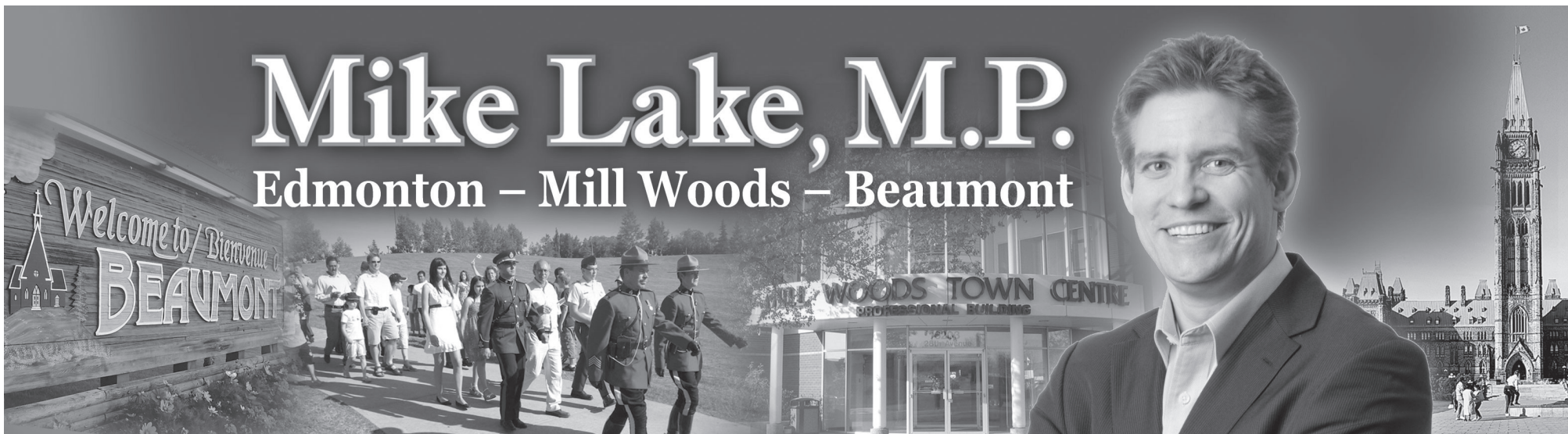


# Mike Lake, M.P.

## Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont



## YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 11, Fall 2009

### Dear Constituents,

2009 has been a year of tremendous change. We have seen the global economy face challenges not seen since the Great Depression. Yet, in the course of the same year, we have also started to see, in Canada, the first tentative signs of recovery.

Canada's success, relative to most of the rest of the world, can be attributed in large part to strategic federal government action in several key areas: lower taxes, targeted and time-limited investment in the economy, and support for families.

We are working to deliver *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, which is helping to stimulate our economy, protect workers, and generate new jobs in communities across the country. We are lowering taxes for all Canadians and creating new initiatives, such as the Home Renovation Tax Credit, to keep the economy active for local community businesses. These actions will put us back on the right track as we enter 2010. Inside this newsletter, you will find important details about how our action is helping Canadians, and for more information you can visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

Please feel free to contact my constituency office if you have comments or questions on any of the action our Conservative government is taking for you. I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Sincerely,



Mike with wife Debi, son Jaden and daughter Jenae wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Conservative Action Delivers Economic Strength

### Ottawa

Canadians continue to face the challenges of the global recession. While we have started to see signs of economic recovery, it is still very fragile. Through *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, our Conservative government is helping Canadian families and businesses today, while making our economy stronger and more stable over the long-term.

(Continued on page 2)



Mike chats with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in his constituency office during a visit by the PM to Mill Woods on October 14.

## The Home Renovation Tax Credit: There's Still Time!

### Ottawa

Our Conservative government is fighting the recession with action like the Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC).

The HRTC is a non-refundable tax credit based on eligible expenses for improvements to your house, condo or cottage. Renovate your home before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and save up to \$1,350 on your 2009 tax bill. You could build a deck, renovate your kitchen, or even paint your home. This is not only helping you save, but it's also creating business for our local hardware stores and creating jobs for local tradespeople.

Don't miss out on the great savings that Canadians across the country are talking about. Our Government's Home Renovation Tax Credit is helping families renovate their homes while saving on next year's tax bill.

The best part? It's already helping our economy improve.

By June, Revenue Canada received more than 700,000 inquiries from Canadians about the credit. In July, sales at home building and outdoors supply stores across Canada increased by 1%. This was the second highest increase of all of Canada's retail sectors for that month.

For more information on the Home Renovation Tax Credit, call CRA's individual income tax enquiries service at 1.877.959.1272 or visit [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/hrtc).

