



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 3, Winter 2007

Dear Constituents,

The fall session of Parliament was a lively one and the Christmas break allows us to reflect on the progress that has been made so far, and to prepare for the January return to the House of Commons. Most importantly though, the break allows all of us to spend some quality time with family and friends, something that is so easily neglected in the busyness of our day-to-day lives. I hope that the holiday season treated all of you well, and that you were able to enjoy time with your loved ones.

In this newsletter you will find information from Ottawa - regarding the *Clean Air Act* put forward by your New Conservative Government this fall; the *Tax Fairness Plan* dealing with Income Trusts and Pension Income Splitting; and *Advantage Canada*, a bold long term vision for the Canadian economy laid out by the Finance Minister. As well, you will read about some terrific people from right here in the riding – Youth Leadership Award recipients, Mill Woods Community Patrol volunteers, and a couple from my own neighbourhood who are an example to us all.

I would also like to reiterate the importance of communication and thank all of the constituents who have taken the time to connect with my office by visiting, calling on the phone, sending us a note either in the mail or electronically, or filling out a comment card like the one on page three. In particular, I would like to

congratulate **Ms. Janelda Cornfield**, the winner of our survey draw from my last newsletter. I am committed to representing your perspectives here in Ottawa, so please continue to assist me by returning the comment card from this issue.

My family and I thank you all so much for making 2006 one of the most interesting and rewarding years of our lives. We wish you all the best in 2007, and I look forward to continuing to serve you and pursue your interests in Ottawa.

Regards,

Mike Lake, Member of Parliament
Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont



Mike and his wife, Debi, with constituents, Jake and Marie Penner

Getting to Know Your Neighbours:

Mike Makes a Statement in the House of Commons Encouraging Community-Building

Constituency Office Edmonton

On each day that the House of Commons sits, during the fifteen minutes prior to Question Period, Members of Parliament are given the opportunity to stand up and speak for one minute at a time on whatever subject they wish. These one-minute speeches are referred to on the Hill as SO 31's, because the time allotted for them is set out in Standing Order 31 in the *Standing Orders of the House of Commons* – the rules by which the House of Commons operates.

As the 39th Parliament resumed this fall, Mike stood in the House and used an SO 31 to make a statement, following closely on the heels of the Dawson College shooting and other troubling events that captured both national and international attention this summer.

Here is what Mike had to say:

“Mr. Speaker, I want to dedicate this statement to my constituents, Jake and Marie Penner. No matter who one is or where one comes from, within a week of moving into our neighbourhood, one can count on a warm welcoming visit from Jake and Marie.

Most Canadians, including myself, can take a lesson from the Penners. That simple lesson can be applied to some of the very complicated public safety and security issues that we are grappling with today. Over the spring and summer our new Conservative government has made progress by introducing measures to get tough on crime, but no amount of legislation, no amount of enforcement is going to entirely eliminate the presence of evil in our society.

As Canadians, we can take a more proactive role in crime prevention simply by practicing what Jake and Marie do every day: getting to know our neighbours.

Some may accuse me of being idealistic, but hate as an attitude and violence as its subsequent action both feed on a lack of understanding and isolation. People like Jake and Marie choose to focus their energy on building relationships instead of walls. As more of us curb our cynicism and follow their example, Canada will be better for it.”

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On Duty With Mill Woods Community Patrol

Constituency Office Edmonton



Early this fall, Mike spent a Saturday evening patrolling the streets of Mill Woods with the Mill Woods Community Patrol. He worked with a team from 11:30 pm to 3:30 am, learning about this non-profit volunteer organization. “It was a great experience,” Mike said afterwards. “I had an opportunity to work with some terrific people who are making a very significant contribution towards reducing crime in our community.”

The purpose of this organization is to “proactively engage citizens in crime prevention for a safe and healthy community.” The opportunity to participate in an evening with this group lent itself well to Mike’s efforts to strengthen and build a greater sense of community in Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont.

Strong, safe and healthy communities require the active participation of the individuals of which they are composed. The Mill Woods Community Patrol is an exceptional program, drawing together residents of Mill Woods with a common goal of making this community a safer place to raise our families.

