



## Jack MacLaren

Member of Provincial Parliament  
Carleton-Mississippi Mills

### Town-Hall Meetings On Hydro Rates

Why is the cost of hydro so high? How is it possible to use little or no electricity and yet have to pay through the nose for "delivery fees"? Is this all a government shell game or is there some rationale to it?

I'll be holding two town-hall meetings on the exorbitant hydro rates facing Ottawa residents.

Renowned journalist and Ontario Hydro expert Parker Gallant has agreed to join these Town Halls to brief residents on why Ontario Hydro Rates are some of the highest in the developed world. Parker has written extensively in the Financial Post about the impact of Ontario Hydro rates on communities throughout Ontario.

Parker's talk is called "Watts in your hydro bill?" Parker will take you through every line-item on your bill, and he'll explain what each one covers. If you think the electricity line covers only the cost of generating electricity, you may be shocked at what else it contains.

Here are the dates, times, and locations for both town-hall meetings:

- December 3rd, 2016 • 10:00-12:00pm  
Kinburn Community Centre  
3045 Kinburn Side Road, Kinburn, ON

- December 3rd, 2016 • 2:00-4:00pm  
Intercultural Dialogue Institute  
335 Michael Cowpland Drive #112, Kanata, ON

For more information, please contact his office at 613-599-3000 or email [jack.maclarenco@pc.ola.org](mailto:jack.maclarenco@pc.ola.org)

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Let's Stay In Touch

# SchoolBOX founder awarded Meritorious Service Cross

BY JESSICA CUNHA  
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An Almonte man was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General for his educational work in Nicaragua on Nov. 25.

Tom Affleck, founder of SchoolBOX, has built more than 80 classrooms and provided supplies to tens of thousands of students, allowing them to attend school and gain an education.

"This is a recognition of the SchoolBOX community and the work we've done together," said Affleck, in a phone interview shortly after the ceremony. "I couldn't be more grateful. I'm really looking forward to building more schools and helping more kids get an education."

Affleck, 38, founded SchoolBOX in 2006, a year after he travelled to Nicaragua while working on a separate project. On a whim, he took notebooks and pencils with him when he visited a farmer in the northern part of the country.

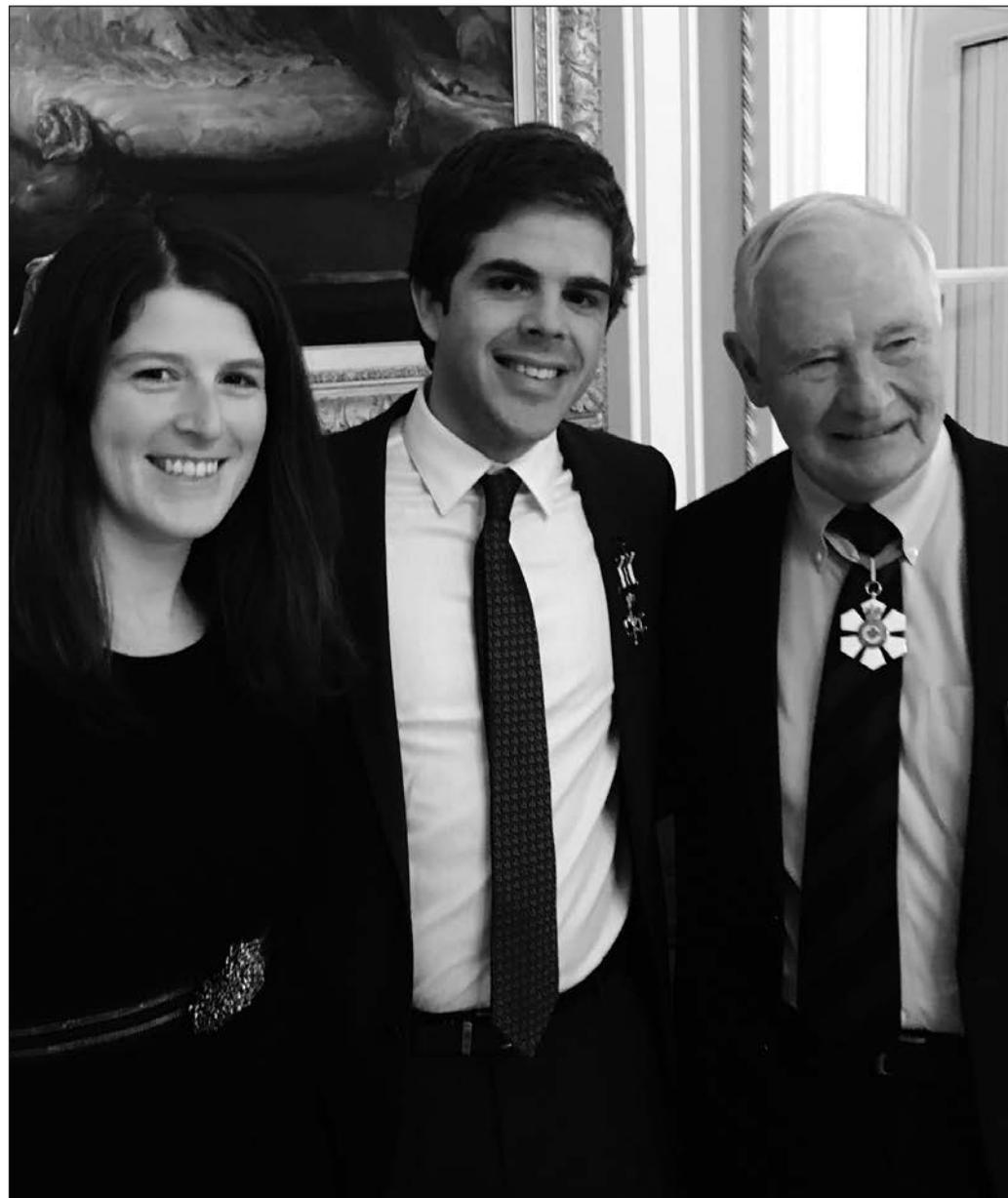
The farmer's face "lit up" when he presented the school supplies, which would allow the farmer's daughter to attend school. She had been unable to attend class before because the family couldn't afford 50-cents worth of school supplies, said Affleck.

