

Mike Lake, M.P.

Edmonton – Mill Woods – Beaumont

YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

Volume 17, Summer 2012

Dear Constituents,

I hope you're all having a wonderful summer! It has been just over a year since Canadians elected a Conservative majority government, Canada's first majority government in nearly seven years. Since then, we've been very busy delivering on the promises made during that campaign.

Economically, Canada is in the strongest fiscal position in the G7, having created nearly 760,000 net new jobs since July 2009. We are on track to balance the budget in the medium term, our banking system is the soundest in the world, and *Forbes Magazine* has ranked Canada the best place in the world to do business.

We also passed the *Safe Streets and Communities Act*, which increases penalties for sexual offenses against children, better protects Canadians from violent and repeat young offenders, and ends the use of house arrest for serious and violent crimes, among many other measures in the Act.

As well, we've fulfilled long standing promises by passing legislation to end both the wasteful and ineffective long-gun registry and the monopoly held by the Canadian Wheat Board.

It has been a very productive year, but we have much left to do. To that end, I'd love to hear from you regarding your priorities, either by filling out the form on page 3 of this newsletter, via Facebook or Twitter, or at one of the dozens of constituent roundtables I'll hold this year.

Thank you so much for continuing to allow me the privilege of representing you in Ottawa! I hope to see as many of you as possible at my Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, August 25th.

Mike



You are invited to our annual pancake breakfast in support of the Autism Society of Edmonton Area on August 25th, 2012.

Budget 2012: A Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Long-Term Prosperity

Ottawa

On March 29, the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, tabled *Economic Action Plan 2012*, a comprehensive agenda to bolster Canada's long-term economic strengths and promote job growth.

Economic Action Plan 2012 takes important steps to address the challenges and help take advantage of the opportunities in the global economy, while ensuring sustainable social programs and sound public finances for future generations.

Supporting Jobs and Opportunities

Canada's well-trained and highly educated workforce is one of our key advantages in competing and succeeding in the global economy. However, too often barriers or disincentives discourage workforce participation. Better utilizing Canada's workforce and making Canada's labour market more adaptable will help ensure our long-term economic growth.

Sustainable Social Programs

In order to ensure Canada's social programs are there when future generations need them, the Government is taking responsible action to prepare today for long-term demographic pressures.

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Ensuring a Sustainable Old Age Security Program (OAS)

Ottawa

Canadians are living longer and healthier lives. In 1970, life expectancy was age 69 for men and 76 for women. Today it is 79 for men and 83 for women. The baby boom generation (born between 1946 and 1964) is also the largest age cohort in history. As Canadians are living longer and healthier lives, many may prefer to work longer.

The OAS program is the single, largest program of the Government of Canada. It was put in place at a time when Canadians were not living the longer, healthier lives that they are now. Consequently, the cost of the program will grow from \$38 billion in 2011 to \$108 billion in 2030. The same period will see the number of working-age Canadians per senior fall from 4 today to 2 in 2030. This compares to a ratio of 5 working Canadians per senior in 1990.

The changes announced in *Economic Action Plan 2012* are necessary to ensure that the OAS program remains on a sustainable path. They will ensure OAS remains strong and is there for future generations when they need it, as it is for all seniors who currently receive these benefits.

What is OAS?

OAS is financed from general government revenues and provides benefits to

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Ensuring a Sustainable Old Age Security Program

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most Canadians 65 years of age and over. The maximum annual OAS pension is currently \$6,481.

Additional support for low-income seniors is provided through the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). The maximum annual GIS benefit is \$8,788 for single seniors and \$11,654 for couples.

Support is also provided to low-income spouses or common-law partners of GIS recipients and low-income survivors, through the Allowance and the Allowance for the Survivor.

