



Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

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Dear Constituents,

The 2008-2009 session of Parliament has been an eventful one. With the world facing widespread economic turmoil, Canada has weathered the storm remarkably well, compared to almost every other industrialized nation. While Canada has not been immune to the effects of the global crisis, most international observers predict that those effects on Canada will be less severe, and that we will emerge from this economic slowdown sooner and stronger than other countries.

In my new role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, I have had the unique opportunity to participate directly in the planning and execution of Canada’s Economic Action Plan. This carefully crafted economic blueprint will ensure that Canadians are able to keep working through the global downturn. It is of critical importance that the infrastructure spending (often referred to as ‘stimulus’) contained in the plan must be short-term in nature and have a lasting positive effect on our productivity and the Canadian economy in general.

As you will read in this newsletter, we have much to be thankful for here in Canada. However, we also need to be vigilant, making sure that, as we make decisions to address the demands of the current international situation, we remain mindful of the Canada our children and grandchildren will inherit from us.

If you have any thoughts or feedback for me as you read through this newsletter, please don’t hesitate to contact my office. I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a terrific summer!

Mike.



Mike is sworn in as Parliamentary Secretary by the Clerk of the Privy Council, Kevin Lynch, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Conservative House Leader Jay Hill look on.

Budget 2009

Canada’s Economic Action Plan

Ottawa

Over the past several months economies around the world have experienced a very significant downturn. While Canada's economic fundamentals are strong relative to the rest of the world, as a trading nation we are feeling the effects of this downturn.

In response to what most commentators are now referring to as a global crisis, world leaders have agreed to implement coordinated economic stimulus packages equivalent to roughly 2% of each country's GDP.

Budget 2009 - *Canada’s Economic Action Plan* meets that global commitment, and provides a comprehensive plan to stimulate our economy, restore confidence, help Canadian families weather the current global storm and invest in the foundations of long-term economic growth.

This plan will enable Canada to emerge from this downturn with a greener and more modern infrastructure, a more skilled labour force, lower taxes and a more competitive economy.

Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC)

One of the measures contained within *Canada’s Economic Action Plan* is the Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC).

Home renovations are smart investments in the long term value of a home and also create economic activity by increasing the demand for labour, building materials and other goods. Renovations can also reduce energy consumption and the long-term cost of owning a home.

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Mike Takes On Important Role

Parliamentary Secretary for Industry Minister

Ottawa

On November 7, 2008, Mike was sworn in as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Tony Clement.

The Parliamentary Secretary role is an important one, charged with assisting Minister Clement with his duties. Mike’s responsibilities include: answering questions in Question Period, attending public events across the country, and steering legislation through the parliamentary process.

Mike is one of only four incumbent Conservative MPs to have been promoted by the Prime Minister to serve as a Parliamentary Secretary after the October election.

“When Parliament resumes, our government will act decisively to protect Canadian families and businesses during this global storm,” said Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the time. “Serving as a Parliamentary Secretary is a big responsibility, and I have tremendous confidence that this is the right team for the job.”

Since being appointed to his new role, Mike has been extremely busy serving as the lead member for the Conservative Party on the Industry Committee and the only member of the Conservative Party on two special subcommittees tasked by Parliament to study the impact of the global economic crisis on Canadian industrial sectors and individual companies.

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Canada’s Economic Leadership

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The HRTC will apply to eligible home renovation expenditures for work performed, or goods acquired, after January 27, 2009 and before February 1, 2010 (agreements must have been entered into after January 27, 2009). The temporary nature of the credit will provide an immediate incentive for Canadians to undertake new renovations or accelerate planned projects.

The 15-per-cent credit may be claimed on the portion of eligible expenditures exceeding \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, meaning that the maximum tax credit that can be received is \$1,350.

About 4.6 million families in Canada are expected to benefit from the credit. Taxpayers can claim the HRTC when filing their 2009 tax return.

This is just one more way that the Conservative government is delivering tax relief during this period of economic turmoil.

