



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



*Tracey Ramsey*

Member of Parliament  
Essex

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The Most Reverend Bishop Fabbro  
Diocese of London  
1070 Waterloo Street  
London, ON, N6A3Y2

Dear Bishop Fabbro,

I wanted to follow up with you on an issue that you brought to my attention last March. As you are aware, late last year the Liberal government made changes to the qualifying requirements indicating that in order to qualify for Canada Summer Jobs funding, applicants must attest that they respect the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as other rights and associated case law*.

The Liberal government initiated these changes after becoming aware that some Members of Parliament had approved funding in the past to organizations whose core mandate and CSJ job placements did not respect these rights and, in fact, used the funding to advocate against these rights.

At the time that these changes were made, I recognized that the wording put forward by the Liberals was problematic and that the government should have initially been clearer. Although I appreciate their efforts to clarify the funding parameters, it is evident that these efforts were too little too late for some organizations to apply within the set deadline. This resulted in confusion and many groups in our region were denied funding based on the changes.

As you are aware, I brought your concerns and frustrations regarding the changes to officials at the CSJ program and due to the overwhelming response, the government has reversed their decision on this issue. The government has amended the 2019 version of the Canada Summer Jobs program to ensure that all Charter Rights for all Canadians are protected, but that no church or religious group should feel they cannot apply or receive funding because of their religious beliefs. There is now, only a declaration that any potential employer abide by the human rights standards set forth in Canadian law.

I know that many organizations and groups have a high commitment to providing young people in our community with good jobs, and I value the experience and opportunities they provide our youth. I also greatly appreciate the services they provide to our communities – these are all reasons why we must work together, to move forward and ensure future success for these organizations.

I will continue to advocate and be the strong voice of Essex on this important issue.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about these changes or the Canada Summer Jobs program, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 1-866-776-5333 or email [tracey.ramsey@parl.gc.ca](mailto:tracey.ramsey@parl.gc.ca).

Sincerely,

*Tracey Ramsey*  
Tracey Ramsey, MP,  
Essex