



YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 5, Fall 2007

Dear Constituents,

In early September, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that he would recommend to the Governor General, Michaëlle Jean, that Parliament be prorogued. This led to the conclusion of the First Session of the 39th Parliament. As a result of prorogation, I've been able to spend more time in the riding, meeting constituents and attending community events. I'll be returning to Ottawa for the next sitting of the House of Commons in mid-October, when the Second Session of this Parliament will commence with a Speech from the Throne.

The 39th Parliament is already six months beyond the average duration of a minority Parliament, and the First Session was exceptionally productive for *any* government, let alone a minority one. All of the major commitments we made to Canadians during the 2006 election were delivered upon, and the impact of that follow-through is clear: Canada is united, our government is clean, and our economy is strong. The Speech from the Throne will launch the next phase in our mandate. Strong leadership, focused on results, will continue to guide us as we work to make our country even stronger— and even better for all of Canada's taxpayers and families. Please continue to share your ideas and priorities with me, using the contact information listed on the back page.

There is much more we can and will do to make Canada stronger, safer and better for all of us, and we look forward to a Second Session that is even more successful than the first.

Sincerely,

Mike



Mike tours a local printing company to hear first hand about the opportunities and challenges facing Alberta's small businesses.

Protecting Canadians – Rebuilding Afghanistan Helping Build a Stable, Democratic and Self-Sufficient Society

Ottawa

Canada is in Afghanistan at the request of its democratically elected government, along with 36 other nations, *as part of a UN-sanctioned mission* to help build a stable, democratic, and self-sufficient society.

About 2,500 members of the Canadian Forces are currently serving as part of Joint Task Force (JTF) Afghanistan. They play a key role in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission whose goal is to improve the security situation in Afghanistan and assist in rebuilding the country.

All Canadian Forces operations in Afghanistan are conducted with the consent and at the request of the Afghan government. The Afghan people are relying on the international community to help them rebuild

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Photo by: cplc Yves Proteau

Captain Nancy Pelletier and other Canadian military personnel distribute kites and flags to children in the Paghman quarter.

Traveling to the USA? Plan Ahead: Get Your Passport Now!

Ottawa

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is a U.S. law that will require all visitors to carry a valid passport or other secure document to enter the United States. On January 23, 2007, the first stage of the law came into effect for air travel. The new rules are not yet in place for travel by land or sea, *but travelers are advised to prepare for Summer 2008.*

The Government of Canada recommends that when traveling abroad (including visits to the United States) travelers carry a valid Canadian passport. A passport is the only universally accepted identification document, and it proves that you have a right to return to Canada.

Land and Sea Travel to the United States

Until summer 2008 at the earliest, Canadian citizens driving or boating to the United States do not need a passport to cross the border.

On June 20, 2007, the U.S. government issued for

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Turning the Corner on Climate Change

Prime Minister Harper Takes International Leadership Role

Edmonton

In our last newsletter we promised to provide you with further information on the Conservative Government’s approach to climate change, and as promised, here it is:

Canadians are concerned about the environment, and the government is taking action. This past Spring, Environment Minister Hon. John Baird unveiled *Turning the Corner: An Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollution*, which will see the federal government, for the first time ever, force industry to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution.

"Canada needs to do a U-Turn, because we are going in the wrong direction. Since the Liberals promised to reduce greenhouse gases in 1997, they have only gone up," said Minister Baird at the time. "Canadians want action, they want it now and our government is delivering. We are serving notice that beginning today, industry will need to make real reductions."

Now Prime Minister Stephen Harper is taking a leadership role on the world stage to ensure that all of the world’s largest emitters are onside.

On September 7th Prime Minister Harper said in a keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum: “The growing menace of climate change is one of the most important public policy challenges of our time. For at least a decade most governments, including Canada’s government, paid lip service to the issue because they were unwilling to tell the public that reducing carbon emissions will have real economic costs. We need to take action. We owe it to future generations, just as we owe them a strong and secure economic future.”

The challenge for policy makers is to strike a balance between sustainable economic growth and careful environmental stewardship. The new Canadian strategy meets this challenge by regulating emissions for the first time, while also investing in new clean energy technologies and establishing a carbon emissions trading market that will give business the incentive to run cleaner, greener operations.

To read Prime Minister Harper’s entire APEC speech, visit:
www.conservative.ca/EN/1091/87147

In his APEC address, Prime Minister Harper also pointed out that “it is our contention that any long-term global agreement on climate change must:

- Be effective by having clear goals and including all major emitters.
- It must be fair and economically realistic, not unduly burdening the growth of any single country.
- It must be flexible, so all countries can choose tools and policies that suit their unique circumstances.
- And it must support the development and deployment of new and better technologies.