"It profoundly shocked me and impacted me," he said. "My passion became helping children with really basic supplies, which moved into building schools and libraries and sports programs."

Affleck said he works with close to 20,000 students and teachers in Nicaragua every year.

### HONOUR TO CANADA

Gov. Gen. David Johnston presented Affleck with the Meritorious Service Cross on Nov. 25 at a ceremony at Rideau Hall. The national honour recognizes a deed or activity "performed in an outstandingly professional manner, or with uncommonly high standards. The activity is often innovative, sets an example for others to follow, improves the quality of life of a community and brings considerable benefit or honour to Canada." Mississippi Mills Mayor



SchoolBOX founder Tom Affleck (centre) receives the Meritorious Service Cross from Governor General David Johnston at a ceremony at Rideau Hall on Nov. 25. Affleck is joined by his wife Sarah Kerr, SchoolBOX executive director.

CRAIG HALL

Shaun McLaughlin was one of the nominators who put Affleck's name forward for the Meritorious Service Cross.

"Tom Affleck is an example to all Canadians, teaching us that we don't have to be content with the status quo for disadvantaged people," said McLaughlin. "He has inspired hundreds of volunteers in our community and right across Canada to participate in SchoolBOX, and our town is very proud of his accomplishments."

SchoolBOX has supplied more than 475,000 notebooks to children, which allows them to attend class.

"We're really working with people who have significant needs," said Affleck. "It's a huge motivational lift for the community."

Often, after SchoolBOX has built a classroom in a community, additional infrastructure follows, such as water services, roads and health centres, said Affleck.

"These are all projects that have come in after we've helped to get the communities on the map," he said. "It's been amazing to see how the communities have been lifted up."

Affleck's wife and executive director of SchoolBOX, Sarah

Kerr, oversees the day-to-day administration of the organization. She travelled to Nicaragua on Nov. 26 with 12 people from Equator Coffee to break ground on a new school.

Over the years, Affleck and has worked with a number of churches in the Kanata, Stittsville and Carp areas, as well as community and school groups in Ottawa and the Valley, to build schools.

"It's just wonderful how the community has come behind us; that's really the SchoolBOX story," said Affleck. "It's a really uplifting and inspiring experience."