

# Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont



## YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 23, Spring 2014

Dear Constituents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. This issue highlights some of the areas where Canada's government is working to strengthen our economy to ensure the prosperity of Canadians.

In addition, the release of the 2014 Federal Budget shows our government's commitment to job creation and economic growth. Many initiatives were set out in the budget to provide Canadians with access to jobs, including the Canada Job Grant which links people looking for work with in-demand jobs. These steps were created to keep Canada on track to balance the budget in 2015.

On the subject of the budget, I'd like to acknowledge the incredible contributions to our country made by the Honourable Jim Flaherty, who passed away on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Jim was a great man, and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to have worked alongside him over the past 8 years.

There's more to read in this edition, but most importantly, I would love for you to provide me with some feedback as to what matters to you. You can reach out to me by sending an email, filling out the feedback form on the third page, or attending one of our constituent roundtable meetings. I look forward to hearing from you!



Mike and Jaden with the Prime Minister  
on World Autism Awareness Day

## Staying Focused on Jobs and Growth - Economic Action Plan 2014

Ottawa

Economic Action Plan 2014 (EAP 2014) continues to support jobs and growth by connecting Canadians with available jobs, strengthening Canada's labour market and investing in the workforce of tomorrow.

### Connecting Canadians With Available Jobs

Since 2006, the Government has taken action to create jobs and economic growth by keeping taxes low for Canadians and Canadian businesses, equipping Canadians with the skills and training they need to succeed, supporting advanced research and innovation, reducing red tape, and creating a new Building Canada infrastructure plan. EAP 2014 continues to create an environment for Canadians to succeed by strengthening policies that align skills training and development with labour market needs.

### Ensuring Training Reflects Labour Market Needs

Canada has had a remarkable job creation record in recent years. However, challenges remain as too many Canadians are still out of work or underutilized at a time when skills and labour shortages are re-emerging in certain sectors and regions. To better align training with labour market needs, the Canada Job Grant will be launched in 2014. The Government of Canada will continue to work closely with provinces and territories toward the implementation of the Canada Job Grant and the renewal of the Labour Market Agreements. The Government will also renegotiate the \$1.95-billion-per-year Labour Market Development Agreements to reorient training toward labour market demand.

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## Strengthening the Value of Canadian Citizenship

Ottawa

Canada's immigration system is well recognized as one of the most the most generous and welcoming in the world but we must make sure that it continues to protect and promote Canadian interests and values. Our Conservative Government has already taken important steps to improve the efficiency and integrity of our immigration system. The introduction of the *Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act*, the first comprehensive reform of the *Citizenship Act* in a generation, will build on our accomplishments.

These reforms include important measures to strengthen the value of Canadian Citizenship, while continuing to improve the citizenship system and protect taxpayers. Our Government's changes are a reflection of the belief that Canadian citizenship is not just a passport of convenience. Rather, Canadian citizenship comes with rights and responsibilities, and a commitment to Canada and Canadian values.

To help ensure that citizenship applicants maintain strong ties to Canada, we are extending the residency requirements to four of the six previous years for which a physical presence in Canada is required. We will also require that applicants between the age of 14 and 64 years of age meet language requirements in French or English and pass a knowledge test. These requirements will help ensure that new Canadians are fully prepared to participate in Canadian society.

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**Strengthening the Value of Canadian Citizenship**

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**Reducing Processing Times**  
*Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act Amendments*

<p><b>Today...</b></p> <p><b>3-step process</b></p>  <p>1 Citizenship Officer 2 Citizenship Judge 3 Citizenship Officer</p> <p><i>Large backlog and more applications than we can process in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><b>Processing time:</b> <b>24-36 months</b></p> <p><b>Large backlog: more than 320,000</b></p>	<p><b>By 2015-2016...</b></p> <p><b>1-step process</b></p>  <p>1 Citizenship Officer</p> <p><i>Working inventory and ability to process all applications in a timely manner.</i></p> <p><b>Processing time:</b> <b>Less than one year</b></p> <p><b>Real-time processing</b></p>
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We are helping improve the integrity of our immigration system, as we crack down on citizenship fraud with stronger penalties for fraud and misrepresentation. We are making sure people who commit serious crimes abroad can't become Canadian citizens. We are also revoking Canadian citizenship from dual-nationals convicted of terrorism, high treason, spying offences or who take up arms against Canada. What's more, any permanent resident who commits any of these acts will be barred from applying for Canadian citizenship.