For more information about Budget 2009 please visit:
www.budget.gc.ca

What the World Has to Say About Canada
Headlines From Around The Globe

“Some will regard it as alarming that, in current times, world leadership should rest with Canada. But the Canadian Tories are a model of how to behave during a downturn.”

“If the rest of the world had comported itself with similar modesty and prudence, we might not be in this mess.”

London Telegraph - July 7, 2008

“In a sinking world, Canada is something of a cork. Its well-regulated banks are solid.”

“The big worry is the fear that an American recession will drag Canada down with it.”

The Economist - October 9, 2008

“In 2008, the World Economic Forum ranked Canada’s banking system the healthiest in the world. America’s ranked 40th, Britain’s 44th.”

“If President Obama is looking for smart government, there is much he, and all of us, could learn from our ... neighbour to the north.”

Newsweek - February 7, 2009

“And, you know, one of the things that I think has been striking about Canada is that in the midst of this enormous economic crisis, I think Canada has shown itself to be a pretty good manager of the financial system in the economy in ways that we haven’t always been here in the United States.”

US President Barack Obama - February 17, 2009

“There is no time to waste. Reconfiguring the American banking structure to look more like the Canadian model would help restore much-needed confidence in a beleaguered financial system. Why not emulate the best in the world, which happens to be right next door?”

New York Times - February 27, 2009

“If President Obama is looking for smart government, there is much he, and all of us, could learn from our ... neighbour to the north.”

Newsweek - February 7, 2009

“Canada is better placed than many countries to weather the global financial turbulence and worldwide recession.”

“The authorities responded proactively to the crisis. The IMF supports the strong fiscal package announced in January, which was large, timely, and well targeted, and it will buoy demand during the downturn. The focus now is appropriately on implementing that package.”

IMF Report - March 11, 2009

Passport Update

New Passport Requirements For Travel to the U.S.

The Government of Canada reminds Canadian citizens to prepare now for any travel plans to the United States by applying for an accepted document to enter the United States under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The WHTI is a U.S. law that requires all travellers, including Canadian and American citizens, to present a valid passport or other approved document when entering the United States from within the western hemisphere.



"This Government has worked vigorously with the United States to ensure that legitimate trade and travel across our borders are not disrupted as a result of the new document requirements under the WHTI," said the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety. "Our efforts have led to the recognition of enhanced driver's licences and enhanced identification cards as acceptable alternatives to passports."

Effective **June 1, 2009**, Canadian citizens are now required to present a valid passport, a NEXUS or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card, or an enhanced driver's licence/enhanced identification card when seeking to enter the United States at its land or water crossings. Canadian citizens 15 years of age or under will only require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a Canadian citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age or under who are travelling with a school or other organized group, under adult supervision with parental guardian consent, may also present proof of Canadian citizenship alone.

The U.S. document requirements for air travel took effect in January 2007, and require Canadian citizens flying to, through or from the United States to present a valid passport or a valid NEXUS card when used at a NEXUS kiosk at participating Canadian airports or at any U.S. airport when returning to Canada.

For more information about U.S. entry requirements for Canadian citizens and how to apply for a WHTI-compliant document please visit:
www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/whti-ivho

Track the Progress of *Canada’s Economic Action Plan*

Website Helps Hold Governments and
Parliamentarians Accountable

Ottawa

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance has unveiled ActionPlan.gc.ca, a comprehensive new Government of Canada website that will allow Canadians to hold governments and public officials accountable for action on the economy.

"Canadians want governments and public officials at all levels to work together to stimulate the economy," Minister Flaherty said. "They want to see us taking action on the economy in an accountable and transparent manner."

ActionPlan.gc.ca includes details of *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, with links to specifics of initiatives and projects as they are announced. It also explains the roots of the global financial crisis and Canada's relative performance. The web-site will help Canadians to assess how well parliamentarians, provincial and territorial governments, businesses and others are contributing to positive action on the economy.

"We are responding with unprecedented speed because we are in a global recession that has arrived with unprecedented speed," Flaherty said. "Canadians will now be able to measure progress so they can hold both elected representatives and unelected officials to account."

