

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MPs Announce the Formation of All-Party Entrepreneur Caucus

Ottawa, June 14, 2016 – Today co-chairs: NDP MP Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni), Conservative MP Dean Allison (Niagara West) and Liberal MP Ruby Sahota (Brampton North) announced the formation of an All-Party Entrepreneur Caucus that will collaborate across party lines in raising the profile of entrepreneurs in Canada. All three MPs draw on their previous experience working with small businesses as part of the Tofino–Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, a lifelong entrepreneur and commercial law capacity, respectively.

“This caucus will create a vehicle for Parliamentarians to hear directly from entrepreneurs so we can be better partners,” said Johns, “Small business owners take large risks and we want to ensure that decision-makers understand the challenges and opportunities facing them.”

Allison added, “We will provide a supportive and positive community from which entrepreneurs can learn, communicate and collaborate. This is an opportunity to share and celebrate the contributions of entrepreneurs.”

All three Members of Parliament expressed confidence that many MPs in their respective parties would join the caucus, seizing the opportunity to work together in supporting the contributions of entrepreneurs in local communities. Across Canada, small business creates 78 percent of new jobs and account for approximately 27 percent of Canada's Gross Domestic Product.

“Supporting small businesses in reaching their potential and helping them to put innovation at the core of their business strategy is an exciting part of the work of this caucus,” said Sahota.

In September the Entrepreneur Caucus will host its first meeting in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, a key partner of the Caucus who has long facilitated MPs of all stripes working together to support small business.

In addition to the CFIB, the Entrepreneur Caucus will invite individual entrepreneurs and other stakeholders such as Startup Canada, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to share their experiences and best practices.



Left to right: Conservative MP Dean Allison, New Democrat MP Gord Johns, Liberal MP Ruby Sahota.