Canada’s own domestic approach is based upon these very principles. First, we believe we must have a clear goal and be determined to achieve it.”

To that end, mandatory emission reduction targets are now being set for industries that produce greenhouse gases and air pollution in Canada.

Rebuilding Afghanistan

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their lives and their country after having suffered through decades of instability, oppression and insurgency. By supporting the rebuilding of institutions such as independent courts, police and an army, Canada is on the ground laying the foundation for Afghans to govern themselves and secure a better future.

Quick Facts about our progress thus far:

Health

- Infant mortality has declined 22%;
- In 2001, less than 8% had access to primary healthcare. That number is currently at 80%.

Education

- 20,800 men and women are receiving legal awareness training within households;
- More than 5,100 Kandahari women are receiving literacy training;
- Under the Taliban, only 700,000 children went to school, all of them boys. Now, more than 6 million children are attending school, 40% of them girls;
- 35% of schoolteachers are women.

Basic Infrastructure in Kandahar

- Between March and June 2007, more than 100 reservoirs, 70 hand pumps, 1,000 wells, 100 irrigation canals, and 650 kilometres of roads have been constructed or repaired;



REMEMBERING A CANADIAN HERO
Mike speaks at a Beaumont event held in June to honour Corporal Francisco Gomez, who died serving Canada in Afghanistan last year.

Over the next three years, companies will be required to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent per unit of production. After that, industry will have to achieve a further 2 percent improvement in emission intensity each year.

By as early as 2010, as a result of these key measures and others, Canada’s total greenhouse gas emissions will begin to decline in absolute terms.

Prime Minister Harper summarized the payoff of this long-overdue action by stating that “our plan will reduce Canada’s total emissions, relative to 2006 levels, 20 percent by 2020 and 60-70 percent by 2050, but note that basing *early* targets on emission intensity will allow us to square effective environmental action with the reality that Canada has a growing population and growing economic output.”

Prime Minister Harper followed up his APEC statement by taking his message to the United Nations on September 24th. There, he called on UN members to build on the dynamic created by the G8 and APEC summits to promote international cooperation in the fight against global warming. “There is an emerging consensus on the need for a new, effective and flexible climate change framework,” said the Prime Minister, “one that commits all the world’s major emitters to real targets and concrete action against global greenhouse gas emissions.”



Photo by: Capt Dave Muralt (CF)
The Provincial Reconstruction Team conducts mine-awareness training in Kandahar.

- There have been 10,000 kilometres of new roads built in recent years. The time to travel from Kabul to Kandahar was 15 hours in 2001 – now it is 6 hours.

Humanitarian Assistance

- In Kandahar more than 200,000 people have received emergency food aid;
- More than 420,000 m² of land has been cleared of mines, benefiting more than 10,000 people (since March 2005);
- Nationwide, over 5,000 mines were destroyed between April and June 2007.

Institutions and Governance

- Canada has trained 75 prosecutors, 68 public defenders, 90 judges (including 16 women), 75 judges in specialized procedures, and 20 judges as trainers of others;
- Canada has 13 police officers in Afghanistan helping to build capacity (10 within the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction team; 2 with the Combined Security Transition Command; 1 in Kabul);
- Canadian Civilian Police Officers have provided training on vehicle checkpoints, vehicle and personal search procedures, first aid, and motorcycle riding and maintenance;
- Canadian personnel in Kandahar also offer police and corrections instruction and have trained more than 475 members of the Afghan National Police.

For more information about Canada’s role in Afghanistan please visit:
www.canada-afghanistan.gc.ca

The Prime Minister outlined Canada’s vision for a framework on climate change that will:

- Stimulate the development of clean, low-carbon energy technologies;
- Find cleaner and more efficient ways to convert hydrocarbons into energy, including carbon capture and storage;
- Increase the supply of renewable energy sources, including wind and tides; and
- Secure the investment of private capital and entrepreneurial activity that drive technological development.

“The core principle of Canada’s approach to climate change is balance,” said the Prime Minister. “We are promoting a balanced international approach to emissions reduction that engages all major emitters while respecting the unique characteristics of their economies.”

For more information, including background papers and reports on *Turning the Corner: A Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Air Pollution*, please visit the ecoACTION home page at:
www.ecoaction.gc.ca

Traveling to the USA?

(Continued from page 1)

public comment its proposed rule for the implementation of the WHTI at land and sea ports of entry. The rule is expected to be finalized this fall, and could be put into effect within a minimum of 60 days. The rule proposes the following:

- Beginning January 31, 2008, oral declarations of identity and citizenship will no longer be accepted. Canadian and U.S. citizens will require government-issued photo identification (such as a driver’s license), together with proof of citizenship (such as a birth certificate), to enter the United States by land and sea;
- Canadian and U.S. citizens under the age of 16, and those 16 to 18 years of age traveling in

supervised groups, will be permitted to present a certified* birth certificate instead of a passport;

- As early as **summer 2008**, all Canadian citizens traveling by land or sea will be required to present a valid **Canadian passport**, a **NEXUS** card or **Free and Secure Trade** (FAST) card, or other secure document considered acceptable by the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.