Canada's Economic Action Plan contains five elements:

- Action to help Canadians and stimulate spending
- Action to stimulate housing construction
- Immediate action to build infrastructure
- Action to support businesses and communities
- Action to improve access to financing

For more information about *Canada’s Economic Action Plan* please visit: www.actionplan.gc.ca



Mike holds three year old Quenty, who was reunited with his family in Mill Woods on February 2, 2009.

Mill Woods Family Reunited

The Largao Family is Overjoyed to Have Their Son Home

Edmonton

One of the most important functions of Mike’s constituency office is to help families in Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont navigate the immigration system.

In one such case, Mike’s office was made aware of a heart-wrenching situation facing the Largao family, who came to Canada as refugees from Sierra Leone. Misunderstanding our immigration system, the family left their youngest son, Quenty, in Sierra Leone with his aunt, believing they would be able to bring him to Canada shortly thereafter.

When Mike’s office first contacted the Largaos after hearing about their plight, their three-year effort to bring their son to Canada had garnered few results. With the help of Mike and his staff, immigration officials, and others, Quenty Largao was reunited with his family in February.

If you have any questions about the Canadian immigration system or any other federal issue please contact our constituency office at 780-495-2149.

Youth Leadership Award Program

Mike Recognizes Local Students’ Accomplishments

Edmonton

The Youth Leadership Award is presented annually to one student from each of the four high schools in Mill Woods and Beaumont, and is intended to celebrate the outstanding achievement in leadership of students who have completed grade twelve.

In particular, these students, who are in their final year of high school, have demonstrated excellent academic achievement by having an average of 80% or higher; demonstrated good citizenship through involvement in their communities; and have positively contributed to their school environments.

For the 2007-2008 school year, awards were presented to the following exceptional students, one from each of the four public high schools in the Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont constituency: *Cassandra Rasko (J. Percy Page High School), David Heavenor (Millwoods Christian School), Marina Vu (Holy Trinity High School), and Rebecca Mugford (Beaumont Composite High School).*

Congratulations to all of the Youth Leadership Award winners, and winners of other school awards. Best of luck with your future endeavours!



Mike congratulates Rebecca Mugford, the award winner from Beaumont Composite High School.



Mike discusses politics with a grade six class at St. Elizabeth School.

Mike Visits Local Elementary Schools

Grade Six Classes Sit Down with Mike to Learn More About the Canadian Government

Edmonton

The grade six class at St. Elizabeth School had plenty of questions for Mike about his role as Member of Parliament for Edmonton - Mill Woods - Beaumont.

An example of his regular visits to local schools, Mike spoke with the students about government, explaining how things work in the House of Commons, and answering their many questions.

Mike enjoys taking the time to speak with students of all ages to hear their opinions about current events and government, and to encourage them to be engaged in the political process. The kids always surprise with the depth of their knowledge of the issues and their well-informed (and sometimes rather amusing) questions.

When the Parliamentary schedule permits, Mike also visits schools during Read-In Week to read to elementary students. If your school is interested in having Mike come and speak to students, please call the constituency office at 780-495-2149.

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

What are the top three federal priorities that you would like to bring to Mike’s attention?

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



Wildrose Playground Opening

Mike helps celebrate the grand opening of a new playground in Wildrose, along with his daughter Jenae and local community leaders.



Walk Now For Autism

Mike and his family take part in the inaugural *Walk Now for Autism* held in St. Albert this past fall. Jaden was recognized as the top fundraiser for the event.



Constituent Roundtables

Mike regularly hosts roundtable meetings in our community. If you are a constituent and are interested in attending a roundtable, please call our constituency office at 780.495.2149.



Beaumont RCMP Detachment Building Opening

Mike offers his best wishes and congratulations during the grand opening of the Beaumont RCMP Detachment.



Quebec Minister Visits Beaumont

The Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, visits with constituents at Place Beauséjour in Beaumont.



India Day Festivities

Mike hands out awards during India Day celebrations at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No
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