For more information about volunteering for the Mill Woods Community Patrol please contact them:

On the web at: www.mwcp.ca

By telephone: 780.426.8246

Building a Strong Economy for Canadians

Parliamentary Office Ottawa

On November 23, 2006, Canada’s New Government released *Advantage Canada: Building a Strong Economy for Canadians*, a long-term, national economic plan designed to make Canada a true world economic leader. The Plan sets out a national goal of eliminating Canada’s net debt in less than a generation. The interest savings generated by this ambitious initiative will be returned directly to Canadian taxpayers through a reduction in personal income taxes. This “Tax Back Guarantee” will give Canadians a direct stake and a direct benefit in how we manage government finances on their behalf.

“Advantage Canada is a bold new long-term economic plan that will create opportunities for families and businesses in Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont to reach their potential and succeed,” Mike commented. “The Plan will make Canada’s strong economy even stronger by lowering the debt, reducing taxes, developing a skilled and educated workforce and building modern roads, bridges and public transit.”

Advantage Canada seeks to build Canada’s competitive advantage in five key areas:

Tax Advantage —Reducing taxes for all Canadians.

Fiscal Advantage —Setting out on a national goal to eliminate Canada’s net debt in less than a generation.

Entrepreneurial Advantage —Reducing unnecessary regulation and red tape and increasing competition in the Canadian marketplace.

Knowledge Advantage —Creating the best-educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world.

Infrastructure Advantage —Building the modern infrastructure we need through public private partnerships.

Advantage Canada is based on core principles that will guide the Government’s future policy decisions. The principles are:

Focusing government. Government will be focused on responsible spending, efficiency in its operations, and accountable to taxpayers.

Creating opportunities and choices for people. Government will create incentives for people to excel by reducing taxes and investing in education, training and transition to work opportunities.

Investing for sustainable growth. Government will invest and seek partnerships with the provinces and the private sector in strategic areas including primary scientific research, a clean environment and modern infrastructure.

Freeing businesses to grow and succeed. Government will create the right economic conditions to encourage firms to invest and flourish.

Canada’s New Government delivered its first Economic and Fiscal Update and it highlighted Canada’s strong economic fundamentals, including:

- An unemployment rate that is near its lowest level in over 30 years, with more than 260,000 new jobs created so far this year; and
- Low, stable and predictable inflation with the renewal of Canada’s inflation-control target to 2011.

“Unlike previous governments, we don’t see growth and surpluses as a license to spend,” said Mike. “We are determined to grow our economy, control our spending and give the benefits of debt and tax reductions directly back to families and taxpayers in Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont.”

Taking Responsibility on Climate Change

Parliamentary Office Ottawa

Canada’s New Government is taking the issue of climate change seriously. We recognize the challenges that will face future generations of Canadians if we do not put in place measures to address this growing problem. As a result, Environment Minister Rona Ambrose (Edmonton - Spruce Grove) announced the *Clean Air Act* on October 19, 2006, in the House of Commons. But, what is the *Clean Air Act*? And how will it deliver results to Canadians?

Designed to tackle air pollution and greenhouse gases, Canada’s Clean Air Act will take practical and achievable steps toward:

- Moving industry from voluntary compliance to strict enforcement;
- Replacing the current ad-hoc, patchwork regulatory system with clear and comprehensive national standards; and,
- Instituting a holistic approach that doesn’t treat the related issues of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions in isolation.

The Clean Air Act contains three key elements:

- **Creating** a new Clean Air Section in the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) to strengthen the government’s ability to take action to reduce air emissions. This would authorize the government to regulate indoor and outdoor air pollutants and greenhouse gases, and require the Ministers of Environment and Health to establish national air quality objectives, as well as monitor and report publicly on their attainment.

- **Amending** the Motor Vehicle Fuel Consumption Standards Act to enhance the Government of Canada’s authority to regulate vehicle fuel efficiency. Setting these standards would help ensure reduced emissions from vehicles purchased in Canada.
- **Expanding** the authorities under the Energy Efficiency Act to allow the government to set energy efficiency standards and labelling requirements for a wider range of consumer and commercial products.