A valid Canadian passport, NEXUS card or FAST card is always an acceptable travel document to enter the United States by land or sea.

*All Canadian birth certificates issued by a province or territory are certified.



To find out how to obtain a Canadian passport visit: www.passportcanada.gc.ca

To learn more about WHTI visit: www.cbsa.gc.ca/agency/whti-ivho/menu-e.html

Simplified Passport
Renewal Process

Making it easier for you to renew
your passport

Edmonton

Our Edmonton office fields many questions about passport applications. This is one of the many areas where we can help point you in the right direction.

For instance, did you know about the new **Simplified Passport Renewal Process**? This process was introduced in August, allowing qualified applicants to replace their passports without having to resubmit documents and guarantor information to support their application.

To be an eligible applicant, you must:

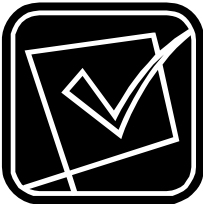
- Reside in Canada;
- Have been at least 16 years of age at the time of the previous application;
- Have a 5-year-validity passport issued after January 31, 2002, in Canada, that has not been altered or damaged, or reported as lost or stolen;
- Have lived in Canada when your last passport was issued; and
- Apply using the same name that appears on the previous (expiring/expired) passport.

An applicant must still provide a completed form, including the current fee, two new photos, and their previous passport.

For more information on the
Simplified Passport Renewal Process
please consult:

www.passportcanada.gc.ca

Or call: 1.800.567.6868 or 1.800.O.Canada



Avoid Passport Processing Delays

Use this checklist before you submit your application to steer clear of the most common errors that result in delays:

- ☐ **Have you allowed enough time for your application to be processed?** It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete, and can be processed prior to the anticipated travel date.
- ☐ **Are you replacing a lost or stolen passport?** If yes, you must submit a Statutory Declaration form (PPT 203) with your application. This form is available on the website at www.passportcanada.gc.ca.
- ☐ **Is the date of travel box filled in?** You must either enter a date, or mark “unknown” in this area. It cannot be left blank.
- ☐ **Is your personal and citizenship information complete?** Have you completed all the boxes, including your hair colour, height and weight, and phone number(s)?
- ☐ **Have you enclosed proof of Canadian citizenship?** Remember, only the original document is acceptable—you cannot send a photocopy. Your original document will be returned to you.
- ☐ **Are your photos acceptable?** Passport photos must be done by a commercial photographer, and your guarantor must sign the back of one photo. Photos from self service booths are not acceptable. Remember, your passport photos must show a neutral facial expression.
- ☐ **Have you enclosed supporting identification?** You must send either the originals or clear and readable photocopies of both sides of your documents. (Photocopies must be certified by your guarantor.) Original identification documents will be returned to you.
- ☐ **Does your supporting identification carry the same name as your passport application?** The name you request on your application must match your supporting documents. For example, if your documents show your name as Bill Smith, you cannot use William Smith on your application form.
- ☐ **Has your guarantor completed his/her steps?** The guarantor must complete the “Declaration of Guarantor” (section 2) of your form and sign the back of one photo. If you submit photocopies of your supplementary identification, your guarantor must sign and date the copies.
- ☐ **Have you signed your application?** Sign your usual signature on all three pages of the application form, within the limits of the signature box. Do not forget to complete the “Date” and “Signed at” boxes beside your signature.
- ☐ **Is the fee enclosed?** Cheques must be certified. Credit card information must be complete (including authorization of the amount to be charged).

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

As the new session of Parliament begins, what is your top priority?

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



Canada Day in the Park

Mike and daughter, Jenae, hand out Canadian flag tattoos and visit with constituents celebrating Canada Day at Mill Woods Park.



Recognizing Milestones

Mike and Edmonton-Mill Woods MLA, Weslyn Mather, attend an awards banquet commemorating the second anniversary of the Wildrose Times.



Just a Kid at Heart

Mike drops in at the Beaumont Community Youth Centre and takes on all comers at foosball (and pool, and air hockey!).



Working Together on Immigration

Mike attends a roundtable discussion with Edmonton-area lawyers to explore ways to improve Canada's immigration system.



Canadian History Lesson

In August, the Lakes visited historic Pier 21 in Halifax. Debi's grandparents arrived there in 1928 when they emigrated to Canada.



Celebrating a New Senior's Centre

Mike shares a laugh with Agnes Birch at the launch of the new Senior's Centre at the Mill Woods Recreation Centre.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

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