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Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 4, Spring 2007

Dear Constituents,

One of the challenges in putting out this newsletter is that a lot can happen between the time we finish writing and the time it arrives in your mailbox. So much has happened since the last update, and yet so much is happening as I write! For example, as we send this to the printers, our Minister of the Environment, John Baird is unveiling *Turning the Corner: An Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollution*. I'll include some information regarding this important initiative in my next newsletter, but if you want to study the plan in detail, please take the time to visit www.ecoaction.gc.ca.

Meanwhile, the winter and early spring have been extremely eventful. I continue to have an opportunity to contribute on two important committees. In Public Accounts, much of the last few weeks has been spent dealing with the RCMP Pension Administration issue. In the Human Resources committee we are working overtime on a regular basis, studying legislation such as Bill C-257 (Bloc Quebecois - Ban on Replacement Workers in the Federal Jurisdiction) and Bill C-303 (NDP - Universal Child Care), as well as completing an important report on Employability in Canada. I've also had the opportunity to introduce my first Private Member's Bill, which is highlighted in the story below.

On the political front, I'd like to take a moment to congratulate Neal Gray who has won the nomination for the NDP in this riding. Mr. Gray ran in the last election as well, and I look forward to another honest and respectful debate during the next campaign, whenever it may come.

Please enjoy the newsletter and take a moment to fill out the survey on Page 3. I always appreciate your feedback and encourage you to continue to contact me with your concerns and suggestions.

Have a wonderful spring!

Mike



Mike and his son, Jaden, walk down the stairs at the House of Commons

Budget 2007

An Editorial by Canada's Finance Minister

Hon. Jim Flaherty to National Post – March 23, 2007

Since January 23, 2006, Canadian families and taxpayers have seen strong fiscal management from Canada's new government. We have focused on the priorities of Canadians by significantly reducing both the tax burden and the national debt, protecting the environment, helping farmers and farm families, making an historic investment in infrastructure, enhancing public health care, investing in education and training and supporting the brave men and women who keep our communities and our country safe.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty give the thumbs up to a budget that invests in Canadians

Almost two-thirds of the new spending announced in Budget 2007 consists of transfers to other levels of government to restore fiscal balance and provide long-term predictable funding for the provinces. Of the remaining third of new spending, two out of every three dollars invested goes to tax reductions.

Our government's second budget successfully accomplishes what the preceding Liberal governments failed to do during 13 years in power – delivering to hard-working

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Mike Introduces Private Members' Bill

Tackling Youth Addiction and Crime

Edmonton

On April 16, 2007, Mike introduced Private Member's Bill C-423, an Act to amend the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

Mike's bill has two aspects. First, it will add 'referral to substance abuse treatment' to the list of extrajudicial measures available to police officers when dealing with young persons, particularly first-time offenders accused of committing non-violent offences. Second, if a young person referred to a treatment program does not complete it, the police officer may initiate judicial proceedings.

Mike explains that "it is becoming increasingly evident that youth addiction and youth crime are often interconnected. We need to take concrete steps to address this serious issue." As the law stands, there is no such Canada-wide option available.

This amendment responds to a number of parents who have contacted parliamentarians requesting means by which a young person may be compelled to undergo drug abuse treatment. Parents Empowering Parents, a local organization that is very concerned about substance abuse problems facing our youth is "ecstatic about this bill because this measure is not only about intervention but also prevention."

"The purpose of the bill is to get our young people the help they need – sometimes when they have not yet come to a place where they realize they need it," said Mike.

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Canadians and businesses while continuing to cut taxes, control spending and pay down debt.

Like many Canadian families and businesses that need to make tough decisions about balancing their books, Canada's new government has balanced the need to put money toward the priorities of Canadians with the need to pay down the national mortgage.

“Budget 2007 reduces the debt by \$9.2-billion for a total federal debt reduction to \$22.4-billion over two years.”

Budget 2007 reduces the debt by \$9.2-billion for a total federal debt reduction to \$22.4-billion over two years. That's \$700 for every man, woman and child in Canada. Better yet, this budget legislates a "Tax Back Guarantee," which directs the money saved from paying less interest on the debt to personal tax reductions for Canadians.

