



Greg Kelley **MNA for Jacques-Cartier**

My time at Beaconsfield High School

By Greg Kelley, MNA for Jacques-Cartier

I am a proud Bison! My years at Beaconsfield High School (BHS) were truly transformative, years where I learned many life lessons and made lifelong friends. Whenever I drive by BHS or have the chance to visit, I always crack a smile remembering a funny moment with friends or teachers hoping that students are currently enjoying their time at BHS, as much as possible.

I will be the first to admit my grades weren't always the best. I was like many teenage boys - stubborn when I had a hard time understanding class content, and I would rebel by acting too cool for school. There were many teachers, though, along the way, who helped me to pull my socks

up and become a better student and person. I will always remember my English teacher, Ms. Nadler, who taught many BHS students how to properly structure an essay; her methods serve me to this day when I write an op-ed opinion piece in the Gazette! Mr. Haffenden opened my eyes to the history of Canada and how it is okay to enjoy learning a subject and being passionate about it and Mr. Marcotte who pushed that curiosity into world affairs. I also had a great gym teacher, Ms. O'Reilly, who challenged us to be better and reach our full potential. Of course, Ms. Druzin taught us all how to line dance; no kid in school couldn't help but smile and laugh doing a Do-Si-Do and spinning round and round in her famous gym class. I would also be remiss to not mention our Principal, Mr. Buckley, and Vice-Principal, Ms. Morrison, who were kind and fair with us all. Many of these educators have retired but I remember them fondly!

BHS built a sense of community spirit within me and we were always told that in order to make your community better we had to give back. Our teachers encouraged debates, and civic discussions in class, which helped us make sense of important world events such as 9/11 and the new war in Afghanistan. Teachers reminded us that acceptance of diversity is imperative in a democracy. It is no surprise, at least to me, that BHS has produced so many community leaders over the years.

In my role as Member of the National Assembly, I remain proud to see students from BHS continuing their community leadership. I often meet young bright students working for charitable causes, participating in local youth councils and even delivering remarkable speeches on diversity and inclusion in front of a large public crowd.

BHS is a great school within a strong school board, Lester B. Pearson, which focuses on student success and building the leaders of tomorrow! I am honored to have been included on the Lester B. Pearson Wall of Fame!