



Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Vol 1. Summer 2006

Dear Constituents,

In January you entrusted me with the privilege to serve as your Member of Parliament. Over the past six months, I have worked hard alongside the rest of our new government to enact real change for Canadians. This is the first edition of what we plan to be a quarterly newsletter, designed to update you on the plans and progress of your new government in Ottawa. As well we will update you on issues and events specific to the Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont constituency, and most importantly provide you with contact information and tools to allow you to give us valuable feedback on how you think we are doing.

Committee Work

Since the election, the vast majority of my time has been spent in Ottawa. While the learning process has been exciting, it has also been very demanding. The new Conservative Government has a targeted, but ambitious agenda, and our party’s new MPs have been asked to serve on two committees each. I am fortunate to have been asked to serve on two important committees - Public Accounts and Human Resources and Social Development (HUMA).

On the first committee I have the honour of working alongside the dean of Public Accounts, St. Albert MP John Williams as we work to ensure that Canadians get the accountable government they expect and deserve. On the HUMA committee, we are currently undertaking a study of employment issues, including

Employment Insurance, skills shortages, labour mobility and foreign credentials, among other topics of considerable importance to Albertans.

Constituency Office

Immediately after the election my staff and I set to work to locate a central constituency office location (see back page for address information) where we could provide the highest level of service to our constituents. We are already among the top ridings in the country in terms of case work, mostly in the area of immigration. In fact, the staff recently received a significant commendation from the Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister of Immigration, in regards to the professionalism and efficiency with which they manage this very sensitive and significant responsibility.

In closing, let me express my sincere appreciation for allowing me to serve you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions, or if there is any way in which I or my staff may be able to help you.

Regards,

Mike Lake, MP

Lake Makes Splash with Maiden Speech

Speech Highlights Conservative Priorities, Autism

House of Commons
Ottawa

Mr. Mike Lake (Edmonton—Mill Woods—Beaumont, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I will be splitting my time with the honourable member for Simcoe North.

I would like to dedicate this, my maiden speech, to my father Mark Lake who passed away three years ago this week. Given my lack of political involvement during his lifetime, he would not have dreamt for a second that I would today have this great honour – and yet I can scarcely imagine being here had it not been for his wisdom and influence in my life.

It is my tremendous pleasure to stand here on behalf of the people of Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont. As this is my first time speaking in this House, I’d like to take a few moments to express some appreciation.

First, I want to thank God for the experiences in my life - even the hard ones - that have prepared me for this moment and those that will follow. I thank my family, my wife Debi and my kids Jaden and Jenae, for embarking with me on this family adventure.

I want to thank my mom Bonnie, for showing me by her daily example what it means to put others before yourself. And my Grandma Eleanor Lake, for giving me my Dad and for teaching him to be the amazing father that he was.

I thank all of my constituents, regardless of who they voted for, for making our little piece of Canada such a wonderful place to live. Mr. Speaker, my constituency is a perfect snapshot capturing what makes Canada the greatest country in the world – a mix of urban and rural, French and English, blue collar and white collar, and truly multicultural, with 30% of the population being from a visible minority.

This constituency is also representative of the Canada-wide recognition that we need to change the way we govern this country if it is to remain great. On January 23rd, the people of Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont, who had elected a Liberal in each of the past four elections, voted Conservative by a 17,000 vote margin.

At this time I’d like to recognize the man who served Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont prior to the last election, a dedicated and well-respected parliamentarian for 26 years, the Honourable David Kilgour. The reason that the Liberals were able to hold on to this seat for so long is that David knew the importance of putting his constituents first, and he had a heart for service. For that he will always be held in high regard by the people back home.



Mike and his family, at his House of Commons swearing-in ceremony.

Autism

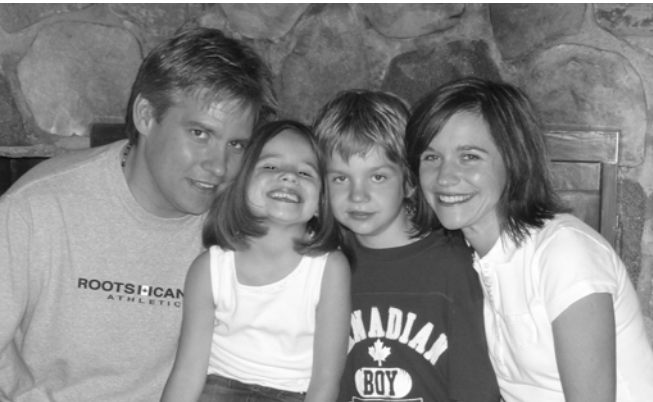
I will move on to talk about the Speech from the Throne in a moment, but first I want to acknowledge a group of Canadians who are close to my heart. They, like myself, are parents of children with autism. My son Jaden is ten years old now, and was diagnosed with autism when he was two.