In fact, since being in power, Canada's new government has introduced nearly \$38 billion in individual tax relief over this and the next two fiscal years. This includes reducing the GST to 6%, our new \$2,000 Child Tax Credit and much needed tax relief for seniors, students, apprentices and children with severe disabilities.



Our government has not only reduced taxes significantly, we have taken a focused and responsible approach to spending. Gone are the days of reckless Liberal spending sprees. From 2005-06, when our government came to office, to 2008-09, spending growth will average 4.1% – almost a full percentage point below the projected rate of economic growth for this period. Comparatively, our spending growth is well below that of the previous Liberal government, which grew by an average of 8.2% annually. In fact, in 2004-05, growth in spending under the Liberals increased by a whopping 14.4%.

This budget recognizes that effective and responsible management of spending is an ongoing responsibility. That is why, starting this spring, a review of each department's spending will ensure that federal programs provide what Canadians want and expect of their government. The results of this review will be presented in the 2008 budget. Our plan is to conduct all reviews over a four-year cycle.

Budget 2007 allows us to take the next steps in building the Canada that we will be proud to pass on to our children and grandchildren. It is a responsible financial plan that invests in the priorities of Canadians in a fiscally responsible way. It is a plan that gets us that much closer to our ultimate goal of a stronger, safer, better Canada. *Jim Flaherty is Canada's Minister of Finance.*

For more information on Budget 2007, please visit the Department of Finance website at: www.fin.gc.ca.



IN THE COMMUNITY:
Mike hands out awards at the annual India Day celebration, February 11, 2007 at the Jubilee Auditorium.

Tax Relief for Canadian Seniors Pension Income Splitting

Edmonton

Budget 2007 included the Conservative Government’s **Tax Fairness Plan** which contained a number of tax reductions for seniors. Pension Income Splitting is one of these measures. Beginning with the 2007 taxation year, Canadian residents who receive income that qualifies for the existing pension income tax credit will be permitted to allocate to their resident spouse (or common-law partner) up to one-half of that income.

How does this work for Income Taxes?

For income tax purposes, the amount allocated will be deducted in determining the income of the person who actually received the pension income, and included in computing the income of the person to whom some or all of the pension income is allocated. Since it will, in many cases, increase the transferee’s tax payable, both persons must agree to the allocation in their tax returns for the year in question.

Eligible Pension Income

For individuals aged 65 years and over, the major types of qualifying income that can be allocated to a spouse or common law partner are:

- a pension from a registered pension plan (RPP);
- income from a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) annuity; and,
- payments out of or under a registered retirement income fund.

The pension income that is allocated will retain its character and be treated as income of the lower-income spouse for all purposes under federal income tax rules. This means that some couples may now receive a second pension income tax credit where previously only one was available. In addition, splitting pension income could mean higher Old Age Security entitlements for some couples. Some types of income that could be considered pension income do not qualify for the pension income credit. For example, Old Age Security payments, Canada Pension Plan payments and payments from certain supplemental retirement compensation arrangements (RCAs) do not qualify.

Mike At Work In Committee Seeking a Balanced Labour Solution

Ottawa

As you may know, Mike is an active member on the Human Resources and Social Development committee (HUMA). Earlier this year, the committee studied Bill C-257, which sought to amend the Canada Labour Code with respect to the use of replacement workers. This Private Member’s Bill was introduced by Bloc Québécois MP, Richard Nadeau (Gatineau). After careful study and consideration, Mike determined that he could not support this legislation for several reasons including:

Balance - The provisions under the Canada Labour Code reflect a careful balance between the competing interest of all parties—employers, employees, and the general public. Currently, the use of replacement workers is clearly prohibited during a legal work stoppage if they are used to undermine the union’s representational rights. A one-off amendment to the Labour Code would negatively impact this balanced approach to labour relations in the federal jurisdiction.

No Upside - There is simply no evidence that the proposed amendment would help employees. For example, in 2005 Quebec (which outlawed replacement workers in 1977) had more than twice the number of work stoppages than Ontario (which has no such legislation) had and more than four times that of the federal jurisdiction on a comparable basis.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2007 Mike voted to defeat this legislation. His vote reflects the Federal Government’s commitment to stand up for a strong economy, fair labour practices, and the maintenance of a balance between the two, which is the foundation of Canada’s Labour Relations Code.