In recognition of their important contributions, we will fast track applications for permanent residents who serve as members of the Canadian Armed Forces. We will extend citizenship to children adopted or born to Canadian parents serving the Crown abroad. We are also taking action to right the historical wrong of so-called "Lost Canadians" once and for all.

Canadian citizenship is more popular than ever. In addition to strengthening requirements for citizenship, important measures that we are introducing to streamline the application process will significantly improve the efficiency of our immigration system. Reducing the decision-making process from three steps to one is projected to reduce the processing time to less than a year by 2015-2016. And, by modestly increasing citizenship fees to better reflect the actual processing cost, we are relieving the burden on Canadian taxpayers, creating a more efficient system for those applying for it.

For more information on the Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act please visit [www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Citizenship](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Citizenship)

**Staying Focused on Jobs and Growth - Economic Action Plan 2014**

*(Continued from page 1)*

THE ROAD TO BALANCE :  
**CREATING JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES**



**Labour Market Agreements for Persons With Disabilities**

As announced in Economic Action Plan 2013, the Government will provide \$222 million annually, matched by the provinces and territories, over the next four years, through a new generation of Labour Market Agreements for Persons with Disabilities. The new agreements will engage employers and disability community organizations to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities and employers. Two complementary initiatives supported through EAP 2014 are an investment of \$15 million over three years to connect persons with developmental disabilities with jobs through the Ready, Willing & Able initiative of the Canadian Association for Community Living, and an investment of \$11.4 million over four years to support the expansion of vocational training programs for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Enhanced Job Matching Service and Modernized National Job Bank**

EAP 2014 will invest \$11.8 million over two years and \$3.3 million per year on an ongoing basis to launch an enhanced Job Matching Service. It will ensure Canadians are given the first chance at available jobs that match their skills in their local area.

**Fostering job creation, innovation and trade**

Given the ongoing uncertain global economic environment, it is important for the Government to continue to pursue the objectives that have underpinned the *EAP* since its inception. To this end, the Government has announced and implemented a number of targeted, affordable measures that support advanced research and innovation, reduce red tape and help Canadian businesses become more competitive here and around the world.

EAP 2014 builds on this foundation by investing in initiatives that will:

- Create the new Canada First Research Excellence Fund with \$1.5 billion in new funding over the next decade to help Canadian post-secondary institutions excel globally in research areas that create long-term economic advantages for Canada.
- Provide an additional \$500 million over two years to the Automotive Innovation Fund, to support significant new strategic research and development projects and long-term investments in the Canadian automotive sector.
- Continue to reduce the tax compliance and regulatory burden for small and medium-sized businesses and other tax filers.

With these and other measures, EAP 2014 continues to support jobs and growth.

For more information about Economic Action Plan 2014 please visit [www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Budget](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Budget)

**The Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement - Benefits for Alberta**

**Edmonton**

The Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will bring benefits to every region of Canada. It will unlock new opportunities by opening new markets for Canadian businesses and creating new jobs for Canadian workers. CETA is a 21st-century, gold-standard agreement - Canada's most ambitious trade initiative ever. It is broader in scope and deeper in ambition than the historic North American Free Trade Agreement.

Canada's historical and cultural ties with the EU make it an ideal partner for a comprehensive and ambitious free trade agreement. The EU, with its 28 member states, 500 million people and annual economic activity of almost \$17 trillion, is the largest and most lucrative market in the world. It is also the world's largest importing market for goods: the EU's annual imports (\$2.3 trillion) are worth more than Canada's total gross domestic product (GDP), which stood at \$1.8 trillion in 2012. Reducing and eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers will make Canadian goods, technologies and expertise more competitive in the lucrative EU market and benefit businesses of all sizes, as well as workers and their families.

A joint Canada-EU study, which supported the launch of negotiations, concluded that a trade agreement could boost Canada's income by \$12 billion annually and bilateral trade by 20 percent. Put another way, the economic benefit of a far-reaching agreement would be equivalent to creating almost 80,000 new jobs or increasing the average Canadian household's annual income by \$1,000. This is like adding one and a half times the total number of jobs currently found in Red Deer to the Canadian economy.

Across Canada, workers and businesses from a wide range of sectors will benefit from increased access to the EU's lucrative market—the largest in the world. This enhanced access will give a competitive edge to Canadians in all 13 provinces and territories.