Mr. Speaker, I would like those parents to know that I have been where they are. I have experienced the same emotions that they are experiencing right now – the intense love that a parent has for their child, the fear that accompanies the discovery that there is something different about the way their child is developing, the hope of finding out that there is a treatment that is helping other children with similar challenges, and the utter frustration and disappointment as time ticks away while the child waits for that treatment.

I am also fortunate enough to have lived in a province that has made treating autism a priority. I absolutely believe that my son is a different person because of the behavioural therapy he has received over the past eight years.

While it seems clear that the responsibility for providing the treatment programs

(Continued on page 2)



Mike, daughter Jenae, son Jaden and wife Debi.

children with autism so desperately need lies with the provinces and territories, I want those parents to know that I will do everything that I can do to promote action to the full extent that the federal government can play a role within its area of authority.

Federal Accountability Act

Now Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the five main priorities of this new government, starting of course with the revolutionary Federal Accountability Act and accountability in general.

A lot of people have asked me what it was that drove me to leave my business career with the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club and move into the world of politics. Over the past several years, I have been growing increasingly disillusioned and frustrated with the disastrous combination of high taxation and the lack of both stewardship and vision shown by the previous Liberal government.

A quote by Alexander Hamilton sums up my feelings and I think those of many Canadians who have started to wake up - just in time - to what has been happening over the past thirteen years.

He said, “Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything.”

With this Speech From the Throne, we finally have a government that is prepared to stand up for something, a government that recognizes what so many Canadians already know – that as great a country as Canada is, we can be so much better!

Accountability is not something to be feared, unless you are hiding something. In fact, most business managers would tell you that a well-planned and straightforward budget and a good set of rules to monitor and govern it are actually very freeing. When I was the Director of Ticket Sales with the Edmonton Oilers, I had to submit - and then operate within - an expense budget for my department. On a fairly regular basis, I would sit down with our Vice President of Finance and make sure that we were running smoothly according to the rules we had set out. I enjoyed this process because *I knew* that I was being a good steward of the company’s money and it was important to me that the shareholders were comfortable with that knowledge as well.

Mr. Speaker, here *our* shareholders are all Canadians and they deserve to have that same level of accountability, that same comfort level and that is what the Federal Accountability Act is all about.

GST Reduction

The second of the five priorities mentioned in the Speech from the Throne is the commitment to reduce the GST, immediately from seven percent to six percent and then eventually to five percent.

As has been mentioned several times in this House, but seems to be conveniently ignored by those across the floor is the fact that this is a tax cut that will benefit *every single taxpayer* in the country, including those at the lowest income levels who do not make enough money to even pay income taxes in the first place.

“This is a tax cut that people will see every single day.”

This is a tax cut that people will see every single day and can’t be taken away by stealth while they are out working hard to make ends meet. Most importantly it

is a clear, unambiguous step in the right direction for all Canadians.

Tackling Crime

Mr. Speaker, the third of the five priorities in the Speech from the Throne is the promise to make the safety of our streets and our citizens a priority.

As I have talked to the people in my constituency, both during the election campaign and since, the topic of crime is consistently brought up, with almost unanimous support for the positions we have laid out in this area.

Citizens, as well as police and prosecutors, are sick and tired of the rights of criminals trumping the rights of law-abiding citizens.

“It’s time to treat serious crime seriously”

It is time to treat serious crime seriously – it sounds so ridiculously simple, and yet we are constantly hearing about violent criminals receiving short or conditional sentences, often only to re-offend when they should still be in prison. That is clearly unacceptable.

Health Care – Patient Wait Times Guarantee

I am going to skip the fourth of the five priorities, child care, but I will come back to it in a moment. The fifth priority is the government’s commitment to work with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee.

Along with accountability and crime, health care was one of the top three issues people in my riding wanted to talk about at the doorsteps during the campaign. There are many concerns, but the general theme I heard was that the health care system is not working the way it should for the amount of money going into it. The complaints were almost never about the level of investment in the system. Rather the conversation almost always centered around the return Canadians are getting in terms of service.