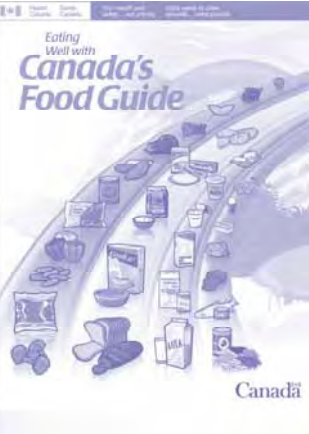
Mike announces new funding for New Horizons Program for Seniors in Mill Woods

The New Canada Food Guide
Your Guide to Healthy Choices

Ottawa

We all know that eating well is vital to good health. But what, exactly, does eating well mean? Fortunately, there is a trusted source to help sort out the confusion. For 65 years, Canadians have relied on Canada’s Food Guide for information about the foods they eat. With the launch of the 2007 edition, Canadians can once again turn to this well recognized Government of Canada publication to sort out food facts from fiction.

Following the Food Guide can help people reduce their risk of developing obesity, type II diabetes, heart



disease, some types of cancer and osteoporosis. The revised Food Guide is the result of three years of work which included consultations with 7,000 Canadians – including dietitians, scientists, physicians and public health personnel – and it provides recommendations on what foods to eat and how much to eat each day.

New to this edition of the Food Guide are recommendations based on age and gender for the daily number of servings from each of the four food groups (Vegetables and Fruit, Grain Products, Milk and Alternatives, Meat and Alternatives) plus a small amount of added oils and fats. The revised Food Guide also features a **new online, interactive tool called My Food Guide** that allows Canadians to personalize the Food Guide to fit their food preferences and lifestyle.

For more information, interactive tools, or a copy of the guide please visit Health Canada’s Food Guide website at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide

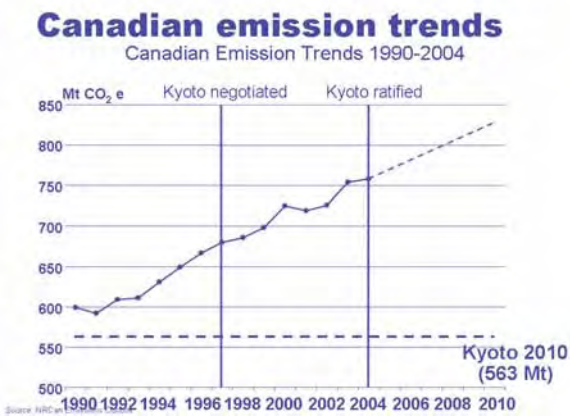
Taking ecoACTION
Investing in our Environment

Ottawa

Canada is an emerging energy superpower, but our challenge is to be a *clean* energy superpower. To start on this path it is necessary to address the greatest source of untapped energy in this country — the energy we waste. The Conservative Government recognizes the importance of ensuring our environment is healthy for generations to come and that is why we are taking real action to promote greener choices.

The Challenge

Becoming a clean energy superpower is not an unachievable goal, but we do have a ways to go as the chart below demonstrates.



Real action, aimed at results

To turn these trends around, Canada’s New Government recently introduced a package of initiatives, designed to complement the government’s integrated approach to reducing air and greenhouse gas emissions.

The initiatives include:

- The \$230 million **ecoENERGY Technology Initiative** for research, development and demonstration of clean energy technologies such as tidal and wind power;
- The \$1.5 billion **ecoENERGY Renewable Initiative** dedicated to boost Canada’s renewable energy supplies such as wind, tidal and small hydro; and,
- Almost \$300 million dedicated to promoting smarter energy use through the **ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative**. Included in this initiative is the **ecoENERGY Retrofit Program**, which supports energy efficient upgrades in homes and businesses.

This new funding will encourage the development of new, clean energy technologies that, along with the recently announced environmental action plan, **Turning the Corner**, will protect the health of our citizens and the environment, and make use of our vast energy resources.