Albertans stand to benefit significantly from this preferred access to the EU market. The EU is already Alberta's fourth-largest export destination after the United States, China, and Japan, and Alberta's third-largest trading partner, after the United States and China. CETA will eliminate tariffs on almost all of Alberta's key exports when it comes into force, and will provide access to new market opportunities in the EU. Exporters will also benefit from other CETA provisions that will improve conditions for export—provisions, for example, that ease regulatory barriers, reinforce intellectual property rights and ensure more transparent rules for market access. For more information please visit [www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/CETA](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/CETA).



## You're Invited to our Pancake Breakfast

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 21st - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**WHERE:** 9225 - 28 Avenue NW (Long & McQuade Building)

*In Support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area.*

You are invited to our annual pancake breakfast in support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area on Saturday, June 21st, 2014.

For more information please visit:  
[www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Breakfast](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/Breakfast)

## Shell Quest Project Tour

### Fort Saskatchewan

On Thursday, April 17, Mike participated in a tour of the Shell Quest Project on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford to showcase international leadership on carbon capture and storage, and the progress that has been made.

The Shell Quest Project will capture and store more than one million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from an oil sands upgrader by the end of 2015. The Government of Canada is contributing \$120 million and the Government Alberta is contributing \$745 million in funding to this project.

The Government of Canada has invested about \$580 million since 2008 for various research, development and demonstration initiatives for carbon capture and storage, including three large-scale demonstration projects currently under construction. These investments have been provided through a range of federal funding mechanisms including the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative, the Clean Energy Fund, and Budget 2008.



Mike and Alberta's Minister of Energy, Diana McQueen, tour the Shell Quest Project in Fort Saskatchewan.

To learn more about carbon capture and storage please visit:  
[www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/CCS](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/CCS)



Mike, his daughter Jenae, and fellow volunteers, Emmanuel and Ashley lend a hand at Homeless Connect Edmonton.

## Homeless Connect Edmonton

### Edmonton

Homeless Connect Edmonton is a bi-annual, community-inspired event that provides free essential services to homeless and at-risk individuals on one day and at one location.

Homeless Connect's mission is to:

- Provide services that open doors out of homelessness;
- Build lasting partnerships;
- Raise public awareness of homelessness in the community; and,
- Provide a vehicle for community involvement.

The event is organized and directed by a steering committee comprising members from a variety of organizations, and is managed through a partnership between Homeward Trust Edmonton, Edmonton Economic Development Corporation, Shaw Conference Centre and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. Additionally, the event is serviced by local community providers and staffed by enthusiastic and passionate volunteers.

For more information please visit:  
[www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/HomelessConnect](http://www.MikeLake.ca/Spring2014/HomelessConnect)

## YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA: MIKE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**We've said that we'll balance Canada's federal budget by 2015. In which three areas would you suggest the government could spend less of your tax dollars?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How would you rate the overall performance of the Conservative Government?**

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

**How would you rate Mike's performance as your Member of Parliament?**

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Please complete the survey and send it back to our office, *postage free*. Feel free to fold and tape to conceal personal information, but please do not staple.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

Our offices are here to be of service to you.

*We regularly help constituents:*

- Navigate their way through federal government departments and services;
- Obtain Canadian flags and pins for travel abroad;
- Receive Congratulatory Certificates for milestone birthdays and anniversaries from the Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Governor General, and Her Majesty the Queen;
- Get answers to immigration questions; and
- Find information on government policies and procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments or concerns and we would be more than happy to assist you.

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**Glenrose Hospital Presentation**

Mike joined Lyn Sonnenberg, Program Director for Developmental Pediatrics, for an interactive session with developmental pediatric fellows at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.



**Mike Visits Autism Artistry**

Mike had the opportunity to meet with Ben and Grant Kurtz. The brothers, who both have autism, use their passion for art and photography to support the Autism Society.



**Mike Meets Chris Hadfield**

In January, Mike had the opportunity, along with Chris Hadfield, to address the Institut National d'Optique conference in Québec City.



**Mike Visits the Abilities Centre**

Mike toured the Abilities Centre in Whitby, Ontario with Executive Director, Leo Plue. The Abilities Centre is a world-leading, inclusive community recreational centre.



**Mike Visits Unicef Canada**

In February, Mike spent time at Unicef Canada with CEO David Morley and Director of International Policy, Meaghan French. Unicef is the world's largest humanitarian organization.



**Mike Visits Kate Chegwin School**

In March, Mike had the opportunity to speak about his role as a Member of Parliament to the Grade nine classes at Kate Chegwin School.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No Postage Required



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