Canadians want and deserve a universal, publicly-funded healthcare system they can trust to be there for them when they need it. With our aging population, the demands on this system are only going to increase. It is good to see that we finally have a federal government that is making the health care of Canadians a priority.



“Canadians want and deserve a universal, publicly-funded healthcare system ...”

Universal Child Care Benefit

Mr. Speaker, I have purposely left until the end of my time the Choice in Child Care Plan, because I want to give it the attention it deserves. Let me begin by saying that I don’t begrudge parents choosing to send their kids to daycare. It is a choice that my wife and I have not made for our family, but I have many friends and family members who are terrific parents and use daycare.

I also want to point out that our Choice in Child Care Plan, unlike the Liberal Plan, has a component whereby we will work with the provinces and territories, employers, and community and non-profit organizations to create more child care spaces that meet the needs of ordinary Canadians.

During the election campaign I heard the former Prime Minister talk often about the Liberal Daycare Plan as the first new social program in a generation. Backed by an army of government-funded special interest

groups, Liberals espoused the virtues of their sacred and “progressive” daycare plan, which blatantly left hundreds of thousands of Canadian families unfairly paying through their taxes to fund other families’ child care choices.

“We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be.”
- C.S. Lewis

To quote the view of C.S. Lewis on progress in general - and bear with me, it’s a long quote, but it captures the essence of this debate perfectly in my mind – he said:

“We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.”



The Matychuk family.

To illustrate the difference between the two plans, I want to use the example of a family in my riding for whom I have tremendous respect – the Matychuk family. Jeff and Nancy Matychuk have five children, ranging in age from 5 to 14. They are a one-income family with one vehicle – a twelve-year old minivan that does the job, usually – and they live in a modest home with no garage. Jeff takes the bus to work, a one-hour ride each way downtown, so that Nancy can have the van to move the kids around. Jeff’s income last year was about \$39,000.

The Matychuks do not use daycare – institutional or otherwise – and their kids are as well-rounded, mature, and social as any you will ever meet. This is a truly incredible family who has chosen to forgo many of the luxuries we take for granted, because they feel it is the best decision for their family and they do it gladly.

For the purpose of this illustration I want to pretend that Jeff and Nancy were just starting their family and that Amy, the 14-year old was born this year.

Under the Conservative Choice in Childcare Plan, over the next fifteen years – until the youngest child turns six – the Matychuks would receive 36,000 after-tax dollars to help with the costs of raising their family. Under the Liberal Plan, they would receive absolutely nothing. In fact, under the Liberal Plan they would actually pay through their taxes to send their neighbours’ kids to daycare. That is simply unfair no matter how you look at it.

Thankfully, on January 23rd, Canadians voted for a well thought-out and straightforward plan that will give real support and real choice to all Canadian families when it comes to child care.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude, I wish to take a moment to congratulate all of the members of this House on the honour that their constituents have bestowed on them. I look forward to working together with everyone here to ensure that Canada remains the greatest country in the world in which to live. Thank you.

Budget 2006
Focusing on
Priorities



House of Commons
Ottawa

On Tuesday, May 2, 2006, the Honourable Minister of Finance, James M. Flaherty delivered the minority Conservative government’s maiden budget. Committed to delivering on campaign promises, this budget ushers in a number of new measures focused on tax relief, balanced with responsible social spending.

The budget provides meaningful tax relief for all Canadians. It delivers more tax relief than the last four federal budgets combined. In particular, these measures will have a substantial impact on middle-class working families with young children. Budget 2006 provides \$5.2 billion over two years in increased support for Canadians and their families. To take a look at the Budget 2006 document in its entirety, visit the Department of Finance’s budget website at:
www.fin.gc.ca/budtoce/2006/budliste.htm#2

From the 302 page Budget document here are some highlights that will be meaningful to the people of this constituency:

Opportunity

- This budget offers comprehensive tax relief for individuals, valued at almost \$20 billion over the next two years—more than the last four federal budgets combined. As a result, about 655,000 low income Canadians will be removed from the tax rolls altogether.
- The GST has been reduced by 1 percentage point as of July 1, 2006.

- Personal income taxes will be reduced for all taxpayers, through measures such as the introduction of the new Canada Employment Credit; increases in the basic personal amount; and a *permanent legislated* reduction in the lowest tax rate to 15.5 percent from 16 percent.