Helping all Canadians make greener choices

Homeowners, small businesses, institutions and industrial organizations all feel the impact of their energy choices by way of volatile energy costs. These same groups often don’t know which improvements would yield the largest energy savings, and they lack sufficient funds to carry them out. This is where ecoENERGY Retrofit steps in. For example, homeowners will be able to receive a personalized checklist to show the best upgrades for their homes and how much financial support is available to make those improvements. To learn more about program details and to obtain information about applying for ecoENERGY grants please use the contact information below.

**Office of Energy Efficiency
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth St., 18th Floor
Ottawa ON, K1A 0E4**
www.ecoenergy-ecoenergie.gc.ca

1 800 O-Canada servicecanada.gc.ca

Need a Summer Job?

Do you need help looking for a job, writing a résumé, preparing for an interview, or even planning your career? **Service Canada Centres for Youth can help!**

We offer a number of services specially designed to help you with your job search, detailed job postings in a variety of fields, and many links to not-for-profit, public sector and private sector employers.

Service Canada Centres for Youth are open during the summer months across Canada and can help you with your job-related needs. To find your nearest centre, call the Youth Info Line at 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105), or visit servicecanada.gc.ca.

We can provide you with:

- Job postings
- Career planning information
- Assistance in developing résumés and cover letters
- Job interview tips and techniques
- Information on high-growth job sectors, wage rates, employment standards and health and safety in the workplace
- Information on other Government of Canada and provincial/territorial employment initiatives

Canada Summer Jobs Initiative

Service Canada gives students like you the opportunity to showcase and improve your skills, and put those skills to work. Through the New Canada Summer Jobs Initiative, we are also creating opportunities for employers to hire students who need help finding summer work, such as Aboriginal youth, visible minorities, youth with disabilities, and those living in communities with high youth unemployment rates; small urban, rural or remote areas; and/or high crime areas. By opening these doors, we will be helping youth get valuable experience that could become a stepping stone to a career!

Go on-line to youth.gc.ca, call the Youth Info Line at 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105), or visit your local Service Canada Centre for Youth to request copies of the *Looking for a Job* and *Job Search Planner* publications – great tools to help you prepare a winning résumé and cover letter. Also visit the Government of Canada’s *Youthlink* on-line tool for career-related information – your jump-start into the working world!

The Government of Canada also offers other summer youth opportunities, such as:

Industry Canada’s Student Connections. For more information, call 1-888-807-7777 or visit www.studentconnections.ca.

Canadian Heritage’s Young Canada Works (YCW) for Aboriginal Urban Youth, YCW in Heritage Organizations, and YCW in Both Official Languages. For more information, call the Youth Info Line at 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105), visit www.youngcanadaworks.gc.ca, or e-mail ycwcoordinator@pch.gc.ca.

Parks Canada’s Young Canada Works in Canada’s National Parks and National Historic Sites. For more information, visit www.pc.gc.ca/ycw. Apply on-line through the Federal Student Work Exchange Program (FSWEP) at <https://www5.psc-cfp.gc.ca/cgi-bin/prod/swep/signin.pl?language=e>

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada’s three youth initiatives: the First Nations and Inuit Student Summer Employment Opportunities initiative, the First Nations and Inuit Science and Technology initiative, and the First Nations SchoolNet youth initiative. For more information, contact your local band council, hamlet office, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada regional office, or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/jeunesse-youth.

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

How are we doing?

What is your opinion of Budget 2007?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐

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 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
- Get answers to Immigration questions
- 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



Welcoming Constituents

Mike meets constituents at our Constituency Office Open House. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The address is on this page, to the left.



Taking a Stand For Youth Justice

Mike speaks at rally at the Alberta Legislature on March 10, 2007. Mike will be presenting petitions collected by rally organizer, Gary Hunt, in Parliament.



Learning About Industry

Mike tours local biotechnology company Dycor Technologies with Edgar and Kurt Semler, to see firsthand the company's new home at the Alberta Research Park.



Recognizing Youth Leadership

Mike meets with Afua Gyennin, winner of the Youth Leadership Award for Holy Trinity Catholic School.



Welcoming the Troops

Mike welcomes the troops home to Edmonton with Edmonton Centre MP Laurie Hawn, and Leduc Mayor Greg Krischke.



Introducing Parent Link

Mike, with Parent Link Coordinator, Tonya Sabourin at the new Beaumont location. To learn more, visit www.parentlinkalberta.ca

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No
Postage
Required



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