



Blake Richards, M.P.
Wild Rose

News release

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M.P. RICHARDS APPOINTED TO LEAD PARLIAMENTARY TOURISM CAUCUS

Exploring opportunities that can help Canada's tourism industry to thrive will be Member of Parliament Blake Richards' focus as the newly-appointed Chair of the Parliamentary Tourism Caucus.

The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), has appointed M.P. Richards to lead the all-party Tourism Caucus. The caucus has a mandate to support and promote tourism – a \$74 Billion sector of Canada's economy that employs more than 617,000 people across the country.

"Banff National Park in my riding is the backbone of a world-famous tourism industry and so I know just how essential tourism is to the economies of communities all across Canada," Richards said.

"The sector is a significant employer, particularly in towns such as Banff and Canmore and it is important for Parliamentarians of all political stripes to work together to examine every opportunity to grow tourism in all regions of the country," he added.

The Parliamentary Tourism Caucus has a responsibility to hear the concerns of stakeholders in the tourism sector and to raise issues of importance to the industry. As chair, Richards will be speaker at Caucus events and report developments to the Minister.

"The challenges tourism providers face in my constituency are the same issues stakeholders in the sector face all across the land and I look forward to working with my colleagues to help promote and grow the industry through our work at caucus," Richards said.

Minister Bernier congratulated Richards on his new role as Chair of the Parliamentary Tourism Caucus.

"With Banff National Park making up such a large portion of his constituency, I know that Blake has a good deal of experience dealing with the range of issues related to tourism as well as a strong relationship with the tourism industry in his riding and across Canada," said Minister Bernier.

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