

Distinguished Lecturer Series
Speaker Mike Lake
Presentation date – January 09, 2019

Biographical Information

Mike is the Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, and was first elected in 2006. After his re-election in October, 2008, Mike was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, a position to which he was re-appointed after the May 2011 election.

On September 13, 2012 Mike was sworn into the Queen's Privy Council, after being asked by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to serve on a Cabinet Committee tasked with efforts to balance the federal budget. On October 19, 2015, he was re-elected to a fourth term, receiving the 5th highest vote total out of 1,800 candidates, from all parties, across the country. He currently serves as the Conservative Party Deputy Shadow Minister for International Development.

Prior to entering federal politics, Mike worked for 10 years with the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club where he served as National Accounts Manager, Director of Ticket Sales and Group Sales Manager. Mike holds a Bachelor of Commerce (with distinction) from the University of Alberta.

Mike has two children, a son Jaden, 23, and daughter Jenae, 19. The Lakes have been active supporters of autism organizations, families and individuals across the country, and around the world, while sharing their story of life with Jaden, who has autism.

Presentation

Title: *Expect More – An Autism Adventure*

Mike Lake is the Canadian Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Wetaskiwin, currently serving his fourth term. He has two children, a son Jaden, 22, and daughter Jenae, 18. The Lakes have been active supporters of autism organizations, families and individuals around the world, while sharing their story of life with Jaden, who has autism. His mission is to challenge us to think differently, not only about people with autism, but about everyone we connect with.

Mike has spoken to spouses of world leaders at the United Nations, 15,000 students at WE Day, teachers from across Canada, and thousands of university students. He has done a TEDx Talk and has had the opportunity to travel internationally, meeting with fellow elected officials from across the political spectrum, as well as leaders in the global research community.

Mike's presentation uses video from interviews and news stories centered around his son. Although Jaden is non-verbal, his story enlightens people in ways that words cannot. Mike takes us on a journey through the past eight years of Jaden's life, demonstrating the power of inclusion as a key to unlocking otherwise undiscovered human potential. The clips, intertwined with Mike's compelling story-telling, shape together a narrative that resonates with audiences of all ages and from all backgrounds. In the end, his goal is to use Jaden's story to change the way we think about the people around us - their abilities, their challenges and the unique contributions that they can make to the great benefit of all of us.