Universal Child Care Benefit

- \$3.7 billion over two years is dedicated to the Universal Child Care Benefit, which provides all families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6.
- This benefit will not affect federal income-tested benefits and took effect on July 1, 2006.
- \$250 million is dedicated to support the creation of new child care spaces, with a goal of creating 25,000 additional spaces each year.
- For more information:
www.universalchildcare.ca/en/home.shtml



Immigration Measures

- Effective immediately, the Right of Permanent Residence Fee has been reduced from \$975 to \$490.
- Funding for immigration settlement has been increased by \$307 million and steps are being taken towards the establishment of a Canadian agency for the assessment and recognition of foreign credentials.

Cracking Down on Crime

- \$161 million for 1,000 more RCMP officers and federal prosecutors to focus on such law-enforcement priorities as drugs, corruption and border security (including gun-smuggling).
- \$20 million for communities to prevent youth crime with a focus on guns, gangs



- and drugs.
- \$26 million to give victims a more effective voice in the federal corrections and justice system, and to give victims greater access to services.

Environment

- A tax credit for the purchase of monthly public transit passes took effect on July 1, 2006.
- The capital cost allowance for forestry bio-energy will be accelerated.



Supporting a Skilled and Educated Workforce

- A \$1000 grant is available for first and second year apprentices.
- A new tax credit of up to \$2,000 is available for employers who hire apprentices.
- A new tax credit for the cost of textbooks has been introduced, which provides a tax reduction of about \$80 per year for a typical full time post-secondary student.
- The current \$3,000 limit on the amount of scholarship, bursary and fellowship income a post-secondary student can receive without paying federal income tax has been eliminated.

Affordable Housing

- The budget confirms up to \$800 million to provinces and territories to address immediate pressures in affordable housing.

Infrastructure

- \$5.5 billion over four years for a new Highways and Border Infrastructure Fund, Canada’s Pacific Gateway Initiative, the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and a Public Transit Capital Trust.

Small Business is Booming in Western Canada

Small business is the heart of the Western Canadian economy.

A new study from the Western Centre for Economic Research at the University of Alberta underlines the importance of small businesses to the economic prosperity of the western provinces.

Revisiting Portraits of Small Business Growth and Employment in Western Canada offers a sectoral and provincial breakdown of small business growth. It found that Western Canada has a disproportionately large share of small businesses in Canada, which reflects the overall strong economic growth in the region, as well as its strong entrepreneurial spirit.

This study was funded by Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD). To learn more about the impact of small business in our province, view the report online at www.bus.ualberta.ca/wcer.

To learn more about WD, visit www.wd.gc.ca or call 1 888 338-WEST (9378).



Mike lends a hand at the ground breaking ceremony for Beaumont’s new Montrose Estates with MLA Bharat Agnihotri, Hasco Development Corp. President Syed Hasan, and Beaumont Mayor Camille Berube.

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

During the Spring and Summer, your new Conservative government made significant progress towards the Five Priorities from the 2006 election campaign: the Federal Accountability Act, GST Reduction, the Universal Child Care Benefit, Tackling Crime, and the implementation of a Patient Wait Times Guarantee.

Now Mike would like to know what *your* next five priorities are for Canada. Please rank your priorities below and mail the form back to Mike – **postage free**.

RANK	PRIORITY
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Add me to your e-mail list? Yes No

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, Governor-General and Her Majesty the Queen
- Help with Immigration questions and issues
- 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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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MIKELAKE.CA



Forum for Young Canadians

Mike with Brad Trost, MP (left) and delegates from Saskatchewan and Alberta.



At Work in the House of Commons

Mike makes a statement in the House. To see more, visit Mike's website at www.mikelake.ca.



Beaumont Town and Country Daze

Mike and his son Jaden hand out Canada flags and pins at the 2006 Beaumont Daze Parade.



MPs Show Support for the Oilers

Edmonton MPs (from left) Ken Epp, Rahim Jaffer, **Mike Lake**, James Rajotte, John Williams, Laurie Hawn and Rona Ambrose.



Not Quite The World Cup

Mike and fellow Conservative MPs (from left) Rahim Jaffer, Ron Cannan, Maxime Bernier, Luc Harvey, Peter MacKay and James Moore took on the media in a soccer match on the front lawn of Parliament Hill.



Mike Celebrates Canada Day

Mike raises the flag as the chief guest of the Mill Woods Cultural Society of the Retired and Semi-Retired with Mayor Stephen Mandel. In all Mike and his family attended six events to celebrate Canada Day.

No
Postage
Required

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