The introduction of Canada’s Clean Air Act builds on earlier environmental initiatives from Canada’s New Government, including:

- Action to reduce the release of mercury into our surroundings;
- Reductions to the release of toxic substances from base metal smelters;
- New tax incentives for the banking of environmentally-sensitive lands;
- Funding for the development of renewable fuels; and,
- The introduction of new infrastructure funding dedicated to public transit, as well as tax credits for the people who use public transportation.

All of these measures have this in common, they are focused on outcomes and achievable results in creating a healthier ecosystem for ourselves and future generations over the long term.

These measures, designed to improve Canadians’ quality of life, are welcome after years of neglect under the previous Liberal government, which saw:

- A 31% increase over the emissions targets set in Kyoto;



Mike and Edmonton-Strathcona MP, Rahim Jaffer, participate in Clean Air Day activities with school children in Edmonton.

- A sharp decline in air quality in every major Canadian city; and,
- A slide to 28th (out of 29 countries) in the OECD’s pollution rankings.

No more. Canada’s New Government is going to replace cheap talk on the environment with action to clean up the air we breathe and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The government will consult extensively with industry, the provinces and territories to ensure these new regulations get measurable results on realistic timelines.

For more information, please contact Environment Canada’s Inquiry Centre.

By telephone: 1.800.668.6767

Via e-mail: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

EPS Complaint Line: 423.4567
Crime Stoppers: 1.800.222.TIPS (8477)
Gang Hotline: 414.GANG (4264)
South Side Drug Hotline: 426.8229
Citizen's Police Academy: 421.2626
EPS Crime Prevention Unit: 421.3475

HAVE YOUR SAY

Municipal Representatives (Edmonton):
Mr. Terry Cavanaugh, City Councilor: 496.2378
Mr. Dave Thiele, City Councilor: 496.8142

Municipal Representatives (Beaumont):
Mr. Camille Berube, Mayor: 929.8368
Mr. Keith Gylander, Councilor: 929.5520
Mr. Perry Hendriks, Councilor: 929.5102

PHONE DIRECTORY



Mr. Bill McNamara, Councilor: 929.8215
Mr. Gerry Patsula, Councilor: 929.8862
Mr. Graham Robbins, Councilor: 929.6557
Ms. Louise White-Gibbs, Councilor: 929.8734

Provincial Representatives:
Mr. Bharat Agnihotri, MLA
Edmonton-Ellerslie 414.2000
Mr. George Rogers, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon 986.4652
Mrs. Weslyn Mather, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Woods 414.1000
Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Creek 466.3737

Federal Representative:
Mr. Mike Lake, M.P.
Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont 495.2149

GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

Government of Canada:
Canada Information Office/
Service Canada: 1.800.622.6232
Canada Post: 1.800.267.1177
Citizenship & Immigration: 1.888.242.2100
Passport Office: 1.800.567.6868
Veteran's Affairs: 1.866.522.2122
Employment Insurance: 1.800.206.72.18
Canada Pension Plan: 1.800.277.9914
CPP Appeals Section: 1.800.256.5777
Canada Revenue Agency: 1.800.959.8281
House of Commons
Public Info-line: 1.613.992.4793

Today's Youth,
Tomorrow's Leaders

Mike Carries On David
Kilgour's Youth Leadership
Award Program

Constituency Office
Edmonton

The Youth Leadership Award Program was established by David Kilgour, our former Member of Parliament, who served the majority of what is now Edmonton—Mill Woods—Beaumont for 26 years. Upon Mr. Kilgour's retirement from political office, he asked if Mike would consider keeping the award alive, so as to continue to recognize the outstanding youth of our riding. Mike gladly agreed to take on this very worthwhile project.

The purpose of the Youth Leadership Award is to provide annual recognition to high school students who have proven themselves to be leaders both academically and in other social endeavors. In particular, these students have demonstrated excellent academic achievement by having an average of 80% or higher; have shown good citizenship through their participation in the community; and have contributed positively to their school environments.