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Delivering Economic Strength

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Reaching this point has not been easy, but our government’s actions are making a difference. We began by ensuring that Canada’s banking and mortgage sectors were strong and resilient. Unlike many other countries around the world, when the global recession is over, Canada will still have as many working banks as we did before the crisis. At no point during the recession have our financial institutions been in danger.

Our government also lowered taxes for every Canadian worker through income tax cuts at all levels. By keeping taxes low for families and businesses, we are making Canada a more affordable place to live and work. As well, we reduced the GST from 7% to 6%, and then to 5%, lowering the cost of regular items that families need every day.

At the same time, we are preparing our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow. We are making changes to Canada’s skills training programs to help get workers ready for new, higher paying jobs. As the recovery continues, a skilled workforce will help Canada attract more business and opportunity.

However, many of Canada’s industries are still feeling the effects of the global downturn. Through *Canada’s Economic Action Plan*, our Conservative government is making specific investments in communities, to create new jobs and stimulate local economies. New roads, bridges, sewers and water treatment systems are just a few examples of the types of improvements that are being seen in communities like ours across the country.

This government spending is helping to build economic strength while keeping taxes low. While stimulus spending within the action plan is critical now, it is equally important that Canada’s deficit spending be short-term. That’s why the stimulus measures in *Canada’s Economic Action Plan* are temporary and time-limited, not permanent. This includes measures like the temporary Home Renovation Tax Credit, which gives Canadians an incentive to invest in home upgrades now. By creating temporary, yet effective solutions, we are making sure that Canada can return to balanced budgets as quickly as possible without risking our recovery or saddling future generations with unnecessary debt.

Action on H1N1

Ottawa

The H1N1 pandemic is a serious health challenge facing countries around the globe. We have taken strong action on a variety of fronts, such as securing more vaccine per capita than any other country in the world; helping First Nations communities prepare; ensuring access to a vaccine for the most vulnerable; and regularly communicating with Canadians.

A key objective of the Government of Canada, with its provincial and territorial partners, is to provide Canadians with basic information on infection prevention and preparedness related to the H1N1 flu virus.

Due to the nature of this virus, the amount of information available is constantly increasing. As such, I encourage you to visit the Public Health Agency of Canada’s website at [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca) for current information on H1N1. As additional information becomes available, the website will be updated to assist individuals in making the best decision for their families.

Remembering our Troops at Christmas

Ottawa



Mike, with Chief of Defence Staff, Lt.-Gen. Walt Natynczyk and Laurie Hawn, MP for Edmonton Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence, at a fundraiser for the Military Families Fund.

Each year, Canadians wishing to express support for Canadian Forces members send letters and parcels to troops deployed overseas.

However, sealed letters and parcels addressed to “any CF member” present a security risk and can overwhelm the CF postal service.

To avoid this problem, a website has been created to provide Canadians with a simple, quick, and cost-effective way to send greetings to CF members.

The “Write to the Troops” electronic message board is available at: [www.forces.gc.ca/site/Commun/message/index-eng.asp](http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/Commun/message/index-eng.asp)

This service allows messages to be sent to CF members, without the time required for traditional postal delivery.

Free parcel service for family and friends of deployed Canadian troops will also be provided from October 26, 2009 to January 15, 2010. Last year Canada Post forwarded more than 21,000 parcels to our Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas.

Family members and friends of CF personnel can send letters and parcels overseas by following guidelines available at local CF Base Postal Sections, Military Family Resource Centres, or through the CF Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) at [www.cfpsa.com](http://www.cfpsa.com).

Through a program called “Operation Santa Claus,” the CFPSA gathers donations from individuals and corporations to send to deployed personnel.

*Individuals wishing to make a contribution should visit [www.cfpsa.com](http://www.cfpsa.com) and click on the “Operation Santa Claus” link, or telephone CFPSA at 1.800.866.4546.*

Beaumont Trail System Extension Project Receives Boost From Federal Government



Mike and Beaumont Mayor, Camille Berube, discuss plans for the extension to the Beaumont Bike Path.

Beaumont

On September 21<sup>st</sup> the Beaumont trail system received funding from the Government of Canada for its extension project. This project supports active living and community connectivity, while enhancing Beaumont’s French heritage with bilingual signage throughout the trail system.

The federal contribution of \$300,000 is provided through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program under *Canada's Economic Action Plan*. The RInC program is a new infrastructure fund that will invest \$500 million in recreational facilities across Canada over a two-year period. This national initiative will provide a temporary economic stimulus that will help reduce the impacts of the global recession while renewing, upgrading and expanding recreational infrastructure in Canadian communities.

