenous housing project.

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Finally, I am deeply grateful to our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, for inspiring me with his commitment to service; and entrusting me with important portfolios such as Deputy Whip, Minister of Seniors, Minister of Labour, Minister of Public Service and Procurement, and Minister Responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. I am honoured that he believed in me and thank him for his understanding and empathy. I wish him the very best now and in the future. I believed in him in 2015 and I believe in him now.

Hamilton is my beloved hometown. It's a special place where people really care about their neighbours and their city. Our citizens are engaged in civic life and make their thoughts known – this is a huge asset, and I hope it never changes. Canada is a great country, often a beacon for others. I am grateful to have been able to discover Canada's diversity – human and natural. I was inspired to have met so many wonderful people and to have experienced the history of our great country. We have so much to be proud of. We need to celebrate our country and continue to drive Canada forward, with optimism toward a future characterized by prosperity, strength, fairness and national pride.

It's been the honour of my life to serve Hamiltonians and Canadians. I look forward to finding new ways of serving, as my political journey nears its end.

Sincerely,

Office of the Honourable Filomena Tassi
Member of Parliament for Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas

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