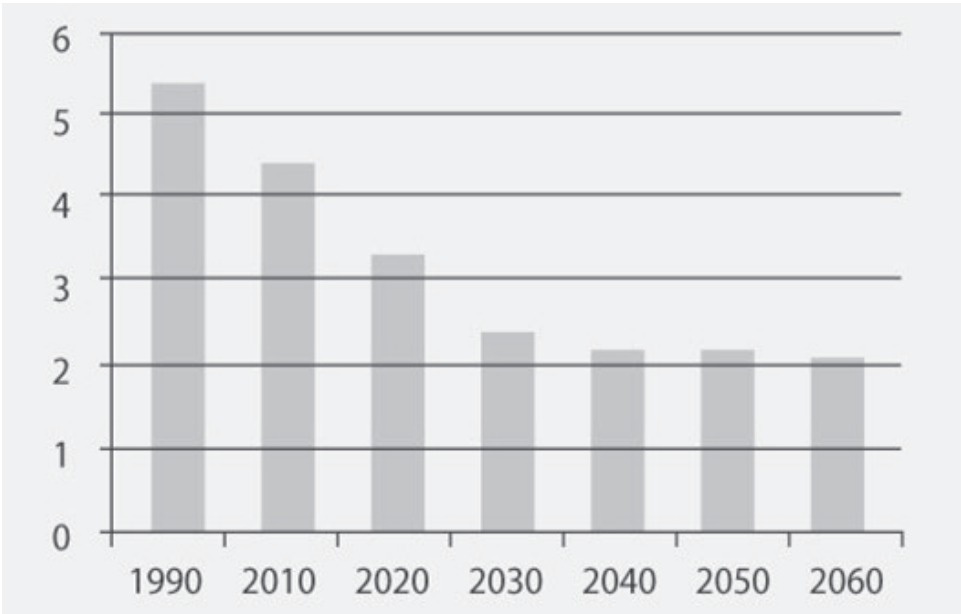
The OAS program provides approximately \$38 billion per year in benefits to 4.9 million individuals.

What changes are being made to OAS, and what does this mean for you?

Starting on April 1, 2023, the age of eligibility for OAS and GIS benefits will be gradually increased from 65 to 67, with full implementation by January 2029.

In line with the increase in age of OAS/GIS eligibility, the ages at which the Allowance and the Allowance for the Survivor are provided will also gradually increase from 60-64 today to 62-66, starting in April 2023.

Ratio of Working-Age People to Seniors



Source: 9th Actuarial Report on the Old Age Security Program.

For more information regarding the Old Age Security Program please visit www.servicecanada.gc.ca



Mike meets with constituents at the Mill Woods Seniors Centre to discuss changes to the Old Age Security Program.

Budget 2012: A Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Long-Term Prosperity

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Responsible Expenditure Management

Economic Action Plan 2012 is the Government’s plan for jobs, growth and long-term prosperity. An important part of this low-tax, low-debt plan is returning to a balanced budget in the medium term.

“We will stay on course, to keep creating high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth for Canadians,” said Minister Flaherty. “We will not raise taxes. We will maintain our consistent, pragmatic and responsible approach to the economy, and take the necessary next steps to build confidence in our future.”

For more information please visit www.budget.gc.ca

Government of Canada Announces a More Efficient and Responsive Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Ottawa

In April, Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, visited Nisku to announce that the Harper Government is realigning the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to better meet labour market demands and support the economic recovery.

“Our government’s top priority is creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity. That’s why we are taking action to ensure that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program supports our economic recovery and effectively responds to local labour market demands,” said Minister Finley. “Our government is looking at ways to make sure businesses recruit from the domestic workforce before hiring temporary foreign workers, while also reducing the paper burden and speeding up the processing time for employers that have short-term skilled labour needs.”

Employers with a strong track record will receive an Accelerated-Labour Market Opinion (A-LMO) within 10 business days to hire temporary foreign workers in high-skill occupations, including the skilled trades. The Temporary Foreign Worker Program will become more responsive to skills and labour shortages, employers will have less red tape and temporary foreign workers will benefit from enhanced protections. In addition, the Government of Canada will propose legislative amendments to further strengthen protections for temporary foreign workers and ensure that employers comply with program requirements.

“This improvement is a direct result of consultations that were held with employers to discuss concerns with the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, and seek ideas on improving it. Going forward, our government will consider additional measures to strengthen and improve the program, so employers can get skilled workers when no Canadians are available,” said the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. “A fast and flexible economic immigration system combined with a strong Temporary Foreign Worker Program will sustain Canada’s economic growth and deliver prosperity for the future.”

The Government of Canada will ensure that the employment of temporary foreign workers supports economic growth and helps create more opportunities for all Canadians.