Mike joined mayor Camille Berube to make the announcement on a sunny afternoon in Beaumont, saying, “Investments such as this will help keep Albertans working, encourage greater participation in physical activity, and ensure that communities like Beaumont have access to the essential infrastructure we need today and in the future.”

“The Town of Beaumont is very pleased to hear that we have been approved for this RInC grant to assist in the expansion of our walking trail system,” added Mayor Berube. “These additional dollars will allow the town to expand our trails more rapidly including bilingual signage to support our community’s French Village theme.”



UN World Focus on Autism



Mike and Jaden with Autism Speaks founders Bob and Suzanne Wright.

New York

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> Mike and his son Jaden attended the second annual UN Focus on Autism event in New York City.

Organized and hosted by Mrs. Suzanne Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks, the largest non-profit autism research organization in the world, the international coalition representing 55 countries was an endorsement of the UN efforts to raise autism awareness.

Those attending included over 150 dignitaries from around the world, including one of the largest ever gatherings of First Spouses. This distinguished group heard from a world-class panel of experts and discussed an international pathway to raising global awareness and promoting research into this non-discriminative disorder.

For more information on this event, please visit:  
[www.autismspeaks.org/press/world\\_focus\\_on\\_autism\\_2009.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/press/world_focus_on_autism_2009.php)

Constituency Pancake Breakfast Raises Over \$3,400 for Autism Society of Edmonton Area

Edmonton

On Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> Mike held a pancake breakfast in support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area (ASEA). The event was a huge success, with over five hundred people in attendance and \$3,407.10 raised for ASEA.

Mike thanked those in attendance on the sunny Saturday morning. "It is wonderful to see over three thousand dollars raised for this important organization," he said, "but it is especially meaningful that over 500 people from the community took the time to show up, educate themselves, and encourage families in their community who live with this disability every single day."

ASEA is a non-profit, charitable society which began in 1971. Today, the Society helps families and communities embrace and support people on the autism spectrum throughout their lives. For more information about ASEA, please visit [www.autismedmonton.org](http://www.autismedmonton.org).



Mike greets Edmonton City Councillor Amarjeet Sohi, one of more than 500 people who showed up to support the Autism Society of Edmonton Area.

Walk Now for Autism

The Lake family and friends participate in the 2nd Annual Edmonton Walk

Edmonton

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Mike’s family and friends took part in the 2nd annual Edmonton *Walk Now for Autism*, run by an organization called Autism Speaks Canada.

The event, North America's largest grassroots autism walk program, is Autism Speaks' signature fundraising and awareness event, taking place in communities across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. Powered by volunteers and families with loved ones on the autism spectrum, this successful grassroots fundraising effort generates vital funds for autism research in Canada. It also raises awareness about the increasing prevalence of autism and the need for increased research funding to combat this complex disorder.

The Edmonton walk was a huge success, raising over \$120,000. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated and walked with us!



The Lake family along with many friends and family members who joined Jaden’s team at the 2nd Annual Edmonton *Walk Now for Autism* in Rundle Park, on September 13.

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

Thinking of the issues facing Canada today, what would you consider the top three things that the federal government should focus on?

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.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

#212, 6203 - 28 Avenue  
Mill Woods Town Centre Prof. Bldg.  
Edmonton, AB  
T6L 6K3

Phone: 780.495.2149  
Toll-Free: 1.866.488.0919  
Fax: 780.495.2147  
E-mail: LakeM@parl.gc.ca

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

404 Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Phone: 613.995.8695  
Toll-Free: 1.866.670.0966  
Fax: 613.995.6465  
E-mail: LakeM@parl.gc.ca

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



Constituent Roundtables

Mike regularly hosts roundtable meetings in our community. If you are a constituent, and would like to attend a meeting, please call our office at 780.495.2149.



Anthony Henday Improvements

Mike, with partners from the City of Edmonton and Province of Alberta, announces the expedited construction of two key southwest interchanges on the Anthony Henday Drive.



Capital Ex Parade

Mike and his wife Debi, son Jaden, and daughter Jenae enjoy a unique vantage point for the 2009 Capital Ex Parade.



High Tech Tour

Mike and Hon. Rona Ambrose tour the Alberta Centre for Advanced MNT Products at the Alberta Research Park.



2009 Beaumont Parade

Mike celebrates *Beaumont Town and Country Daze* with his family and a team of enthusiastic young constituents in Beaumont.



Churchill Manor Visit

Mike stops for a visit with Les Giles, Churchill Manor's most senior citizen, at 102 years old.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No  
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MIKE LAKE, M.P.  
404 Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6