This year, awards were presented to exceptional students from each of the four high schools in Mill Woods and Beaumont. These students are:



Mike presents Josiah Martinoski
with a Youth Leadership Award

Afua Gynnen (Holy Trinity)
This fine young lady has accomplished a great deal within her school and the community. She has volunteered for Heritage Days, the Family Center, and in paired reading programs, to name just a few of her contributions.

Scott Kohlert (Beaumont Composite)
Scott is a talented athlete and coach and has served as a role model to others, both in academics and athletics. He is a determined and exceptional young man.

Eric Hong (J.Percy Page)
This gentleman is already incredibly accomplished at a young age. He has been extremely active in both his school and community. Examples include acting as President of the Student Council and volunteering at the Grey Nuns Hospital.

Josiah Martinoski (Millwoods Christian)
Josiah's leadership has been demonstrated in his service to his school and community through his involvement with local charities and international relief/work projects, to name just a few of his undertakings.

Congratulations Award Winners!

Income Trusts
Canada's Tax Fairness Plan

Parliamentary Office
Ottawa

Each and every day Canadians across the country get up and go to work, pay their taxes, and set aside a few dollars for retirement. They trust that their government is watching out for them and upholding the values that make our country great. If there is a problem, they expect us to fix it, if there is an injustice they expect us to right it, if there is a loophole, they expect us to close it. This government takes this responsibility seriously.

Canada's tax system must be progressive, fair and competitive. Over the past few months we have seen a clear tax avoidance trend in the creation of new income trusts. Corporations are converting to these structures and the decisions are largely based on tax considerations. It is not fair to ordinary Canadians and it is not good for the country. This trend is eroding corporate tax revenues, is giving foreign investors an unfair advantage and threatening Canada's long-term economic growth. In response to this trend, the government introduced the Tax Fairness Plan, whose measures include:

- A Distribution Tax on distributions from publicly traded income trusts and limited partnerships.
- A reduction in the general corporate income tax rate of one-half percentage point as of January 1, 2011.

- An increase in the Age Credit Amount by \$1,000, effective January 1, 2006. This will directly benefit low and middle income seniors.
- A major positive change in tax policy for pensioners. The government will permit income splitting for pensioners beginning in 2007.

We recognize that pensioners and seniors have made important investments over the years and may be receiving benefits from the current income trust structure. These final two measures will allow them to retain more of their income in their retirement years. This is a significant step forward in the strengthening of our social security system for pensioners and seniors.

In fact, for a couple with one partner collecting a \$40,000 pension, the savings after splitting would be approximately \$2,500. For a couple with one partner collecting a \$60,000 pension, the savings would be approximately \$2,700. This is money that will go directly back into the pockets of pensioners and seniors. Pensions that would qualify for income splitting are Registered Pension Plans, RRSP annuities, RRIFFs and DPSP annuities.

These initiatives build on our tax relief package outlined in Budget 2006. Families and seniors still pay too much tax in this country, and our government will continue to reduce the tax burden on Canadians. At the same time, we must ensure that no one gains an unfair tax advantage at the expense of others. Canada's New Government is prioritizing tax issues and is striving to represent the best interests of all Canadians.

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

How are we doing?

What is your opinion of the Conservative Government's Clean Air Act?

Excellent ○ Good ○ Fair ○ Poor ○

What is your opinion of the Conservative Government's Tax Fairness Plan regarding Pension Income Splitting and Income Trusts?

Excellent ○ Good ○ Fair ○ Poor ○

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

Excellent ○ Good ○ Fair ○ Poor ○

Please complete our 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, 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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K1A 0A6

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Fax: 613.995.6465
Email: LakeM@parl.gc.ca

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MIKELAKE.CA



*Hoping you had a
wonderful
Christmas and
wishing you all the
best for 2007!*

*Best Wishes,
The Lake Family*



SNAPSHOTS OF A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2006



January: Mike and Debi working for the right to represent the people of Edmonton — Mill Woods — Beaumont



May: Mike and his fellow Edmonton-area MPs stand up in the House of Commons for the hometown Oilers



August: Meeting and greeting constituents at our 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast, with special guest, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Hon. Monte Solberg



November: Mike and Don Cherry give a "thumbs up" for our troops during Veterans' Week in the House of Commons

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