Economic Action Plan 2012 also announced that the Government of Canada will work in partnership with the provinces and territories, and other stakeholders, to further improve foreign credential recognition, so that internationally trained workers are able to find meaningful employment and, in turn, contribute to Canada’s economy and overall competitiveness.

For more information regarding Canada's immigration system please visit www.cic.gc.ca



You’re invited to our
Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Saturday, August 25 - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

WHERE: 9225 - 28 Avenue (Long & McQuade Building)

Donations will be accepted for the Autism Society of Edmonton Area.





Hon. Maxime Bernier, Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism, and Mike met with small business owners in Beaumont and Mill Woods.

Minister Bernier Visits Beaumont and Edmonton

Edmonton

On Tuesday, March 20, 2012, Canada's Small Business and Tourism Minister, Hon. Maxime Bernier spent the day with Mike at various events and meetings in the riding.

They participated in a panel discussion at the Economic Partnership Breakfast hosted by the Leduc - Nisku Economic Development Authority, met in Beaumont with local Francophone business leaders and residents, toured the new expansion at the Edmonton International Airport and held a roundtable meeting in the Constituency Office with local small business owners.

Mike enjoyed introducing Minister Bernier to our riding and some of the people that make it so incredible.

To read more please visit:
www.MikeLake.ca/Bernier

Mike and Jaden Share Their Story to Mark World Autism Awareness Day

Ottawa

On April 2, 2012, Mike stood in the House of Commons to make a statement to mark *World Autism Awareness Day*. The statement was only a minute in length, but made quite an impact in the House as MPs from all parties stood in applause and waved at Mike's 16-year-old son, Jaden, who was sitting in the gallery.

The week was busy as Mike and Jaden were interviewed on CTV's *Power Play*, CBC's *Power and Politics*, TVO's *The Agenda* and CTV's *Canada AM*.

The interviews were part of ongoing efforts by Mike and Jaden to raise awareness of the challenges faced by families dealing with autism. To view the interviews please visit our website, www.MikeLake.ca.



Mike and Jaden visit The Agenda with Steve Paikin to discuss World Autism Awareness Day.

To watch the statement Mike made in the House of Commons please visit:
www.MikeLake.ca/AutismDay2012



Mike and his kids, Jaden and Jenae, along with wife, Debi (taking photo) help out at Homeless Connect Edmonton.

Mike Lends a Hand with Homeless Connect

Edmonton

Homeless Connect Edmonton is a broad-based, community-inspired initiative, providing free appropriate services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless, on one day and at one location, twice every year. The event usually takes place in May and then again in October.

Its mission is to provide services that help open doors out of homelessness, build lasting partnerships, raise public awareness of homelessness in the community, and provide a vehicle for community involvement in addressing the issue of homelessness. Services include mental health assessments, library services, foot care, haircuts, immunizations, birth control, pre-natal support, laundry, housing information, employment and training services, and much more.

It is a terrific event, and one that Mike always considers a highlight of his year.

For more information on how to get involved please visit:
www.homelessconnect.ca

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

What are the top three (or more) priorities that you would like to bring to the attention of Mike and the federal government?

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 the 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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Mike Meets with Girl Guides

In January, Mike had the opportunity to sit down with a group of Girl Guides from Mill Woods to talk about his role as a Member of Parliament.



Mike Chats with the Prime Minister

Every Wednesday when the House is sitting, the Conservative caucus meets to discuss the issues of the day. In this photo, Mike and the PM have a conversation after caucus.



Autism Chair Announcement

In March, Mike and son Jaden joined Health Minister, Leona Aglukkaq to announce funding for the Chair in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Treatment and Care Research Program.



Vanguard College Visit

In March, a class at Vanguard College invited Mike to come and participate in a discussion about civic engagement and the Canadian parliamentary system.



Roundtable Meetings

Mike regularly holds constituent roundtable meetings to discuss a variety of federal issues. If you are a constituent and are interested in attending please call the office at 780.495.2149.



Mike Visits Germany

In March, Mike's role as Parliamentary Secretary for Industry took him to Germany. Here, he takes the time to learn about the history of the concentration camp in Dachau.

FOLD ALONG LINE AND SEAL

No
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Required



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